



California Notice 2023-09

TO: Pesticide Registrants and Other Stakeholders

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO PESTICIDE REGISTRATION BRANCH WORKLOAD
ASSIGNMENTS AND UPCOMING WEBINAR ON AUGUST 23, 2023

The Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR's) Pesticide Registration Branch (PRB) is responsible for pesticide registration and coordinates the required scientific evaluation process among DPR branches and other state agencies. PRB serves as the primary liaison to registrants and corresponds with registrants regarding data requirements, determinations of the human health and environmental effects of pesticides, and final actions on registrations.

In January 2023, DPR, the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) jointly released the "Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap for California," which lays out a plan to better protect the health of our communities and environment, while supporting agriculture, food systems, and community well-being. One of the keystone actions of the Sustainable Pest Management (SPM) Roadmap is to improve the pesticide registration process. PRB is assessing internal processes and procedures to find opportunities to make such improvements. Based on its assessment, PRB is changing the way new product registration and product amendment applications are assigned to Regulatory Scientists (RS) for review. Currently, RSs in PRB have individual workloads which are assigned to them by company. PRB is improving the registration process by moving to team-based workloads that are assigned by active ingredient (AI). This workload assignment change only impacts the RSs in PRB and does not impact staff in scientific evaluation branches or the scientific evaluation process. PRB will implement the new process in two phases. See "Implementation" section below for more information.

DPR plans to hold a webinar on **August 23, 2023**, to provide more detailed information and answer questions from registrants and other stakeholders regarding these new changes. See the "Webinar Information" section of this notice for more information about the webinar.

BACKGROUND

Currently, each company that registers pesticide products in California is assigned an RS who reviews that company's new product registration and product amendment applications. The assigned RS acts as a liaison with each company and is responsible for communicating with the company throughout the registration process. While this has historically been PRB's way of assigning applications, the number of pesticide companies, AIs, and pesticide products have increased tremendously over the years. In addition, data requirements and the scope and complexity of post-registration actions at the federal and state level have evolved significantly over the past several years. Shifting to team-based assignments by AI will align with SPM Roadmap goals, maximize efficiency, improve managing and tracking all federal and state

actions for each AI, and reduce potential backlogs that are created by company-based individual workloads.

TEAM-BASED ASSIGNMENTS BY ACTIVE INGREDIENT

With this new process, RSs under each PRB supervisor will be considered a team. Each team will be assigned a well-diversified and balanced list of AIs that will vary by pesticide type to ensure that each RS is knowledgeable about all pesticide types.

Once DPR receives a new product or product amendment application, PRB will assign it to the corresponding team based on the AI(s) in the product. AI assignments by RS teams will be posted on DPR's web site and announced in a future California Notice. For products with multiple AIs, PRB will use a decision tree based on criteria such as whether any of the AIs are undergoing special assignments, the largest percentage of AI, and an AI's registration statistics, to determine which team the submission will be assigned. Submissions will be placed in a team workload queue where they will be handled based on PRB's first in first out policy. The team supervisor will oversee the distribution of work and assign submissions to an appropriate RS on the team. Once assigned to the RS, the submission will move to the RS's individual workload for review.

BENEFITS ANALYSIS

PRB continuously reassesses internal procedures and policies to determine ways to increase efficiencies and improve the registration process. PRB expects significant improvements to California's pesticide registration process from implementation of team-based assignments by AI workload, such as:

- More consistent submission reviews and shorter processing timeframes by the RS
- Increased awareness and understanding of data requirements and labeling issues specific to an AI among team members and supervisors
- Improved efficiencies by shifting backlogged individual workloads to team-based workloads
- More efficient tracking of federal decisions, including mitigation required for products containing specific AIs
- More effective framework to promote succession planning and adapt to staffing changes

IMPLEMENTATION

PRB plans to implement the new process in two phases. Phase one will implement the team workloads component and phase two will implement the AI assignment component.

Phase One

On **September 18, 2023**, PRB will implement phase one. During this phase, RS submissions waiting to be processed will be managed based on the team assignment format. Companies will no longer have an assigned RS and will be assigned to a team. Upon implementation of Phase 1, PRB will email all companies to let them know the team they have been assigned to. In most cases, the company will stay within the team of their originally assigned RS. Additionally, the

DPR's Pesticide Label Database will be updated to show the assigned team contacts, instead of a specific regulatory scientist.

Please note, if an RS is actively working on a submission prior to this date, the submission will remain with the assigned RS. All other submissions will be transferred to a team queue and will be assigned to an individual RS by the team supervisor based on DPR's current first in, first out policy.

Phase two

On **January 1, 2024**, PRB will implement phase two. Beginning January 1, 2024, all new product registration and amendment applications received by PRB will be assigned to a team based on the AI(s) contained in each pesticide product. Submissions received by PRB before January 1, 2024, will continue to be handled by the originally assigned team. This change in procedure will not impact new AI submissions and submissions that were submitted under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act section 18 (Emergency Exemptions), 24(c) (Special Local Need), and 25(b) (Minimum Risk Products). These submissions will continue to be handled by the assigned RS until further notice.

Contacting PRB about the new process

After September 18, 2023, when phase one becomes effective, companies will no longer have one designated RS. During phase one, companies will have an assigned team for new submissions and submissions awaiting processing. Until the team supervisor assigns the submission to an individual RS on the team, companies should contact the team, as described below, with any inquiries. After January 1, 2024, when phase two becomes effective, contact information will be determined by the AI(s) contained in the pesticide product. The designated team for each AI and contact information will be posted on DPR's website. DPR's website will specify the team email addresses and a list of AIs assigned to each team. In addition, DPR will publish how products with multiple AIs are assigned.

DPR's system will continue to send an automated email to the company when a submission is received. The automated email will continue to specify who the submission is assigned to, either an assigned RS or a team, and the contact information. Except for the exceptions noted above, a submission will be assigned to a team. Once assigned to a team, the company can contact the team email for inquiries on their submission. Once a submission is transferred to a specific RS from the team queue, the RS will send an email to the email address on the application, stating they have received the submission and providing the RS's contact information. Once a submission is transferred to a specific RS, that RS will remain the contact for that submission and will coordinate and manage the review of that submission until it is finalized. All questions regarding the submission can be directed to the assigned RS.

Team Names and Emails

As described above, RSs under each PRB supervisor will be considered a team. Below are the four team names and contact information. The team names are based on California's state trees. Registrants are encouraged to contact the team emails for questions regarding their submissions. Please note the information in this section may be subject to change based on staffing changes.

1. Team Redwood

Team Email: PRB.Team.Redwood@cdpr.ca.gov

Supervisor's Name: Brittanie Clendenin

Supervisor's Email: Brittanie.Clendenin@cdpr.ca.gov

Supervisors Phone Number: 916-324-3896

2. Team Cedar

Team Email: PRB.Team.Cedar@cdpr.ca.gov

Supervisor's Name: Jolynn Mahmoudi-Haeri

Supervisor's Email: Jolynn.Mahmoudi-Haeri@cdpr.ca.gov

Supervisors Phone Number: 916-324-3545

3. Team Maple

Team Email: PRB.Team.Maple@cdpr.ca.gov

Supervisor's Name: Richard Spas

Supervisor's Email: Richard.Spas@cdpr.ca.gov

Supervisors Phone Number: 916-322-9522

4. Team Oak

Team Email: PRB.Team.Oak@cdpr.ca.gov

Supervisor's Name: Russell Darling

Supervisor's Email: Russell.Darling@cdpr.ca.gov

Supervisors Phone Number: 916-324-3547

Additionally, if companies have questions about the registration process, they can contact DPR's ombudsperson, Aron Lindgren, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), by e-mail at [<Registration.Ombudsman@cdpr.ca.gov>](mailto:Registration.Ombudsman@cdpr.ca.gov)

WEBINAR INFORMATION

DPR will hold a webinar on Wednesday, **August 23, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PDT.** The purpose of this webinar is to inform stakeholders and registrants of the new process and provide an opportunity to ask questions about the new process.

Agenda

1. Opening Remarks
2. DPR Presentation on New Process
3. Questions and Answers
4. Closing Remarks

Attendee Details

The webinar may be accessed via the [CalEPA webcast](https://video.calepa.ca.gov) at <video.calepa.ca.gov> or the Zoom link below. During the webinar, questions and comments will be facilitated either through Zoom or e-mails to prbworkshop@cdpr.ca.gov for CalEPA webcast attendees. Individuals who intend to participate in the webinar via Zoom should join with the following meeting login and password:

Direct link to join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87532368340?pwd=N28zakdmM1hDTUN1K2k5dExmYWplUT09>

Webinar ID: 875 3236 8340

Password: 129049

Telephone number to join (enter the Webinar ID and Password when prompted): 888 475 4499
US Toll-free 877 853 5257 US Toll-free.

The webinar facilitator will solicit questions, comments, and may impose time limits based on the time available and the number of people providing feedback.

If you have questions regarding this notice or the webinar, please contact Russell Darling, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory), at 916-324-3547 or by e-mail at <Russell.Darling@cdpr.ca.gov>.

Original Signed by

Tulio Macedo, Chief
Pesticide Registration Branch
916-324-3527

August 4, 2023

Date

cc: Mr. Russell Darling, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory), DPR