

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

October 20-22, 2003 REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE FEDERAL PROVINCIAL TERRITORIAL COMMITTEE ON PEST MANAGEMENT AND PESTICIDES

October 20- 22, 2003, Fredericton, New Brunswick

The seventh meeting of the Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides (FPT Committee) was recently held in Fredericton, New Brunswick. It was co-chaired by Kevin McCully, Agriculture Development Branch, New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Aquaculture, and Janice Hopkins, 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 to enable the exchange of information and a better coordination of actions related to 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 concerns. The FPT Committee also serves as a vehicle for the discussion of current pesticide and pest management issues.

A Technical Session was held on Monday morning. This half-day session provided FPT members with an overview of the new Pest Control Products Act and implementation plans, particularly the new policies being developed.

Main areas of discussion at the FPT Committee meeting were as follows.

Working Group Reports

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

The Classification Implementation Working Group (CIWG) reported on stakeholder consultation of the proposed harmonized classification system. Implementation issues were broadly discussed and agreement reached that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency be requested to provide a formal response on implementation actions possible under federal authority to assist the CIWG in developing recommendations for a final harmonized system.

The Working Group on Pesticide Education, Training and Certification (WG-PETC) provided an update of their activities, including a discussion of working group functionality. FPT committee members indicated continued support for the working group. The priority workplan focussing on the

National Standard was approved.

The Healthy Lawns Working Group provided an update of completed projects over the past year and activities planned for the next year. The main areas of focus are ensuring that household use pesticides are compatible with IPM principles, the improvement of labels and educational initiatives directed at homeowners.

The Buffer Zone Working Group is planning a training workshop for provinces on how buffer zones are established. The PMRA is developing a fact sheet on how to interpret label statements on buffer zones.

The National Pesticide Risk Indicator Working Group presented terms of reference for the working group, and a work plan. Both were approved by the Committee. The working group held a workshop for FPT Committee members on October 23, 2003, to discuss work that is underway on initiatives.

The National Pesticide Sales Data Base Working Group reported that they had met to discuss the approach to a regulation that would require reporting by registrants of pesticide sales data on an annual basis. A discussion document was released subsequently by the PMRA.

The Drinking Water Monitoring Working Group reported that they are working towards obtaining a better understanding of existing monitoring programs for drinking water and sources of drinking water, and to develop a more formal process to facilitate access to available monitoring data. The provinces will be provided with a list of priority pesticides for monitoring.

Following a discussion about the reporting relationship of the FPT Minor Use Working Group during the FPT meeting, it was agreed during an FPT teleconference call on December 16, 2003 that the working group will continue to report to the FPT Committee. The Working Group will revisit their terms of reference to better reflect how the group operates.

Other main areas of discussion included:

- updates on items of interest within the respective provinces;
- an update on FPT members' participation on external committees;
- ongoing activities relating to the product re-evaluation process and an electronic survey of use information on agricultural fungicides;
- an update on the PMRA's Risk Reduction Strategy for pest management in agriculture and the potential of developing a risk reduction strategy to deal with varroa mites in beehives;
- highlights of the Quebec Pesticide Management Code;
- a summary of emergency registration decisions for 2003;
- updates on federal and provincial activities related to West Nile Virus; and
- discussion on ways to improve access to biopesticides and other reduced risk products.

Stakeholder Involvement

Prior to commencement of the formal FPT Committee meeting, a stakeholder session was held. Presentations were made to the FPT Committee by Environment Canada, the New Brunswick Lung Association, the Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association, the Canadian Aerial Applicators Association, Clean Nova Scotia, the Urban Pest Management Council of Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Canadian Horticultural Council, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, CropLife Canada, and the Falls Brooke Centre.

Topics discussed by stakeholders included an overview of the role of other federal government departments in pest management and pesticides, progress on the pesticide industry's various stewardship programs as well their comments related to the new *Pest Control Products Act* regulations, an overview of the challenges facing aerial applicators, and information on various environmental education programs in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia as well as information on the increasing interest in organic farming.

The next meeting of the FPT Committee is planned for Vancouver, British Columbia and will be held in the Fall of 2004.