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## **SEHSC Urges Transparency, Expresses Concern with Proposed EPA Chemical Action Plan**

HERNDON, Virginia – The Silicones Environmental Health and Safety Council of North America (SEHSC) today expressed concern with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) March 17, 2010 announcement of its intention to develop a chemical action plan to address siloxanes. While SEHSC does not believe that siloxanes warrant the development of a chemical action plan, the organization also believes it is essential that the process moves forward in a manner that encourages stakeholder involvement and is sufficiently open and transparent.

"The statement by the EPA does not specify the nature of the risk the action plan is intended to address, the specific siloxane materials that will be the focus of the action plan, nor does it acknowledge the extensive body of scientific evidence demonstrating these materials do not pose a risk to human health or the environment," said Karluss Thomas, Executive Director of SEHSC. "The fact that the announcement was made without previous input from SEHSC also raises questions about the extent of stakeholder input prior to the announcement." SEHSC has a long-standing cooperative relationship with EPA and would like to maintain that relationship as EPA evaluates the risks associated with siloxanes.

Siloxanes are a type of silicone used in a wide variety of industrial and consumer applications including construction materials, personal care products, and household cleaning products. Extensive scientific research, including international environmental monitoring studies, has shown that siloxanes do not pose a risk to human health or the environment.

"SEHSC is looking forward to working with EPA as it assesses the risk associated with exposure to siloxanes," said Thomas. "Over the coming weeks, we hope to be involved in the process to help ensure that any policy or management action is based on sound scientific principles and allows for stakeholder input."

**ABOUT SEHSC:** The Silicones Environmental, Health and Safety Council of North America (SEHSC) is a not-for-profit trade association comprised of North American silicone chemical producers and importers.

For more than 30 years, SEHSC has promoted the safe use of silicones through product stewardship and environmental, health and safety research. The organization also is involved in legislative and regulatory issues relating to silicone materials. SEHSC's primary focus is to coordinate scientific research on health, safety and environmental issues involving silicones. We regularly conduct studies on our materials as a means of promoting the safe use and application. We submit our research for peer review through independent scientific advisory boards and through the publication of the results in the peer-reviewed scientific literature. For more information, visit the SEHSC website at <http://www.sehsc.com>