

## Amendment to “Multiyear PBT Chemical Action Plan Schedule”

The [2007 Multiyear Persistent, Bioaccumulative Toxics \(PBT\) Chemical Action Plan Schedule](#) lays out a schedule for planned future Chemical Action Plans (CAPs) and explains how and why Ecology gave priority to the chemicals slated for CAP development. The 2007 schedule designated perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) for the next CAP. However, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were also ranked high in the final overall ranking shown in the 2007 schedule, and new information has increased their relative priority. After consulting with the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Ecology (Ecology) has decided to update its multiyear chemical action plan schedule and begin work on a CAP for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

### **Ecology will delay development of a CAP on perfluorinated compounds**

New uses of perfluorooctane sulfonates (PFOS) have been phased out, but there are questions about replacement chemicals, specifically shorter chain perfluorinated compounds. More information will be available in the near future concerning the toxicity and exposure for these alternatives. Developing a PFC CAP will be more effective once this data is available.

### **Ecology will commence work on a PCB CAP**

PCBs are a current priority for Ecology in several geographic areas such as the Duwamish River and Spokane River. Concerns are growing about PCBs as a contaminant in products including inks and dyes. Ecology is also working to develop human health criteria for water quality standards, and PCBs are a key chemical of concern in this process. A PCB CAP will take an inclusive look at the sources of PCBs in Washington and make recommendations to reduce exposures.

### **Reprioritize/update PBT Rule**

Ecology and DOH are also investigating which PBTs are most concerning for human health and the environment. Ecology and DOH will look at whether new information changes the 2007 ranking and what other PBTs are of concern. This will inform the schedule for future CAPs and updating the PBT list.

### **Background information on the PBT Initiative**

The PBT Rule ([WAC 173-333](#)) is an administrative rule for Ecology on how we will address the unique threat of PBTs with the Department of Health and other state agencies. The first two CAPs, for [mercury](#) (2003) and [PBDEs](#) (2006), were done before the rule was promulgated. The 2007 Multiyear Schedule selected [lead](#) (2009), [polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons](#) (PAHs) (expected in 2012), and PFOS for the next three CAPs.

A CAP is a comprehensive plan to identify, characterize and evaluate all uses and releases of a specific PBT, a group of PBTs or metals of concern. A CAP is a plan, not legislation or a rule. It recommends actions to protect human health and the environment. Some of the recommendations may lead to new legislation or rules. These would go through the normal legislative or rulemaking process.

The PBT Initiative focuses on one toxic substance at a time. Ecology develops each CAP in collaboration with other agencies and experts representing various business, agricultural and advocacy sectors. The PBT Rule lays out a process for selecting which PBTs are of the highest priority for action. These factors provide the basic structure of the multiyear schedule evaluation process. The factors include each chemical's persistence, bioaccumulation, human and ecological toxicity, uses, releases, and the levels of the chemical present in Washington's environment and residents. The factors also include opportunities for reduction and existing regulations.