

Mexico, U.S., Canada address chemical risk

by UPI

OTTAWA -- The United States, Canada and Mexico announced a regional partnership Tuesday to assess and manage the potential risks of industrial chemicals. The announcement followed meetings by U.S. President George Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon at a summit near Ottawa. In a statement, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said "the three countries' top environmental officials agreed that their agencies would coordinate efforts to assess and take action on industrial chemicals. The United States, by 2012, will complete risk characterizations and take action, as needed, on more than 9,000 chemicals produced above 25,000 pounds per year." The statement said the agreement "also provides for the sharing of scientific information and technical understanding, best practices and research on new approaches to chemical testing and assessment. The agreement establishes goals to be met by 2020, which includes creating and updating chemical inventories in all three countries, as well as coordinating the management of chemicals in North America."

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