

FPT Meetings

October 19-21, 1998 Meeting Report

The second meeting of the Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides (FPT Committee) was held in Halifax on October 18-21. Co-chairs of the meeting were Brent Baxter, Environmental Management & Support Services, Department of the Environment, Government of Nova Scotia and Wendy Sexsmith, Director, Alternatives Strategies and Regulatory Affairs Division, Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), Health Canada.

This committee brings together provincial, territorial and federal representatives who are involved in pesticide regulation, use and management so they can exchange information and better coordinate pest management issues. The regulation of pesticides is governed under both federal and provincial legislation and strong linkages are needed for effective and efficient management of shared issues. The FPT Committee is also a vehicle for in-depth technical discussion of current pesticide issues.

Recognizing that global efforts on pesticide issues are having an increasingly important impact on Canada, international initiatives relating to pesticides were discussed in some detail at the Halifax FPT meeting. The work being done on Persistent Organic Pollutants in three international fora was examined, as were international actions on endocrine disruptors. The Committee also recognized the very significant impact that the United States' Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) could have, both on pesticide availability and on the way Canada evaluates pesticides. The need for regular updates and information sharing on FQPA-related information was stressed.

The FPT Committee reviewed the registration status of imidacloprid (Admire) and supported the continuation of a conservative approach to expanding use, based on establishing a critical need for this pesticide and allowing it to be used only as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. The Committee also gave final approval to labels statements for recyclable, returnable and refillable pesticide containers. This recognizes advances made in container technology and the need for waste reduction.

The issue of lindane seed treatment was raised, and support was expressed for the Canola Council of Canada's initiative to have registrants of canola seed treatments containing lindane voluntarily remove the canola use from the product label. A draft proposal for the establishment of a new PMRA re-evaluation program for registered pesticides was also previewed by the FPT members.

At a Minor Use Coordination Workshop held in conjunction with the FPT Committee Meeting, a process for increasing the transparency of minor use submissions and providing a better means of information sharing was explored.

The FPT Committee addresses many of its priority issues through the formation of working groups. The following is a summary of progress made by the working groups since the first FPT Committee Meeting held last year in Edmonton.

- The **Classification Criteria Working Group** has developed a proposal to create a consistent national classification system for pesticide products that would be adopted federally and by all provinces/territories. With a national classification system in place, individual provinces would no longer need to have separate scheduling systems. National classification would facilitate the harmonization of some provincial regulatory requirements such as record keeping and reporting.

The Working Group's members, which included the PMRA, some provincial regulatory authorities, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Crop Protection Institute, the Urban Pest Management Council of Canada and the Canadian Manufacturers of Chemical Specialties put together a proposed national classification system consisting of six categories. This was step one of a three-phase program. Step two is now under way, and will see the provinces/territories doing informal consultation with stakeholders and providing comments on the proposal by mid-December. Step three will involve an analysis of how national classification will affect currently registered products, to be conducted by means of a broad national consultation on pesticide classification. In developing an integrated classification system, the working group continues to aim at ensuring consistency with international initiatives moving towards the development of a globally-harmonized system for the classification of all chemicals.

- The **National Pesticide Sales Data Base Working Group** includes representation from provinces, industry, the PMRA, and stakeholders such as the World Wildlife Fund, the Consumer's Association of Canada, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Canola Council of Canada. It is working to develop a single national pesticide sales data base that will not only generate information that can assist in monitoring risks to health, safety or the environment, but will also help make international harmonization and work sharing easier. A data collection pilot project is planned for early 1999 focusing on organophosphates and carbamates. The issue of protecting Confidential Business Information (CBI) is central to the development of a sales data base, and PMRA is preparing a document that describes the ability of the federal and provincial/territorial governments to protect CBI such as sales data. The working group is also studying ways to format the information derived from sales data so that it could be made available to the public.
- The **Post-Registration Monitoring and Incident Reporting Working Group** is developing a process to help ensure that any post-registration monitoring and incident reporting done in the provinces is made available to the FPT Committee. By pooling this data and making it available Canada-wide, the identification and management of risks could be improved. A survey to determine the existing means of collecting environmental monitoring and pesticide incident data was presented and will be reviewed and commented on by the provinces/territories by the end of January 1999.
- The **Registered Products Database Working Group** is concerned with ensuring that the PMRA database of registered pesticides reflects the provinces' and territories' need for an accurate, complete, up-to-date and accessible source of pesticide registration information. A survey was developed and circulated to all provinces/territories to gauge their information needs. This information will be used to help PMRA develop its new strategy for the provision of registration information. This Working Group has now completed its tasks, and the FPT Committee will now be participating directly in a pilot with the PMRA designed to provide access to registered product information and make electronic document exchange possible.
- The **Working Group on Pesticide Education, Training and Certification (WG-PETC)** provides a common Federal/Provincial/Territorial mechanism for adoption and implementation of pesticide education, training and certification standards. The WG-PETC has developed a guideline identifying the roles and functions that a provincial regulatory agency may delegate to industry or an educational institute. This was done in response to a desire expressed by industry groups/educational institutes to directly participate in certification and recertification training. A Guideline for Recertification by Training Credit has also been drafted to define criteria for a training credit program for the recertification of pesticide applicators/vendors. This will help ensure that these programs are consistent across Canada. The working group is also creating a series of guidelines that will help achieve more standardization in the examinations that are set provincially for pesticide applicators.

Stakeholder Involvement

Following the conclusion of the FPT meeting in Halifax, a stakeholder session was held. Presentations were made to the FPT Committee by the Retail Council of Canada, the Urban Pest Management Council, the Canadian Manufacturers of Chemical Specialities, the Crop Protection Institute, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, the Real Alternatives to Toxins in the Environment (representing the Sierra Club) and the Clearinghouse Group. Presentations were made on topics such as the retail perspective on classifications of domestic pesticides, concerns with pesticide use in salmon aquaculture, stewardship programs, alternatives to pesticides and cost recovery issues.

The next meeting of the FPT is planned for Winnipeg, Manitoba from October 18-20, 1999.