



PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING REPORT

May 20, 1999

Introduction / Review of Agenda - The Council decided that the discussion of proposed amendments to the *Pest Control Products Act* would continue as long as necessary, even if other agenda items had to be postponed. The Council also decided that there would be a discussion on the process for establishing future agenda at the end of the day.

Terms of Reference - The terms of reference had been revised based on discussions at the February 1999 meeting and subsequent comments. [Post-meeting note: On June 22, 1999, the Minister's office indicated that the recommendation to permit members representing associations to name a permanent alternative was acceptable.]

Modus Operandi - The following decisions were made on modus operandi.

Decision-making: At the February meeting, the Council had decided that process matters could be decided by a simple majority vote, provided a quorum of members was present. At the May meeting, *the Council decided that a quorum would comprise 50% plus 1 members.*

However, the Council also clarified that voting should be restricted to procedural matters. In most cases, meeting reports should reflect a diversity of opinion. In cases where a lack of response by a member will be construed as tacit approval, this should be clearly indicated in advance by the Chair.

Website: *The Council decided that its terms of reference would be posted on the PMRA website.*

Comments by Council members to the media or public: The Council decided to adopt the following policy which had been adopted by Health Canada's Science Advisory Board:

The Chair or his designate will be responsible for press relations and

interactions with the media. However, members can expect to be approached as individuals in their own right or as representatives of professional affiliations - members should be careful to indicate on these occasions, that they speak as individuals and not on behalf of the Council.

The Council asked the Secretariat to prepare key messages for use by members when asked to comment on the role of the Council. Members were reminded that they should not discuss confidential information outside Council meetings.

Statements by observers at Council meetings: The terms of reference state that interested persons may submit written comments before or after meetings, or make short statements at a specified time during meetings, to the extent that time permits. *The Council decided that observers wishing to make such a statement should inform the Chair in advance who will bring the request to the Council for decision. The Council also decided that observers present should be listed in meeting reports.*

Proposed Amendments to the *Pest Control Products Act* - As agreed at the February meeting, Council members had provided written comments on proposed amendments to the *Pest Control Products Act*. A draft summary of comments and PMRA response, which had been distributed in advance, formed the basis of discussion at the May meeting. The draft summary was then revised and reviewed once more by the members in order to finalize the Council's advice to the Minister of Health on the legislative proposals. The final summary, as well as the original comments from individual members, will be provided to the Minister with a cover letter from the Council Chair.

Biopesticides

Integrated Pest Management

Sustainable Development and the PMRA

The above items, all falling under the broad topic of "Developing Innovative Approaches to Pest Management", were deferred to future meetings.

Process for Establishing Future Agenda - The following process, which had been agreed upon at the February meeting, was reiterated:

Council members will submit a list of issues that they would like to see addressed to the Secretariat, along with a brief explanation. The Secretariat will distribute the list to members, along with a proposed selection for the next meeting's agenda. A final agenda will be prepared by the Secretariat taking into account members' comments. Members who suggest issues

included on the agenda will be expected to prepare background documents in advance of the meeting. The Secretariat will assist in preparation of background material, as necessary.

The following agenda items were suggested at the May meeting:

- report of the Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development: action plan with regard to pesticides
- technical presentation on limitations/uncertainties of pesticide testing
- minor use registration
- risk reduction policy
- genetically modified organisms

The Council asked the Secretariat to distribute a complete list of items that had already been suggested when soliciting suggestions for the next meeting.

Next Meeting - The next meeting will be held in fall 1999.

Appendices

Appendix A - Agenda for the meeting of May 20, 1999

Appendix B - Participants at the meeting of May 20, 1999