**Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Virtual Public Meeting**

Zoom Virtual Platform

November 13, 2024; 11:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. EDT

November 14, 2024; 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. EDT

Full meeting transcripts can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-advisory-committees-and-regulatory-partners/pesticide-program-dialogue-committee-16>

# MEETING SUMMARY – Day 1 (November 13, 2024)

## Welcome and Member Roll Call

*Jeffrey Chang, Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) Designated Federal Officer, Immediate Office (IO), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Edward Messina, Director, OPP, OCSPP, EPA*

Jeffrey Chang welcomed participants, provided Zoom instructions, and conducted the roll call. A list of meeting participants is included as Appendix A. The meeting agenda is included as Appendix B. The official certification of the minutes by the Chair is included as Appendix C.

Ed Messina gave a welcome message to the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) members. He provided a brief background on the PPDC and its purpose towards supporting EPA’s mission. He acknowledged the current PPDC workgroups and the important work they have done. He briefly described the agenda topics for the meeting days. Finally, he expressed his appreciation for the PPDC members’ commitment to public service, their enthusiasm and their contributions.

## OPP Updates: Recent Activities, Accomplishments, and Workload Metrics

*Edward Messina, Director, OPP, OCSPP, EPA*

Ed Messina provided an update on the Office of Pesticide Programs’ key activities, highlighting recent accomplishments, ongoing challenges, and future priorities. He discussed the agency’s efforts in streamlining pesticide registration processes, improving transparency, and enhancing regulatory compliance. Mr. Messina emphasized the importance of stakeholder collaboration in addressing emerging pesticide resistance issues and the integration of new technologies in pesticide management. Additionally, he addressed budget constraints and workforce challenges impacting the agency’s ability to meet increasing regulatory demands. The session concluded with a commitment to ongoing stakeholder engagement and a focus on science-driven policy-making.

## Emerging Pathogen Implementation Committee Update

*Tajah Blackburn, Senior Scientist, Antimicrobials Division (AD), OPP, OCSPP, EPA; Anastasia Swearingen, Senior Director, American Chemistry Council; Rhonda Jones, CEO, Scientific and Regulatory Consultants*

Tajah Blackburn, Anastasia Swearingen, and Rhonda Jones presented an update on the Emerging Pathogen Implementation Committee (EPIC), which was formed in July 2022. The committee’s primary focus has been refining and implementing recommendations related to antimicrobial pathogen policies. In October 2024, the committee submitted its final report containing various recommendations.

The discussion included a retrospective analysis of the EPA’s antimicrobial response to COVID-19 and strategies for future improvements. The committee suggested incorporating QR codes on product labels to enhance user clarity, publishing antimicrobial policies in draft form for public comment before finalization, and establishing a periodic reassessment process for these policies, ideally every five years. PPDC Members voted in favor of submitting the final report to EPA and the committee was officially sunsetted.

## Pesticide Resistance Management #2 Workgroup Update

*Cameron Douglass, Agronomist/Weed Scientist, Office of Pest Management Policy, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); Nikhil Mallampalli, Entomologist, Biological and Economic Analysis Division (BEAD), OPP, OCSPP, EPA*

Cameron Douglass and Nikhil Mallampalli delivered the final report of the Pesticide Resistance Management Workgroup, summarizing two years of research and stakeholder engagement. The report outlined several key recommendations, including enhancing EPA’s internal and external partnerships to further EPA’s understanding of resistance management by creating a Resistance Management Coordinator position, developing cost-benefit analysis frameworks for pesticide resistance, and promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies.

The workgroup acknowledged and appreciated the diverse contributions from various stakeholders, including members of academia, government agencies, growers, non-governmental organizations, and industry representatives. PPDC Members voted in favor of submitting the final report to EPA and the committee was officially sunsetted.

## Pesticide Label Reform Workgroup Update

*Lisa Dreilinger, Global Head/Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs, Arxada; Sarah Hovinga,*

*Regulatory Policy Analyst, Bayer U.S.; Michelle Arling, IO, OPP, OCSPP, EPA*

Lisa Dreilinger, Sarah Hovinga, and Michelle Arling provided an update on the Pesticide Label Reform Workgroup. The primary objective of this group is to simplify pesticide labels to improve comprehension and compliance. Their efforts center on structured labeling formats and the integration of digital tools, such as QR codes, to facilitate bilingual labeling.

The team discussed their ongoing collaboration with industry stakeholders and regulatory partners to refine labeling standards, ensuring that pesticide users receive clear and accessible information.

## Public Comments

Jeffrey Chang called for public comments. During this session, participants raised concerns about pesticide labeling clarity, antimicrobial regulations, and the management of pesticide resistance.

## Adjournment

Mr. Messina and Mr. Chang thanked the PPDC members for their efforts. Mr. Messina adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m. EDT.

# MEETING SUMMARY – Day 2 (November 14, 2024)

## Housekeeping Items

Jeffrey Chang gave brief Zoom instructions and outlined the agenda for the day’s meeting.

## Endangered Species Act Activities and Outreach Update

*Jan Matuszko, Director, Environmental Fate and Effects Division (EFED), OPP, OCSPP, EPA; Anne Overstreet, Director, Pesticide Re-evaluation Divison (PRD), OPP, OCSPP, EPA*

Jan Matuszko provided an update on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) activities. She discussed efforts to refine risk assessment processes and mitigation measures. The finalized Herbicide Strategy was introduced, outlining mitigation approaches to protect listed species. Anne Overstreet discussed outreach efforts, including the launch of the ESA Toolbox webpage and stakeholder engagement strategies to enhance education on regulatory compliance.

## Farmworker Workgroup Update

*Mily Treviño-Sauceda, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Inc.; Kaitlin Picone, IO, OPP, OCSPP, EPA*

Kaitlin Picone provided a high-level overview of the Farmworker Workgroup’s formation and progress. The PPDC voted to establish the workgroup in November 2023, and meetings began in March 2024. The group developed charge questions, focusing on improving collaboration between EPA and farmworker organizations, incorporating real-world pesticide exposure scenarios into policy decisions, and enhancing EPA responsiveness to previous recommendations.

Mily Treviño-Sauceda emphasized the need for improved protections for farmworkers and addressed concerns about pesticide exposure. The workgroup discussions have included the complexity of pesticide labels,increased educational resources for farmworkers to understand safety protocols, and underreporting of pesticide incidents. Collaboration with advocacy organizations and other federal agencies was highlighted as an important theme of discussions to date.

## Drone Risk Assessments and Spot Treatments

*Amy Blankinship, Deputy Director, EFED, OPP, OCSPP, EPA*

Amy Blankinship presented findings on the impact of drone pesticide applications, including potential risks and mitigation strategies. She elaborated on the integration of drone applications within current pesticide regulations and the need for standardized safety guidelines.

## Biocontrol Including Jurisdiction Issues

*Elizabeth Milewski, Senior Science Advisor, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD), OPP, OCSPP, EPA; Cody Kendrick, Senior Regulatory Advisor, BPPD, OPP, OCSPP, EPA*

Elizabeth Milewski provided an overview of biocontrol strategies and regulatory frameworks governing their use. Cody Kendrick addressed jurisdictional challenges in biocontrol implementation, stressing the importance of interagency coordination.

## Moving Forward and Meeting Closing

*Ed Messina, Director, OPP, OCSPP, EPA*

The discussion centered on future priorities for the PPDC, emphasizing the need for ongoing collaboration between regulatory bodies, industry stakeholders, and advocacy groups. Key discussion themes included enhancing transparency in pesticide regulation, expanding outreach efforts, and refining mitigation strategies based on emerging research.

PPDC members voted to form a new workgroup, a cross-sector workgroup that seeks to assist EPA in achieving its legislative mandate by working across stakeholder groups to identify prioritized recommendations and solutions. The workgroup participants plan to begin meeting to develop and present charge questions at the next PPDC meeting.

## Public Comments

Mr. Chang called for public comments. Commentors commended the Office of Pesticide Programs for its accomplishments while also highlighting concerns about resource constraints and regulatory backlogs.

## Adjournment

Mr. Messina and Mr. Chang thanked the PPDC members for their efforts. Mr. Messina adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m. EDT.

# APPENDIX A: Meeting Participants

*Chair*

**Edward Messina, Esq.**

Director

Office of Pesticide Programs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

*PPDC Members*

**Alanna Bares, MD, MPH**

Public Health Medical Officer II

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

California Environmental Protection Agency

**Alexis Guild**

Vice President

Strategy and Programs

Farmworker Justice

**Alexis Temkin, PhD.**

Toxicologist

Environmental Working Group

**Anastasia Swearingen**

Senior Director

Chemical Products and Technology

American Chemistry Council

**Andrew Architect**

CEO

National Pest Management Association

**Anna van der Zalm**

Scientific Specialist

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

**Becca Berkey**

Director

Community-Engaged Teaching and Research

Northeastern University

**Bob Mann**

Senior Director

Technical and Regulatory Affairs

National Association of Landscape Professionals

**Brian Verhougstraete**

Pesticide Section Manager

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Association of American Pesticide Control Officials

**Caleb Ragland**

Board Member

American Soybean Association

**Claudia Arrieta**

Scientist

Crop Innovation

Cargill

**Daniel Markowski, PhD.**

Technical Advisor

American Mosquito Control Association

**Daren Coppock**

President and CEO

Agricultural Retailers Association

**David Heimer**

Noxious Weed Coordinator

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

**David Shaw, PhD.**

Provost and Executive Vice President

Mississippi State University

**Ed Hardy Kern**

Director of Government Relations

Pesticides and Birds Campaign

American Bird Conservancy

**Emma Torres**

Co-Founder and Executive Director

Campesinos Sin Fronteras

**Eric Gjevre**

Pesticide Program Manager

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Tribal Pesticide Program Council

**Gary Prescher**

Member

National Corn Growers Association

**George Parker**

Owner

Crop Jet Aviation, LLC

National Agricultural Aviation Association

**Gina Shultz**

Deputy Assistant Director

Ecological Services

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Grant Morris**

Owner

Schneider Farms – Pasco LLC

National Potato Council

**Jill Schroeder, PhD.**

Professor Emeritus

New Mexico State University

Weed Science Society of America

**Joseph Grzywacz, PhD.**

Associate Dean for Research and Faculty

San Jose State University

**John Wise, PhD.**

Professor

IR-4 Project

Michigan State University

**Karen Reardon**

Vice President

Public Affairs

Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment

**Keith Jones**

Executive Director

Biological Products Industry Alliance

**Kelly Bills**

Executive Director

Pollinator Partnership

**Kim Brown**

Extension Specialist II

Department of Plant Sciences

University of Tennessee

**Kimberly Nesci**

Director

Office of Pest Management Policy

U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Ligia Duarte**

Senior Director

Household & Commercial Products Association

**Lisa Dreilinger, PhD.**

Global Head/Vice President

Regulatory and Government Affairs

Arxada

**Manojit Basu, PhD.**

Vice President

Science Policy

CropLife America

**Marc Lame, PhD.**

Professor Emeritus

Indiana University

**Mily Treviño Sauceda**

Executive Director and Co-Founder

Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Inc.

**Nathan Donley, PhD.**

Director

Environmental Health Science

Center for Biological Diversity

**Patrick Johnson**

Owner

Cypress Brake Planting Co.

National Cotton Council

**Robert Nielsen**

Certified Golf Course Superintendent

Golf Course Superintendents Associations of America

**Rosemary Malfi, PhD.**

Pesticide Program Specialist - Policy Lead

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

*U.S. EPA Participants*

**Amy Blankinship**

Deputy Director

Environmental Fate and Effects Divison

Office of Pesticide Programs

**Anne Overstreet**

Director

Pesticide Re-evaluation Divison

Office of Pesticide Programs

**Cody Kendrick**

Senior Regulatory Advisor

Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division

Office of Pesticide Programs

**Elizabeth Milewski**

Senior Science Advisor

Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division

Office of Pesticide Programs

*Other Guest Participants*

**Cameron Douglass**

Agronomist/Weed Scientist

Office of Pest Management Policy

United States Department of Agriculture

**Terry Kippley**

President

Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology

**Walter Alarcon, MD**

SENSOR-Pesticides Program Project Officer

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Wendy Sue Wheeler**

Director

Pesticide Resources and Education Program

Washington State University

**Jan Matuszko**

Director

Environmental Fate and Effects Division

Office of Pesticide Programs

**Kaitlin Picone**

Immediate Office

Office of Pesticide Programs

**Michelle Arling**

Human Research Ethics Review Officer

Office of Pesticide Programs

**Nikhil Mallampalli**

Entomologist

Biological and Economic Analysis Division

**Tajah Blackburn**

Senior Scientist

Antimicrobials Division

Office of Pesticide Programs

**Rhonda Jones**

CEO

Scientific and Regulatory Consultants

**Sarah Hovinga**

Regulatory Policy Analyst

Bayer U.S.

# APPENDIX B: Agenda

**Day 1 (November 13, 2024)**

**11:00-11:45 am Welcome and Member Roll Call**

* Jeffrey Chang, PPDC DFO, Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP)
* Edward Messina, Director and Chair, OPP

**11:45 am-1:00 pm** **OPP Updates: Recent Activities, Accomplishments, and Workload Metrics**

* Ed Messina, Director and Chair, OPP

**1:00-1:45 pm Lunch**

**1:45-2:30 pm Emerging Pathogen Implementation Committee Update**

* Tajah Blackburn, Senior Scientist, OPP
* Anastasia Swearingen, Senior Director, American Chemistry Council
* Rhonda Jones, CEO, Scientific and Regulatory Consultants

**2:30-3:00 pm** **Pesticide Resistance Management #2 Workgroup Update**

* Nikhil Mallampalli, Entomologist, OPP
* Cameron Douglass, Agronomist/Weed Scientist, USDA

**3:05-4:05 pm Pesticide Label Reform Workgroup Update**

* Lisa Dreilinger, Global Head/Vice President, Arxada
* Sarah Hovinga, Regulatory Policy Analyst, Bayer U.S.
* Michelle Arling, Human Research Ethics Review Officer, OPP

**4:05-4:30 pm Public Comments**

**4:30 pm Meeting Adjourn**

**Day 2 (November 14, 2024)**

**11:00-11:05 am Housekeeping Items**

* Jeffrey Chang, PPDC DFO, OPP

**11:05 am-12:30 pm Endangered Species Act Activities and Outreach Update**

* Jan Matuszko, Director, Environmental Fate and Effects Division (EFED), OPP
* Anne Overstreet, Director, Pesticide Re-evaluation Division (PRD)

**12:30-1:20 pm Lunch**

**1:45-2:30 pm Farmworker Workgroup Update**

* Mily Treviño-Sauceda, Exec. Director, Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Inc.
* Kaitlin Picone, OPP

**2:00-2:45 pm Drone Risk Assessments and Spot Treatments**

* Amy Blankinship, Deputy Director, EFED, OPP

**2:50-3:20 pm Biocontrol Including Jurisdiction Issues**

* Cody Kendrick, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD)
* Elizabeth Milewski, BPPD

**3:25-4:25 pm Moving Forward and Meeting Closing**

* Ed Messina, Director, OPP

**4:30-5:00 pm Public Comments**

**5:00 pm Meeting Adjourn**

# APPENDIX C: Chair Certification of Minutes

I, Ed Messina, Chair of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC), certify that this is the

final version of the complete minutes for the video/teleconference held on November 13 and 14, 2024 that the minutes accurately reflect the discussions and decisions of the meeting.

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**Ed Messina, PPDC Chair**  **Date**