

Impaired Water Body Data Pilot Program with Office of Water Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee: June 15, 2006

The Office of Pesticide Programs is working with OW, four EPA regions and selected states to test a process for gathering state water quality data through a pilot project. The pilot is aimed at gathering the data, determining the extent to which it can be used in risk assessments for pesticide registration review, and identifying the roles of EPA and state staff in gathering this data. This pilot will help establish a process for including data on impaired water bodies and other water quality data in OPP's planned registration review program.

The pilot is focusing on gathering data related to waters listed under Clean Water Act Section 303(d) as impaired by malathion or chlorpyrifos. These two pesticides were chosen because there are 303(d) listings for these chemicals in multiple regions and states. EPA regions 3, 5, 9 and 10 are working with states and sending data or data links to OPP for monitoring data associated with these pesticides. OPP will provide feedback on its ability to use the data in risk assessments.

An outcome of the pilot project will be a standard operating procedure for obtaining data on 303(d) listed waterbodies during the registration review program when it is available.

Following implementation of the registration review program, OPP will work with EPA regional water and pesticide staff to identify listed water bodies where the pesticide scheduled for review is the cause of impairment, and identify other state/tribal water quality data associated with specific pesticides. OPP will compare these reports with the annual draft schedule for registration review.

For registration review cases associated with 303(d) listings for pesticides, OPP will work with OW, regions, states and tribes to mine existing data that support the listing of each water body, and any other data related to these listings. OPP will also mine monitoring data associated with other water quality concerns.

All information will be placed in the registration review docket for public comment to initiate the registration review process.

When a revised risk assessment is needed, OPP will consider information on impaired water bodies or other water quality data of concern in characterization of predicted ecological risks. Risk assessments may be published for public comment along with supporting materials. OPP may also request input on possible/practical risk management options.

During the risk management phase, OPP will develop risk management options to address impaired water bodies and other documented water quality issues, to the extent that the problem may be attributed to use of the pesticide. This may include development of monitoring plan options as a condition of registration, based on a determination of risks and benefits, to establish the extent to which additional water bodies may be impaired by the chemical.

OPP will then issue an interim or final registration review decision for comment, stating whether the pesticide meets, or does not meet, the FIFRA standard for registration, including the basis for the proposed findings, proposed risk mitigation standards, additional data needs, proposed labeling changes, and deadlines to be set for completing required actions. This will be followed by an interim or final decision, and assurance that risk mitigation measures are implemented, including label changes.

Impaired Water Body Data Pilot Program

Pesticide Program Dialogue
Committee
June 15, 2006

Purpose of Pilot

- OPP, OW, four EPA regions & selected states are testing a process for gathering state WQ data
- Pilot is:
 - gathering WQ data
 - determining extent it can be used in RAs &
 - identifying EPA & state roles in gathering the data
- Pilot will help establish process for routinely including data on impaired water bodies & other WQ data in registration review

Focus of Pilot

- Pilot is gathering data related to waters listed under CWA 303(d) as impaired by malathion or chlorpyrifos.
 - Pesticides chosen because there are 303(d) listings for these in multiple regions & states.
 - EPA regions 3, 5, 9 and 10 working with states and sending data or data links to OPP.
 - OPP will provide feedback on its ability to use the data in risk assessments.

Pilot Outcome

- Outcome of pilot will be SOP for obtaining data on 303(d) listed waterbodies during registration review
- Registration review scheduled to begin this fall (early FY '07)

Implementation in Registration Review

- Once registration review is implemented:
 - OPP will work with EPA regions to ID listed water bodies where the pesticide is cause of impairment
 - ID other state/tribal water quality data associated with specific pesticides
- OPP will compare these reports with the annual schedule for registration review.

Registration Review dockets

- OPP will work with OW, regions & states to mine existing data that support the listing of each water body
- OPP will also mine other state/tribal data related to documented WQ concerns
- All information placed in docket for public comment to initiate registration review

Risk assessment & mitigation

- When a revised RA is needed, OPP will consider the WQ data in risk characterization.
- When needed, OPP will develop risk mitigation options to address impaired water bodies & other WQ concerns attributed to pesticide use.
 - Mitigation may include development of monitoring plan options as a condition of registration
- OPP will then issue draft and final registration review decisions including any required risk mitigation, & ensure mitigation is implemented.

Conclusion

- Ongoing pilot project will ensure that state/tribal water quality data is routinely considered
- OPP plans to implement registration review program this fall – early FY '07