May 30, 2014

Conditional Registration -- Summary of OPP's Implementation of GAO's Recommendations

In August 2013, GAO published an audit report on OPP's oversight of conditional registrations. In the report, GAO had three recommendations for OPP:

1. Pending development of an automated data system for tracking the status of conditional registrations, develop guidance to ensure that product managers use a uniform methodology to track and document this information, including when data are submitted by registrants and reviewed by EPA, in the files maintained by each pesticide product manager.
2. Review and correct, as appropriate, OPP's website on conditional registrations to ensure that the information presented is clear, concise, and accurate, including defining technical terms.
3. Complete plans to automate data related to conditional registrations to more readily track the status of these registrations and agency actions and identify problems requiring management attention.

OPP has addressed the recommendations in the following ways:

1. OPP, in conjunction with the Office of General Counsel, provided training to product managers and other appropriate personnel on the regulatory requirements of conditional registration to the regulatory divisions (Registration, Antimicrobial, and Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention).
2. Pending development of an automated data system for tracking the status of conditional registrations, OPP created an SOP for standardizing data entry in the OPPIN tracking system for conditional or unconditional registrations; this includes new codes to clearly distinguish the status of the registrations.
3. As of April 15, OPP updated its Conditional Pesticide Registration website to present clear, concise and accurate information. The web page addresses conditional pesticide registrations issued under FIFRA section 3(c)(7)(C) from FY2000 to the present.
4. In the future, IT set-aside funds will be used to make the conditional registration website more interactive so stakeholders can tailor their search more according to their needs.