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# Methods Activity Group

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Update for the CCL Work Group  
Plenary Meeting  
February 5-6, 2003

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# Conference Call Participants

- Laura Anderko
- Douglas Crawford-Brown
- Mike Dourson
- Alan Elzerman
- Brian Ramaley
- Colin Stine
- Craig Stow
- Ed Thomas
- Lynn Thorp
- Dan Wartenberg
- Tom Carpenter, Joyce Donohue and other EPA staff
- Jo Anne Shatkin and other Cadmus staff
- Steve Via, AWWA
- Abby Arnold and Sara Litke

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# Deliverables Scheduled for February

## Method for PCCL to CCL

- Review methods.
- Identify desired characteristics of decision approaches.
- Evaluate different methods, clarify pros and cons of each (in light of variety of data quality).
- Think ahead to which method or methods to recommend in March.

## Screen from Universe to PCCL

- Review methods
- Identify desired characteristics of approaches
- Begin to evaluate and think ahead to what method or methods to recommend in March

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# Topics of Discussion

The Methods Activity Group held three conference calls in January.  
Topics of discussion included:

## PCCL-CCL

- Review and discussion of Matrix of Decision Method Characteristics
  - Which characteristics are priorities
- Background memo prepared by Doug Crawford-Brown that reviews decision approaches and presents possible criteria to use to choose among various methods.
  - a priori, a posteriori, and expert judgment/discourse

## Universe to PCCL

- Brainstormed ideas for which methods to examine to move from Universe to PCCL

# Summary of Discussion

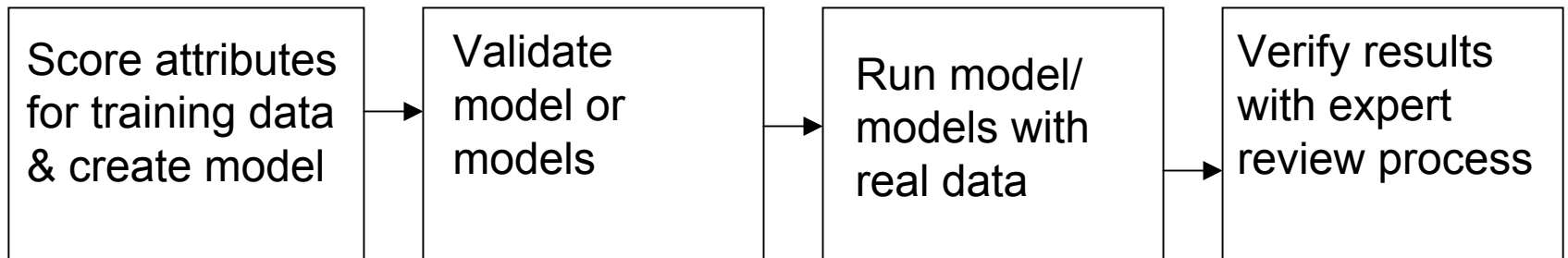
- Reviewed five ways to reach decisions on CCL
- Quickly narrowed to three approaches
  - Expert judgement – discourse
  - A priori rule based decisions – id attributes then develop mathematical function = overall value of “risk to public health” assign weights to attributes in relation to overall value.
    - Algorithm form and weights are result of discussion on these two issues.
  - A posteriori – id attributes, develop training set/protocol (list of agents that do or do not belong on CCL) develop equation(s)/model(s) that can be applied to this training set (sets of data) in creating a CCL
    - Form of equation(s)/model(s) is based on protocol and weightings that best approximates judgments made by the group on which agents should or should not be on the list.

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# Summary of Discussion

- On the last call the activity group agreed that a combined approach of a posteriori and expert judgment should be looked at more closely.
  - Likely Steps:
  - Use facilitated discourse in two steps:
    1. Create training set through facilitated discourse
      - Select risk agents want for training set
      - Assess strengths and weaknesses of alternative set of attributes, algorithms, and alternative weightings,
      - Score the agents in data set for each of attributes
    2. Among a “few” models “validate” how well models process training set
    3. Use or “go on line” and produce a “draft CCL”
    4. Challenge model: verify using expert judgment to address results of the model.
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# PCCL to CCL Process Under Consideration



# Summary of Discussion

- Questions to address:
  - How to address contaminants with little or no data
    - Three options discussed:
      - Have a separate list of agents, that are of “concern” but where there is little data and additional research is required
      - On the CCL have 3-categories (high, low and indeterminate priority because of data gaps
      - Create the CCL as a ranked list and attend to top 50 contaminants on list
      - *Activity group is aware of sensitivity of listing agents – market impact*
  - How to address microbials is an important issue (there may be a need for different model(s))



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# Immediate Next Steps

- Review various methods using a realistic data set selected by the group to better understand methods
- Review reasoning process for chemicals, microbes and radionuclides (D. Crawford-Brown) 12-27-02 list
- Review screening approaches to address and identify moving from Universe to PCCL

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# Next Steps to Prepare for March

- Proposed alternatives for screening from the universe to the PCCL
- Recommended decision method and associated prototype approach(es)