

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

October 15–17, 2001 REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE FEDERAL PROVINCIAL TERRITORIAL COMMITTEE ON PEST MANAGEMENT AND PESTICIDES

October 15–17, 2001, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

The fifth meeting of the Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides (FPT Committee) was recently held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island co-chaired by Don Reeves, Manager, Pesticide Regulatory Program, PEI Department of Agriculture and Forestry 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 in Canada is governed under both federal and provincial legislation. Strong linkages are needed for effective, efficient management and solutions to shared issues. The FPT Committee also serves as a vehicle for the discussion of current pesticide and pest management issues.

Following a successful inauguration last year, a second annual Technical Session was held. This half-day session presentation featured an overview of the risk assessment and decision-making processes used by the PMRA for pest control products undergoing re-evaluation.

Main areas of discussion at the FPT Committee meeting included:

- ongoing issues regarding pesticides of special interest, including imidicloprid and honeybees, and strychnine and Richardson's ground squirrels;
- ongoing activities relating to the product re-evaluation process;
- an update on the PMRA's Risk Reduction Strategy for pest management in agriculture;
- the decision to implement an FPT working group on pesticide risk indicators;
- access to reduced risk pesticides and international harmonization;
- the need to review/re-examine the FPT Committee mechanics and responsibilities; and
- Minor Use and Emergency Registration issues.

Other topics covered included:

- the status of the *Pest Control Products Act* and Species at Risk Legislation;
- a summary of Emergency Registration decisions for 2001;
- Joint Review programs under the NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides; and
- activities under 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 associated working groups. Following is a summary of progress made by the working groups since the FPT Committee met last year in Ottawa.

The Healthy Lawns Working Group provided an update of activities currently underway, including the development of a Healthy Lawns web site. Key messages for homeowner education were also presented, including the need to emphasize practices to reduce reliance on pesticides in lawn care, and the establishment of committees with stakeholders to address key Healthy Lawns work elements.

The Classification Implementation Working Group asked the FPT Committee for agreement in principle to change the current classification criteria to include five new categories of pesticides. These categories include lower risk and higher risk domestic products, lower risk and higher risk commercial products, and restricted products. FPT members will seek approval from their respective jurisdictions to consult with stakeholders on the proposal.

An update on the National Pesticide Sales Data Base was also provided. Future direction will include consultation on a draft regulation with the FPT working group. If the regulation goes forward, the collection of data on all products from all registrants and the implementation of the product data base could begin by 2002. FPT Committee members stressed the importance of receiving sales information by province, not by region.

The Working Group on Pesticide Education, Training and Certification (WG-PETC) provided an update on their activities, including the status of their work on the IPM module for applicators and the training module for domestic vendors.

PMRA staff distributed a first draft of the buffer zone proposal to the FPT Committee. Following member review of the proposal, a time will be established for a face-to-face meeting of the FPT Buffer Zone Working Group.

Stakeholder Involvement

Prior to commencement of the formal FPT Committee meeting, a stakeholder session was held. Presentations were made to the FPT Committee by the Canadian Aerial Applicators Association, the Urban Pest Management Council of Canada, the Canadian Manufacturers of Chemical Specialties, CropLife Canada, the Canadian Horticultural Council, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Bayer Corporation, and the Industry Task Force II on 2, 4-D Research Data.

Topics raised by stakeholders included drafting a workable NAFTA label, pesticide training, perceptions and misconceptions of turf pesticides, pest management systems on farms, healthy lawns, and minor use activities and directions.

The next meeting of the FPT Committee is planned for Regina and will be held October 21–23, 2002.