

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

December 10, 2012

Dear PPDC Pollinator Protection Team Workgroup Members,

We want to thank all the members of the Workgroup for your efforts on this issue. Pollinator protection is a priority for OPP and, as you know, a complicated issue to work through. Positive comments from the full PPDC on both the Workgroup's summary report and on the Workgroup's report-out are evidence of the progress you have made and your commitment.

The PPDC's feedback provides us with specific action items that we have been asked to pursue within a short timeframe. Below are the actions the PPDC identified for us:

- Identify and define an initial set of label terms that would stabilize the pollinator protection language on current pesticide labels (2-3 terms).
- Make progress towards a honeybee best management practices (BMP) website. This effort would include collating the available honeybee BMP information, deciding which information to include and how to best communicate it, in addition to:
 - Evaluating available RT₂₅ information and determining what data are relevant and reliable for such a BMP website.
 - EPA will work with USDA to pursue a point of contact that could serve as a federal resource for this effort.
- Provide input into EPA's efforts to update and improve label enforcement for bees.
 - OPP will work to identify the timing and mechanism to identify and incorporate Workgroup comments and suggestions into efforts to improve enforcement guidance. The Workgroup was also asked to identify issues associated with the current incident reporting and provide input to OPP on how the current set of tools used to report incidents can be improved.

In addition, EPA and USDA committed to working together to broaden the involvement of other key stakeholders in this process.

We think some of these action items can be developed within six months. If more time is needed, we should identify a strategy and specific steps (with milestones) to pursue and target a completion date. To begin to move things forward, we would like to encourage the subgroup co-leads to discuss these steps within the individual subgroups. We will plan a conference call for late January 2013 to check in on our progress.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns, or Mary Clock-Rust for assistance with your meetings.

Thank you again for your work on this issue.

Sincerely,

Donald Brady

Rick Keigwin