



PPDC Registration Review Workgroup Activities Update

PPDC Meeting

October 20-21, 2005

Session I

ISSUE

The PPDC Registration Review Workgroup was chartered in June 2003 to develop recommendations on the design of the registration review program. The PPDC has endorsed recommendations developed by the Workgroup. The procedural regulations for the registration review program that EPA published as proposed in July 2005 reflects the advice provided by the PPDC. The Workgroup has continued to meet to discuss issues relating to the implementation of the proposed program.

STATUS

At the May 2005 meeting of the PPDC, the PPDC Registration Review Workgroup presented its views regarding 1) review of product labels in registration review, 2) content of registration review decision documents, and 3) release of draft schedules for the registration review program. Jim Jones asked the workgroup to further discuss the first two topics and promised that OPP would release a draft schedule.

On July 20, the PPDC Workgroup discussed the review of product labels in registration review and the content of registration review decision documents. The Workgroup recommended that EPA use registration review to review product labels for consistency and that EPA provides 18 months for routine label changes. The Workgroup recommended that the registration review document be a high-level overview with links and references to more detailed documents and provided advice on the topics that should be covered in the registration review decision document.

At the July 20 meeting, OPP presented an overview of the draft schedule for registration review of individual pesticides, including its proposal to group for review pesticides belonging to the same chemical class. Soil fumigants or rodenticides would also be grouped for review.

During the summer, members of the PPDC workgroup also provided advice to OPP on holding public information sessions about the proposed rule and pesticide review schedule. OPP held public information sessions on August 23 (Crystal City, VA) and September 1 (Chicago). Also, OPP and its Region 9 Office held a session (teleconference) October 7 for California State and water control officials, at their request.

Update for 10/20 PPDC meeting; PPDC Registration Review Workgroup Presentation

The Agency published its proposed procedural regulations for registration review on July 13, 2005 for a 90-day public review and comment period. The comment period ended on October 11, 2005. EPA plans to issue a final rule in the summer of 2006 and implement the program in the fall of 2006.

On July 13, EPA launched a registration review webpage that describes the proposed program and provides links to the proposed rule the docket, and the draft schedule, among other things. EPA will continue to build this website as the program develops.

BACKGROUND

FQPA amendments to FIFRA Section 3(g) require the registration review program as means for periodic review and update of all pesticides. This program will effectively replace the current tolerance reassessment and reregistration programs. OPP will complete its tolerance reassessment program in August 2006 for all food-use pesticides and reregistration in 2008 for pesticides registered before November 1984.

FQPA sets a goal of reviewing each pesticide every 15 years; this will require review/decisions on approximately 45 pesticide chemical cases (or about 72 active ingredients) per year. To achieve this goal, OPP will build on its knowledge base of individual and similar pesticides, existing data and pertinent information on hand and from stakeholders, its experience on work management from its core science and regulatory programs, and advances in its IT/IM systems.

OPP has actively engaged a diverse group of stakeholders through the PPDC for advice on developing the new registration review program. Major registrants, public interest groups, USDA, and user groups are actively represented in PPDC advisory group which provided suggestions for many of the specific aspects of the proposed rule.

The proposed rule describes OPP's proposed approach to the registration review program. The proposed regulation is intended to ensure continued review of pesticides using procedures that provide for public participation and transparency in an efficient manner and use of resources.

We plan to include endangered species assessments in our registration reviews, as we will for our registration program for new pesticides and uses, since these assessments generally were not done when current pesticides were initially registered or reregistered. Likewise, as science requirements, policies, and expectations evolve for OPP's pesticide regulatory programs, these changes will be incorporated in to our registration review and registration programs.

The proposed changes will not compromise current protections for human health and the environment. EPA will maintain and exercise its capabilities to address newly identified significant risks of individual pesticides and uses that warrant timely regulatory action outside of the registration review schedule if appropriate.

OPP is reviewing submitted comments and suggestions (about 30) and will decide within the next couple of months what if any changes to the proposed rule are appropriate before moving forward with development, review and approval of a final rule.