



Department of Pesticide Regulation



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DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION
PESTICIDE REGISTRATION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2002

Committee Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Joel Trumbo, Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
Chris Geiser, Department of Health Services (CDHS)
Barry Wilson, Department of Environmental Toxicology, University of California-Davis
Steve Smith, Cal OSHA Industrial Relations (CIH)
Barbara Todd, Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Lynn Baker, Air Resources Board (ARB)
Tobi Jones, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

Visitors in Attendance:

Greg Gorder, Technical Service Group (TSG)
Jan Sharp, California Strawberry Commission
Mike Falasro, Wine Institute
Jack Wick, California Association of Nurserymen
John Pearson, Compliance Service
Brian Bret, Dow AgroSciences
Wes Carr, DPR
Svetlana Koshlukova, DPR
Rick Duncan DPR
Terry Schmer, DPR
Mark Hansen, DPR
Regina Sarracino, DPR
Debra Kloss, DPR
Marlene Miller, DPR
David Haskell, DPR
Jeanne Martin, DPR

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1. Introductions and Committee Business – Tobi Jones, Chairperson

- a. About 21 people attended the meeting.
- b. There was one correction made to the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 15, 2001. Lynn Baker clarified that Charlie Miller represents the Department of Toxic Substance Control not the Department of Toxic Substance Control Board as stated in the previous minutes.

2. Update on Clopyralid and Compost –David Haskell, DPR

David Haskell presented an update on DPR activities related to clopyralid in compost.

On March 28, 2002, DPR initiated a cancellation action on all registered clopyralid products that permit use on residential lawns. DPR and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) have also convened a series of meetings with the stakeholders to gain a better understanding of this issue and to acknowledge their concerns. The first meeting was held on May 3, 2002 at the Cal/EPA building. Stakeholders from private and municipal composting entities, trade associations, agricultural interests, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and registrants of clopyralid products attended the all-day meeting. Presentations were made by representatives from DPR and CIWMB to provide background information on the compost industry, clopyralid use patterns, and the regulatory actions currently being pursued.

In general, the composters and CIWMB view this issue as a threat to the successful recycling programs for municipal green waste that were initiated in response to Assembly Bill 939. Stakeholders are concerned that the cancellation action focused on only residential lawn uses. Stakeholders discussed ways on how to prevent green waste from other turf sites (business parks, golf courses, parks, cemeteries) where clopyralid could still be used from being made into compost. Label prohibitions alone regarding composting and mulching were not considered adequate to keep clopyralid treated lawn clippings from being made into compost. There was some talk on voluntary actions that can be taken to keep clopyralid residues out of compost.

After discussion of the background material and stakeholder concerns, the chairs proposed the following topics for further consideration: analysis of compost for clopyralid, clopyralid use patterns, compost feedstocks, and education outreach. The meeting broke into work groups to address each of the proposed topics. These groups then reconvened with the general meeting to summarize their topics and to present action items for future meetings.

3. Commodity Residue Monitoring-Protecting Our Food Supply-Terry Schmer and Wes Carr, DPR

Terry Schmer, Pesticide Enforcement Branch, gave an overview of DPR's Marketplace Surveillance Program. In this program, fresh agricultural commodities are sampled

throughout the State and tested for pesticide residues. This data is used for both enforcement and dietary risk assessment purposes.

Wes Carr provided a description of the Medical Toxicology Branch's role in assessing the dietary risks of illegal residues detected in the Marketplace Surveillance Program.

A pesticide over-tolerance dietary exposure assessment is initiated when the Pesticide Enforcement Branch notifies the Medical Toxicology Branch staff that an illegal residue has been detected on a raw agricultural commodity. The assessment is to determine if a potential adverse human health situation exists from acute dietary exposure to the pesticide on the commodity. The over-tolerance assessment includes both over-tolerance and no-tolerance-established residues on commodities. An over-tolerance is where the detected residue exceeds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) maximum allowed residue level (tolerance). A no-tolerance-established residue is defined as a pesticide that does not have a tolerance for a specific pesticide/commodity combination. Any detected residue is therefore illegal. The assessment is completed and a verbal result communicated to appropriate staff within several hours.

Toxicology Database

The Medical Toxicology Branch uses their database of toxicity studies for several hundred pesticides. The toxicity data cover a number of required U.S. EPA pesticide study categories and include studies with acute, subchronic, and chronic duration exposures. The over-tolerance dietary exposure assessment uses acute duration studies. These studies are usually either acute neurotoxicity or teratology experiments. The toxicology data are reviewed to find the most appropriate acute endpoint. An acute no-observed-effect-level (NOEL) is determined.

The Medical Toxicology Branch uses specialized software to assess the dietary exposure. The Dietary Exposure Estimation Model (DEEM TM, Novigen Sciences) is a program that can use an acute NOEL, pesticide residue value, and the USDA Continuing Survey of Food Intake by Individuals (CSFII) consumption data to estimate dietary exposure. The USDA CSFII consumption surveys break the U.S. population into sub-groups which include regions of the U.S., seasons, ethnic groups, infants and children, males, and females (including pregnant and non-pregnant). Margins of exposure (MOE) are estimated by the software program using the formula:

$$\text{MOE} = \frac{\text{NOEL}}{\text{Exposure (pesticide residue x food consumption)}}$$

The default benchmark MOE of 100 is usually considered acceptably health protective when toxicity data are derived from an animal study. If the MOEs are adequate after an analysis by the dietary exposure software, the Pesticide Enforcement Branch is informed and a report is prepared. If the MOEs are inadequate, Departmental managers are briefed on these MOEs covering pesticide toxicity, residue value, and commodity consumption

data. This information is considered in evaluating the appropriate course of action. If the MOE is significantly inadequate, the action can include the Director of DPR, in conjunction with the Department of Health Services Director, issuing a joint health alert to the public not to eat the commodity. A report is also produced.

Additional Information

Over the past year, the Medical Toxicology Branch has conducted a number of pesticide over-tolerance assessments. The most common scenarios involve organophosphorus (OP), synthetic pyrethroid, or fungicidal pesticides. The over-tolerance commodities involve both domestically grown and imported produce. U.S. EPA tolerances apply only to produce grown or imported into the United States. Foreign countries follow an International standard called the Codex Alimentarius which contains a list of pesticide - commodity maximum residue levels (MRLs). A residue on an imported commodity can trigger a no-tolerance-established assessment by DPR while being a legal residue in other countries. U.S. EPA tolerances and International Codex MRLs are not harmonized. Commodities with over-tolerance or no tolerance established residues are removed by DPR from the California channels of trade even if the MOEs are acceptable.

4. Update on Methyl Bromide Regulations-Adrienne Alvord, DPR

Adrienne Alvord, Legislative Director, provided an update of DPR's methyl bromide regulations. Recent litigation will void the existing regulations. DPR has until September 23, 2002 to file emergency regulations. Lawsuit settlement included several elements DPR will consider in its next regulation package.

5. Suspension/Cancellation and Other Regulatory Options - Regina Sarracino, DPR

Regina Sarracino, Pesticide Registration Branch, provided a description of the different regulatory options after a product is registered in California. If a potential hazard is identified, the product can enter various regulatory processes depending on the type of hazard and the imminent effects. These processes can include reevaluation, risk assessment, cancellation, or suspension.

6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting and Location – Tobi Jones, DPR

No items were presented for consideration. The next meeting will be held on Friday, July 19, 2002 in the Sierra Hearing Room located on the second floor of the Cal/EPA building.

7. Closing Comments – Tobi Jones, DPR

The meeting was adjourned.