



PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING REPORT

November 23, 1998

Meeting Notes

Introduction by the Chair - The Chair, Dr. Richard Van Loon, welcomed the members to their first meeting. He reminded them that their advice on pest management issues would be provided directly to the Minister of Health and they had been selected as members of the Council because of their expertise and experience and/or their ability to represent a major sector of stakeholders in an official capacity. The advice to the Minister should focus on broad policy issues and will be conveyed via written reports prepared by the Secretariat and reviewed by the members. Advice may not always be unanimous in which case the reports will endeavour to fairly represent all views. The Chair also reminded the members that the Council is not a decision-making body; it is the Minister who will make the final decisions on policy.

Roundtable - Council members introduced themselves and briefly described their expectations, interests and concerns. A short biography of each member is attached as Appendix C.

The following summarizes major themes raised by Council members.

- The agricultural community supports pesticide risk reduction but needs to have a wide array of pest management tools and strategies at its disposal in a timely manner. Reducing agricultural inputs can lead to improved profitability.
- Farmers must have a level-playing field with the United States and other countries. International harmonization should be pursued pro-actively. Implementation of new pesticide legislation in the United States, the *Food Quality Protection Act of 1996*, will have a significant impact in Canada.
- Sustainable forest pest management is difficult because the development of reduced risk pesticides and alternative strategies is often not economically viable for industry.
- Issues of particular concern to public interest groups include pesticide use and risk reduction, effects of pesticides on children, data requirements for the evaluation of pesticides, sustainable development, food safety, environmental protection, cosmetic uses of pesticides, pesticide formulants, re-evaluation of older pesticides, compliance and

enforcement.

- It is important to ensure health standards are equivalent to those of the United States and that they take into account sensitive subpopulations, especially children, cumulative risks and a wide range of health outcomes.
- A science-based risk management approach is key to pesticide regulatory decision-making. Risk *management* decision-making should be clearly delineated from health and environmental risk *assessment*.
- It is important that post-registration monitoring programs be adequate and there be appropriate feedback into the regulatory system.
- The Pest Management Regulatory Agency should not lose sight of its dual goals: to provide safe access to pest management tools, while minimizing risks to human health and the environment. In order to inspire public confidence in the regulatory system, policies must recognize and balance the interests of all stakeholders.
- Effective federal-provincial-territorial collaboration in pest management regulation is essential.
- The Council should search for truly innovative approaches in order to increase the cost-effectiveness of the regulatory system, rather than giving advice that would make only incremental improvements.
- In order to formulate broad policy advice, the Council may have to explore the details of certain issues.
- Increased information dissemination should be promoted.

Overview of the Pest Management Regulatory System and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) - Claire Franklin, Executive Director of the PMRA, presented an overview of the origin and development of PMRA, functions of PMRA in pest management regulation, and implementation of key reforms based on recommendations of the 1990 Pesticide Registration Review (PRR). The PMRA's Strategic Plan, 1998-2003, was reviewed and international harmonization activities were outlined. The Strategic Plan outlines the direction the PMRA intends to take over the next five years as it continues to implement the PRR recommendations as directed by Cabinet. The ensuing discussion served to identify items for exploration at future meetings (see "Items for Future Agenda", below).

Proposed Amendments to the *Pest Control Products Act* - Geraldine Graham, PMRA, presented the objectives and main elements of the proposed new legislation, which is based on the PRR recommendations. The parliamentary process was also reviewed. Council members did not

voice disagreement with the objectives as presented, but asked for more detailed information, including information on proposed regulations under the new Act, in order to help them formulate advice for the Minister at the next meeting.

The Secretariat agreed to provide more detailed information on legislative and regulatory proposals well in advance of the next meeting.

PMRA Benchmarking Study - Claire Franklin presented an overview of the Study and then Wayne Ormrod, Wendy Sexsmith and Robert Woods, PMRA, outlined a proposed action plan to address the Study's recommendations. Action plan items were cross-referenced to the PMRA strategic objectives and business lines that had been outlined in Claire Franklin's earlier presentation. After some discussion, the Chair concluded that there was general acceptance of the action plan and that the Council would explore specific issues, e.g., budget, re-evaluation, at future meetings.

The Council decided to ask the Economic Management Advisory Committee to consider Benchmarking Study recommendations #16 & 17 on the fee structure and report to the Council.

In the context of this agenda item, some discussion took place on the roles and responsibilities of other advisory bodies. The Secretariat will provide to Council members the terms of reference of the Economic Management Advisory Committee (EMAC).

The Council decided that future agenda should include a report from the EMAC co-chairs.

Terms of Reference of the Advisory Council - Robert Woods, PMRA, reviewed requirements and obligations related to security and conflict of interest. A package of information and conflict of interest disclosure form will be sent to Council members. There will be further discussion of the terms of reference at the next meeting.

Next Meeting - The next meeting of the Council will be for 1½ days on February 15 - 16 (noon), 1999.

The Secretariat will prepare a draft agenda by selecting from the items identified below and distribute it to the Council members for comments and additional suggestions well in advance of the meeting. When suggesting agenda items, Council members should include a brief description of the item, expectations of the Council and supporting material as appropriate.

Remarks from the Minister of Health, the Honourable Allan Rock - The Minister joined the Council at the end of their meeting. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the members for agreeing to serve on the Council and challenged them to provide advice on how best to continue the reforms to the pest management regulatory system. The Minister made a commitment to

listen to the Council's advice and discuss problems candidly and cooperatively.

Items for Future Agenda

Legislation

Re-evaluation

S PMRA to distribute draft proposal in early 1999 to Advisory Council, EMAC, F/P/T and other federal departments; to be discussed at next Advisory Council meeting

Financial Issues

PMRA Mandate / Infrastructure

Risk Assessment / Risk Management in Health and Environmental Protection

International Harmonization

Compliance

Report from Economic Management Advisory Committee

Workplan for the Advisory Council

Terms of Reference

Appendices

Appendix A - Agenda for the meeting of November 23, 1998

Appendix B - Participants at the meeting of November 23, 1998

Appendix C - Biographies of members of the Pest Management Advisory Council (not available at this time)

Appendix D - Presentation: *The New Pest Control Products Act*