



a toxics-free future

25 April 2017

IPEN Intervention on Short-Chain Chlorinated Paraffins (SCCPs)

Given by Pamela Miller

Thank you, Mr. President. My name is Pamela Miller, Co-Chair of IPEN.

We support listing of SCCPs in Annex A with no specific exemptions needed.

The issue of short-chained chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs) holds more than a scientific interest for me. I grew up in a small town in Dover Ohio, in the US, the site of a primary manufacturing facility for SCCPs until recently. Our neighborhood and my family has suffered cancers and other health disparities due to the flagrant and illegal discharges to air, water, and land. This is not just a local issue. SCCPs are a major concern for the health of traditional foods and peoples of the Arctic where I now live and work. SCCPs are found in the breast milk of Arctic Indigenous women. This is a terrible injustice and violation of human rights.

The time is long overdue for the elimination of this harmful chemical that has contaminated the global environment, including remote regions of the world.

A new IPEN study found SCCPs in extraordinarily high concentrations in children's toys, at concentrations up to nearly 20,000 ppm. New products are therefore likely to be a significant pathway for human exposure, and particularly harmful for infants and children. We believe that not one delegate at this meeting would want their children to play with toys containing industrial POPs chemicals.

We are concerned about the high levels of SCCPs that are found in other chlorinated paraffin (CP) mixtures at concentrations ranging up to 25%. And noting the significant amounts of SCCPs associated with the manufacture of other CP mixtures, it is prudent to specify the restriction of SCCPs in other CP mixtures in accordance with provisions of Article 3 of the Convention. Technically feasible, cost-effective, and safe alternatives are available for all known uses.

We support a recommendation of Annex A listing with no exemptions. Thank you for your careful consideration.