



NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides
Grupo de Trabajo Técnico del TLCAN sobre plaguicidas
Le groupe de travail technique de l'ALENA sur les pesticides

Filename: RC0900FE

PROJECT SHEET

SUBCOMMITTEE: Regulatory Capacity Building

PROJECT TITLE: Harmonization of Non-Target Plant Testing Requirements

PROJECT TEAM: Canada: Charalyn Kriz, PMRA (lead)
U.S.: Elizabeth Leovey, EPA

INITIATION: June 1998

UPDATE: July 8, 2002

GOAL: To update data requirements and study protocols for non-target plant testing that are used to support registration in Canada and the USA, as per the recommendations of the US EPA FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The PMRA and EPA are developing an improved guideline for the testing of pesticides on non-target aquatic and terrestrial plant species. As an interim approach, the PMRA harmonized with the EPA plant testing requirements in June 1998. Discussions are continuing between the PMRA and EPA on improving the current plant testing requirements as per previous US EPA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) recommendations in 1994 and 1996. The joint guideline proposal will be presented to the US EPA SAP for peer review recommendations and public comment.

MILESTONES:

June 1998 - PMRA harmonized with the EPA on non-target plant testing on an interim basis

August 1998 - Preparation of aquatic plant toxicity testing draft.

October 1998 - Working group finalization of aquatic plant toxicity requirements and protocols.

March 2001 - Working group finalization of terrestrial plant toxicity requirements and protocols.

June 2001 - Presentation of harmonized non-target testing to US EPA SAP.

BACKGROUND / RATIONALE:

Previously, Environment Canada proposed guidelines for testing of chemical pesticides on non-target plants. The PMRA had utilized some of the approaches outlined in these proposed testing guidelines for establishing data requirements and ultimately the risk assessment as it pertained to the protection of both aquatic and terrestrial plant habitats. The PMRA has harmonized with the EPA approach in the interim pending further refinement to the plant testing scheme.

The current EPA guidelines (revised April 1, 1996) were developed through a harmonization process that blended the testing guidance and requirements that existed in the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT), the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) and the guidelines published by the OECD.

A Scientific Advisory Panel recommended modifications to the existing EPA approaches to testing non-target plants. Hence, the PMRA and EPA are collaborating on improving the current plant testing guidelines.

WORK PLAN

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UPDATE: July 8, 2002

The proposed NAFTA guideline was presented at the FIFRA SAP meeting (Arlington, VA) on June 27-29, 2001. Subsequently, the SAP recommendations on this proposed guideline were received on January 29, 2002. Both Agencies are currently preparing final comments on these SAP recommendations. These comments will be finalized by July 15, 2002. Overall, both Agencies agree with most of the SAP recommendations, with only a few areas where there are disagreements and where clarification is required. The SAP comments and recommendations will be considered in the modification of the proposed guideline.

The PMRA and EPA have agreed that following the finalization of the response to the SAP comments, this formal NAFTA project will be closed; however, the Agencies will continue to collaborate on resolution of non-target plant issues on an operational basis.

GOAL	ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
Develop aquatic plant testing scheme	Finalize algal species and protocols	October 98 - Working Group agreement
	Finalize vascular aquatic species and protocols	October 98 - Working Group agreement
	Finalize protocols for <i>Lemna</i> sp.	October 98 - Working Group agreement
	Finalize SAP document on aquatic plant testing	Completed May 01
	SAP presentation	Completed June 01

<p>Develop terrestrial plant testing scheme</p>	<p>Finalize terrestrial plant species and protocols</p> <p>Finalize SAP document on terrestrial plant testing</p> <p>SAP presentation</p>	<p>March 01 - Working Group Agreement</p> <p>Complete May 01</p> <p>Completed June 01</p>
<p>Non-target plant testing</p>	<p>Draft implementation plan to address June 01 SAP comments</p> <p>Workshop on plant risk assessment</p> <p>Finalization of response to SAP comments</p>	<p>Completed November 01</p> <p>Completed January 02</p> <p>Completed July 02</p>