

Great Lakes Toxins

- The Michigan State Medical Society re-emphasizes its concern over adverse human health effects that may be occurring secondary to exposure to some chlorinated and non-chlorinated compounds in the Great Lakes environment.
- MSMS believes any evaluation of toxins should address the complete life cycle of chemical compounds and related products.
- MSMS believes that a science-based risk assessment and ranking process using a weight-of-evidence approach should be used to systematically evaluate research findings on organic chemicals containing chlorinated and non-chlorinated compounds, and potential alternatives. This process should start with those chemicals that either achieve the greatest risk reduction or pose the higher risk to workers, consumers, public health, and the environment.
- MSMS supports a risk management process that includes the full range of pollution prevention options, such as source reduction, recycle-reuse and treatment.
- MSMS supports risk management strategies to address worker, consumer, public health and environmental concerns associated with chlorinated and non-chlorinated compounds.
- MSMS encourages communication with and participation of the public, including interested parties and stakeholders, in the risk assessment, risk ranking, and risk management selection process.
- MSMS agrees that discussions, similar to those called by the International Joint Commission, should take place among industry, government, and public interest groups to examine the risks and benefits of chlorinated products in use.
- MSMS agrees with the Michigan Environmental Science Board that the presence of chlorine in a chemical compound does not predispose it to be a toxic substance destined to cause harm to humans or the environment. At the same time, a period of 30 years was suggested as reasonable by the panel to prioritize, evaluate and replace known and suspected problematic chlorine-containing compounds with alternatives that have been shown to have less potential for harm.

(1995)