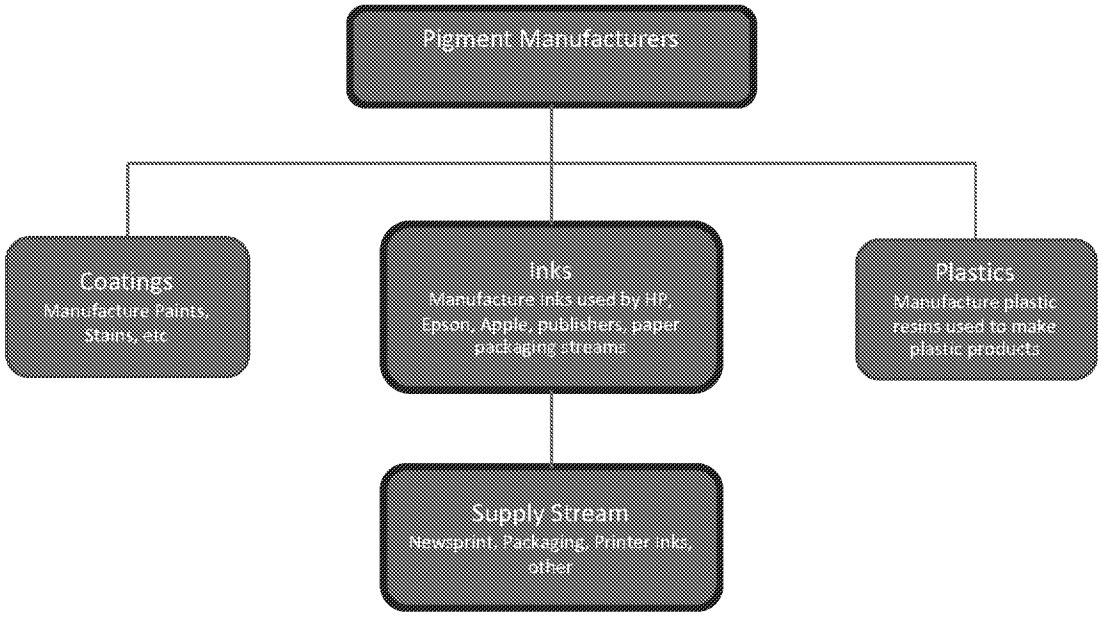
SRRTTF - TSCA Workgroup Sponsored Stakeholder Workshop
Inadvertently Produced PCBs in Pigments – Sustainable Solutions

Workshop Proposal

The TSCA Workgroup of the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF) is exploring measures to reduce inadvertent PCBs in products in their efforts to keep PCBs from entering the Spokane River. As part of this effort, the workgroup proposes to host a multi-stakeholder workshop to address inadvertent PCBs in pigments and the downstream products that are manufactured using those pigments. The workshop would explore non-regulatory reduction strategies with a focus on innovation. The supply stream for pigment-containing PCBs is outlined in red in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1: Supply Streams for Pigments Containing Inadvertent PCBs



Workshop Goal and Expected Outcomes

The overarching goal of the workshop is to reduce inadvertent PCBs in pigments and inks that have the potential for entering the Spokane River, in line with the SRRTTF Vision Statement. The intended outcomes of a successful workshop are three-fold:

1. Educate Task Force Members on the pigment and ink supply chain, and how PCBs move from manufacture of pigments to the environment
2. Address alternatives to known inks and pigments that contain PCBs – what is available?
3. Address Options, Pilot or Demonstration Projects, Solutions (regulatory and technology), promoting innovation.

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The objectives of the workshop are to bring all interested parties together to brainstorm solutions to:

- Reduce the level of inadvertent PCBs in these products
- Identify best practices and existing alternatives
- Identify barriers and constraints to alternatives
- Develop relationships and encourage innovative partnerships
- Determine voluntary measures to implementation

Stakeholders include representatives from across the entire supply chain:

- Pigment and ink manufacturers,
- Businesses and industries that utilize those pigments and inks
- Downstream suppliers of packaging and inks
- Industry organizations (eg., Color Pigments Manufacturers Association (CPMA), NAPIM, Sustainable Packaging Coalition(SPC), American Chemistry Council (ACC))
- Researchers developing new technologies
- Recyclers
- Government procurement experts and regulators.

These stakeholders will gather to share information and discuss and develop potential solutions. Solutions may include identification of ink alternatives, purchasing policies, identifying industry incentives to sustainable practices, and more.

The workshop is to be held in Spokane for the benefit of SRRTTF members and the primary focus will be on Washington State. A planning committee has been formed to provide further definition to these preliminary concepts.

Co-Sponsorship

The workshop will be co-sponsored by SRRTTF, Wa Department of Ecology (Ecology), and Northwest Green Chemistry.

Scope and Budget

A small planning committee from the TSCA workgroup is convening to develop scope and budget for this workshop. A preliminary budget estimate has been identified at between $20 and $25K. Co-sponsorship with Ecology and NW Green Chemistry will allow for cost sharing with the SRRTTF. The cost sharing involves funding assistance, in-kind contributions of Ecology staff time for event planning, coverage for travel expenses and matching grant funding for NW Green Chemistry involvement. The planning committee will also coordinate with industry interests (e.g., Color Pigment Manufacturers Association and American Coatings Association).