

CESD Pesticide Audit

2003 Report of the Commissioner of the
Environment and Sustainable Development

Chapter 1: Managing the Safety and
Accessibility of Pesticides



Overview

- ◆ Who is the CESD?
- ◆ CESD Pesticide Audit Recommendations
- ◆ PMRA's Commitments and Progress

CESD

- ◆ The mandate : is to ensure the federal government is accountable for greening its policies, operations, and programs.
- ◆ The Commissioner:
 - ◆ Leads a specialized unit within the Office of the Auditor General of Canada that focuses on environmental and sustainable development issues; and,
 - ◆ Is devoted entirely to providing environmental audits of the government's activities.

CESD Pesticides Audit

- ◆ Nine recommendations
 - ◆ six were directed solely at PMRA;
 - ◆ The rest were shared with OGD including AAFC, CFIA, DFO, EC, NRCan and other Branches of HC.
- ◆ The recommendations involved:
 - ◆ Meeting health and environmental standards,
 - ◆ Re-evaluating older pesticides,
 - ◆ Effectiveness of compliance activities,
 - ◆ Improved information to support regulatory decisions,
 - ◆ Coordinated research and monitoring, and
 - ◆ Human resources management.



Strengthen Pesticide Evaluations

- ◆ Issues: data complete and reliable; assumptions realistic and tested; internal procedures followed
- ◆ Data complete: Adequacy of submission screening procedures and early stages of the review process have been assessed.
- ◆ Assumptions tested: Work with the international community is underway to identify key assumptions; some studies underway through other departments will test some assumptions.
- ◆ Internal procedures: A review and enhancement of the Management Submission Policy has been completed; variations from standard evaluation procedures will be documented.



Older Pesticides

- ◆ Issues: speed up re-evaluations, report on progress, develop guidelines for product removal
- ◆ Speed up re-evaluations:
 - ◆ allocation of new resources; and,
 - ◆ implementation of an updated, more efficient re-evaluation program.
 - ◆ PMRA's re-evaluation process is tied to the US re-registration program.
- ◆ Report: An annual report to Parliament, will contain information about:
 - ◆ Progress in managing formulations and micro-contaminants; and,
 - ◆ Progress on re-evaluations and special reviews.
 - ◆ PMRA is currently preparing a Five-Year Progress Report for the years 1998-2003.



Older Pesticides

- ◆ Guidelines: a document will be published describing the process:
 - ◆ For determining how quickly pesticides should be removed from the market; and,
 - ◆ For advising when older pesticides are found to have unacceptable risk.
- ◆ Draft document has been developed; the final document will be published and implemented by end of FY 2004-2005.

User Compliance Measurement and Reporting

- ◆ Issue: measurement and reporting procedures re user compliance
- ◆ Discussions with comparable Canadian and international compliance organizations have been initiated, to assist in developing measurement and reporting procedures.
- ◆ Discussions with provincial/territorial pesticide regulatory authorities underway to enhance the sharing of information about user compliance; target completion 2005.



Exposure to pesticides

- ◆ Issue: accelerate regulations on sales database, adverse effects reporting, address gaps in data on pesticide exposure, update water quality guidelines
- ◆ Sales database: the proposed Sales Reporting Regulations have been published in the Canada Gazette Part I, for comment by June 10.
- ◆ Adverse effects: development of regulations is in progress.
- ◆ Data gaps: working with other HC branches and with EC and provinces and territories to promote monitoring of pesticides in water



Exposure to Pesticides

- ◆ Water quality guidelines:
 - ◆ A ranking scheme is currently in development to identify which pesticides, with the potential to contaminate surface and ground water, pose the greatest risk to the aquatic environment and human health.
 - ◆ This ranking will be brought to the attention of FPT committees that develop drinking water and water quality guidelines.
 - ◆ The ranking will also be used to assist in identifying priority pesticides for research, monitoring and surveillance programs.

Research and Monitoring to Support Pesticide Regulation

- ◆ Issue: need for research and monitoring to support pesticide regulation.
- ◆ Federal government working group terms of reference revised to reflect Commissioner's concerns (joint establishment of priorities).
- ◆ Workshop in December 2003 to jointly establish priorities for pesticide research and monitoring, focussed on regulatory needs.
- ◆ Reports on results of research and monitoring being prepared



Human Resources

- ◆ Issues: develop a staffing plan linked with future activities, and a program to handle influx of new employees
- ◆ Staffing Plan has been developed and implemented.
 - ◆ The staffing plan is a 3-year Plan that is updated annually during the Agency planning process.
 - ◆ Annual staffing and recruitment strategies are developed and implemented based on the 3-year resource allocations and staffing plan.

Human Resources

- ◆ Program to handle influx of new employees:
 - ◆ In-house Orientation Program implemented for all new staff, to ensure new staff members can learn to do their job and do it well in as short a time as possible.
 - ◆ In May 2003, the Agency launched a Development Program for biologists and chemists.
 - ◆ The Agency provides quality control through peer review as well as manager reviews of pesticide evaluations. Final decisions are made by the senior science committees



Audit follow-up

- ◆ Information on actions taken provided to House of Commons Standing Committees
- ◆ Regular updates to Commissioner's office
- ◆ Link with annual report

Question

- ◆ What advice does Council have concerning the follow-up to the recommendations of the Commissioner?