

**From:** Musk, Peter []  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 August 2010 3:51 PM  
**To:** Kerry Scott  
**Cc:** Christine Runnion  
**Subject:** FW: Invitation to attend air quality information session and consultation

**Attachments:** image003.jpg; image004.png

Hi Kerry

Please find below comments from Nathan Major, Principal Toxicologist M-Tox, relating to the Ambient Air Quality NEPM Review.

Thanks

**Peter Musk**  
**Air Quality Management**  
**Department of Environment and Conservation**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Address: 120 Albany Highway, Albany WA 6330**

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**From:** MTox [mailto:  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 July 2010 4:25 PM  
**To:** Musk, Peter  
**Subject:** RE: Invitation to attend air quality information session and consultation

Peter,

Thank you for the invitation to these two events. Unfortunately current project commitments will prevent my attendance. While I have no particular comments on the Australian approach to setting AAQ standards, I present the following comments with respect to the queries and discussion raised in the AAQ NEPM Review (pages 141-142):

- New health evidence to support a revised standard?
  - Noting the apparent lack of threshold for adverse effects, there would appear to be evidence to warrant consideration of revised standards for many pollutants. Further consideration to NO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> standards to ensure they are suitably protective of potential short-term peak exposures would seem appropriate given recent data.
- Is the current approach of allowable exceedences of the standard suitably protective, or are there [better] alternative methods?
  - Support is given to a zero exceedences approach based on health protection and requiring reporting of the cause of exceedences, progress towards meeting the standards, and actions taken in conjunction with provisions for 'natural' or 'exceptional' events. The following reasons are given:
    - § A zero exceedence approach is readily understood *prima facie* by all stakeholders. Reporting of causes of exceedences etc. provides transparency of process.
    - § More than the allowable exceedences of the NEPM standard may result from 'natural' or 'exceptional' events in a given airshed. Currently, when assessing risks to public health these events must already be identified and suitably discussed, and allowances typically made during further evaluation. Inclusion of provisions for 'natural' or 'exceptional' events in the NEPM would in many respects simply be formalising existing process, but with greater transparency and accountability.
    - § A zero exceedence approach, as discussed by the review paper, is inherently more conservative. This should allow for the setting of air quality standards with higher concentrations or longer averaging times, which are thus typically less demanding of air quality monitoring requirements, while offering the same level of public health protection.
- Should changes be made to the reporting protocols that would lead to greater transparency and better understanding of causes, potential risks, and management approach?
  - Ideally, yes. Realistically, government as a whole does not retain the expertise and is unlikely to commit the resources for meaningful and timely assessment to occur. In this context, any measures to reduce or

simplify reporting, allowing for more prompt use of data as required, are likely to be of greater net benefit.

I trust the discussion session proceeds well.

Regards,

Nathan Major  
Principal Toxicologist  
M-Tox

Ph:

Email:

 [cid:164490102@22052008-11B7](mailto:cid:164490102@22052008-11B7)

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**From:** Musk, Peter [

**Sent:** Thursday, 15 July 2010 5:53 PM

**To:** Mirella Goetzmann; Andrea Hinwood (E-mail); Charles Douglas; Frank Murray; Ian Tremain (E-mail); Jane Heyworth (E-mail); Jeffrey Spickett (E-mail); Jim Codde (E-mail); Jim Dodds (E-mail); Krassi Rumchev; Louis Landau (E-mail); Nathan Major; Nick deKlerk (E-mail); Paul Van Buynder; Peter Di Marco (E-mail); Peter Dingle; Peter Franklin (E-mail); Philip Thompson (E-mail); Stephen Stick (E-mail); Tom Lyons

**Cc:** Runnion, Tina

**Subject:** Invitation to attend air quality information session and consultation

Dear members of the Air Pollution and Health Network (and friends)

You are invited to attend two upcoming events being presented by the National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) and supported by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) on **Monday 26 July 2010**. Given the passage of time since the Air Pollution and Health Network last met, please do not hesitate to pass on this invitation to any colleagues or associates who may be interested in attending either event.

### ***Event 1: Consultation meeting: An Australian approach to setting air quality standards***

NEPC and DEC are keen to seek your comment on the *Australian approach to setting air quality standards consultation draft* at a meeting on **Monday 26 July 2010**.

The purpose of the meeting is to encourage discussion on the issues, processes and recommendations suggested, for developing an agreed framework and methodology for setting air quality standards.

The discussion paper (released September 2009) is attached and is also available on the EPHC website [www.ephc.gov.au](http://www.ephc.gov.au) for comment, closing on 27 August 2010.

The paper discusses approaches to health hazard assessment, exposure assessment, risk characterisation and science policy issues in setting air quality standards in the NEPC context.



#### **Consultation Meeting**

**When:** Monday 26 July 2010

**Time:** 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

**Where:** Perth Zoo Conference Centre,  
20 Labouchere Road, South Perth.  
(Entry through visitor services to the left of  
the main gate)

For more information or to RSVP, please contact DEC on  
08 9333 7436 or email [airquality@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:airquality@dec.wa.gov.au).

## **Event 2: Review of the Ambient Air Quality NEPM**

The National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (Air NEPM) information session will present the latest evidence, from overseas and Australia, on the health effects of the criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide; ozone; nitrogen dioxide; lead; particles and sulphur dioxide. The session is also being held to gain your input on health and air quality information that may be used in determining the need to vary any aspect of the Air NEPM.

The Air NEPM information session is being held in two parts. An open house, where people can arrive at any time and review material at their own pace, followed by a presentation. NEPC and DEC staff will be available to discuss the review and answer questions. You are welcome to attend one or both sessions. Light refreshments will be provided.

**When: Monday 26 July 2010**

**Where: Perth Zoo Conference Centre**

**Open House – 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm**

**Presentation – 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

For more information or to RSVP, please contact DEC on 08 9333 7436 or email [airquality@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:airquality@dec.wa.gov.au).

### **Discussion papers**

If you can't make the information sessions you are encouraged to make comment on the discussion papers (attached). They are also available on the EPHC website [www.ephc.gov.au](http://www.ephc.gov.au) for comment until 27 August 2010.

**Please circulate to your networks.**

Thanks

**Peter Musk**  
**Air Quality Management**  
**Department of Environment and Conservation**

**Phone:**  
**Mobile Phone:**  
**(Tues to Fri)**

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