

FPT Meetings

October 16-18, 2000 REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE FEDERAL PROVINCIAL TERRITORIAL COMMITTEE ON PEST MANAGEMENT AND PESTICIDES

October 16-18, 2000 Ottawa, Ontario

The fourth meeting of the Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides (FPT Committee) was recently held in Ottawa, co-chaired by Wanda Michalowicz, Pesticides Section, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and Wendy Sexsmith, Chief Registrar, 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 and pest management issues.

To share and maximize staff training and development opportunities between the federal and provincial and territorial governments, a Technical Session was inaugurated at this year's meeting. A half-day session was presented, featuring an overview of the risk assessment and risk management process used by the PMRA in making regulatory decisions for new submissions.

One of the themes of the meeting was taking action on the urban use of pesticides. A new "Healthy Lawns" web site has been developed to help respond to public concern on this issue. The PMRA has initiated a priority re-evaluation of the urban uses of the most commonly used herbicides and insecticides. Further work on developing public education will be taking place within the newly formed Healthy Lawns Working Group.

Some of the main areas of discussion at the FPT meeting included:

- on-going activities relating to the re-evaluation process for organophosphate pesticides;
- amendments to the agri-chemical warehousing standards to recognize provincial dispenser certification requirements;
- pesticides of special interest, such as imidacloprid, furadan and strychnine;
- activities of the buffer zone working group; and
- the PMRA's emergency registration requirements.

Other topics covered included:

- the near completion of provincial working agreements between PMRA Compliance and Regional Operations;
- provincial consultation regarding PMRA research permits;
- e-commerce of pesticides;
- the Government's Response to the Report of the Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development;
- status of the Pest Control Products Act;
- fertilizer and pesticide mixtures;
- Joint Review programs under the NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides; and
- the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Pesticides Programme and Working Group on Pesticides.

Working Group Reports

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

The **Healthy Lawns Working Group** was recently established to help respond to public concern on the urban use of pesticides. This working group will hold its first meeting in early December. They will be planning the implementation of the recently announced *Action Plan on Urban Use Pesticides*.

The **Classification Criteria Working Group** met in December 1999 and agreed in principle with a set of guiding principles for a national classification system to replace existing provincial classification systems. Six proposed classification categories were confirmed, including various toxicological parameters for each category and the environmental parameters, based on use patterns of individual products. Provinces will conduct an internal review of the proposal and give direction and comments on proposed next steps. An FPT conference call will be held in the new year to discuss the proposal and next steps.

The **National Pesticide Sales Data Base Working Group** has developed a pesticide classification scheme that will permit public outputs from the sales database while protecting Confidential Business Information. The pesticide industry associations have agreed to provide annual sales data for each product by province and territory. Work currently underway includes the collection of a large sample of 1999 product sales data and the development of a regulation that would require the mandatory submission of annual sales data (kilograms per province per year) for all products from all registrants.

A decision was made to disband the **Post-Registration Monitoring and Incident Reporting Working Group**, as the work of this group is considered completed. Information on post-registration monitoring will be fed into the PMRA's re-evaluation process as required, and reports will be made to the FPT committee on an ad-hoc basis.

The **Working Group on Pesticide Education, Training and Certification** (WG-PETC) provides a common federal, provincial and territorial mechanism for the adoption and implementation of pesticide education, training and certification standards. A skeleton web site for the Standard for Pesticide Education, Training and Certification has recently been completed. The Working Group is participating in a NAFTA project to develop core applicator examinations to be utilized across North America. The WG-PETC has also finalized the examination guidelines, which outline the content of certification exams so they can be standardized across the country. The review of the Applicator Core is completed and a category-specific module review is underway. The English National Aerial Manual is also complete. The Working Group is in the process of revising the category definitions and the guidelines for recertification.

The **Working Group on Buffer Zones** was created to provide input on regional issues with respect to regulatory policy on buffer zones for the application of pesticides. Work on this issue will be initiated in the next few months.

Stakeholder Involvement

Prior to the formal FPT sessions in Ottawa, a stakeholder session was held. Presentations were made to the FPT Committee by the Canadian Aerial Applicators Association (CAAA), the Urban Pest Management Council of Canada, the Retail Council of Canada, the Canadian Manufacturers of Chemical Specialties (CMCS), the Crop Protection Institute of Canada (CPIC), Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association, and the Canadian Horticultural Council.

Topics raised by stakeholders included drift models and buffer zones, a response to the Report of the Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development, improving child resistant packaging of domestic class products, an update on CPIC Stewardship Programs, a plan for pesticide reduction in the landscape industry based on IPM and education, and minor use pesticide opportunities and their significance to growers.

The next meeting of the FPT Committee is planned for Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and will be held from October 15 to 17, 2001.
