

Report on the PPDC Spray Drift Work Group

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Overview

- Mission statement
- Jointly led by OW & OPP
- Two meetings: March 29 & June 13
- Broadly representative: 23 members from academia, chemical industry, public interest groups, federal & state agencies, and grower groups

Summary of March Meeting

- Shared perspectives on the nature of the problem and goals for the workgroup
- Received basic presentations on spray drift science, FIFRA & CWA, and state perspectives
- Identified three teams to plan further work:
 - Scope
 - Methods & Background information
 - Practices for Mitigation
- Teams developed agenda and materials for June meeting and future discussion topics

Scope Statement

Highlights of [draft] statement on scope:

- Agree to focus on:
 - Labeling
 - Practices and equipment to mitigate drift
 - Training and stewardship
- Agree not to focus on:
 - NPDES rule
 - Misuse
 - Volatilization

Risk Assessment Methodology & Other Background Information

- Group received presentations on:
 - The history of spray drift science and policy
 - Data on overall water quality, generally, and on pesticide occurrence, in particular
 - OPP's ecological risk assessment methods
- Group interested in addition information on:
 - OPP's risk assessment methods illustrated through case studies
 - OW's risk assessment methods
 - Drift reduction technologies

Practices for Mitigation

- Group received presentations on:
 - Applicator training, education, & certification programs
 - Labeling
- Group recommended focus on improving spray drift portions of labels
- Will identify several case studies

Summary of June Meeting

- Refined the Scope of the Workgroup
- Gave Direction for further work
 - Additional background information
 - Case studies
- Started to identify and explore controversial topics
 - How to balance a focus on impacts of spray drift on water vs. impacts on farmworkers, bystanders, and wildlife
 - The tradeoff between enforceability vs. practicality in spray drift labeling

Next Steps

- Next meeting in early September
- Focus on labeling case studies & other follow-up
- Refer volatilization issue to full PPDC
- Ask Worker Safety Regulation workgroup to examine:
 - The WPS rule's provision regarding labeling to protect field workers from spray drift
 - Ways to upgrade training & education programs on mitigation of spray drift