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EPA Plan to Address Spray Drift Work Group Recommendations

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Overview

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 - Scope
 - Labeling
 - Education, Training and Stewardship
 - Technologies to Mitigate Drift
 - Design Standards vs. Performance Standards
 - Tailoring Regulatory Restrictions to Local Conditions
 - Real-World Impacts of Labeling
 - CWA/FIFRA Overlap

Background

- EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs and Office of Water established the Spray Drift Workgroup under the auspices of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee to seek stakeholder input on how to mitigate risks to water from pesticide spray drift
- The Spray Drift Workgroup met multiple times to discuss spray drift issues and develop recommendations for EPA.

Background

- EPA received a report from the Workgroup that included recommendations in the following areas:
 - Labeling
 - Education, Training, and Stewardship Programs
 - Promoting the Development and Use of Drift Mitigation Technology
 - Regulatory Strategies (i.e., the role of “design” and “performance” standards and tailoring requirements to address local conditions)
 - How to Determine the Real World Impact of Pesticide Labeling
 - CWA / FIFRA Overlap
- EPA developed a plan to address the recommendations for each topic

Background

- After considering feedback from the PPDC, EPA will refine this plan of actions by setting priorities, developing milestones and schedules, and assigning responsibilities.
- EPA will include outreach to stakeholders and opportunities for involvement by the general public

Scope

- The Spray Drift Workgroup focused on
 - Labeling to mitigate spray drift
 - Education, training, and stewardship
 - Practices and equipment to mitigate drift
- EPA decided that issues regarding the NPDES rulemaking and volatilization fell outside the scope of the Spray Drift Workgroup charge.

Scope

- **Recommendation:** None
- **EPA Response:** EPA scientists are examining the technical issues associated with characterization of potential exposure via volatilization through consultations with states and other stakeholders.

Labeling

- **Recommendation:** Standardize labeling statements for spray drift mitigation
- **Actions:**
 - Draft Pesticide Registration Notice
 - Internal SOP for regulatory risk assessments
 - Develop a process for OW and OPPTS to coordinate on review of spray drift labeling
 - Develop guidance for state lead agencies and tribes for implementing new spray drift labeling

Labeling

- **Recommendation:** Consider far-reaching changes to pesticide labeling
- **Actions:**
 - Develop systematic approach to improve labeling (e.g., web-based distribution)
 - Investigate options for a generic process for stakeholder review of key label statements

Education, Training and Stewardship

- **Recommendation:** Federal funding of these programs should be continued or expanded
- **Actions:**
 - Explore mechanisms for evaluating effectiveness of spray drift mitigation training and identifying gaps
 - Provide updates on EPA efforts to enhance training
 - Explore how to promote voluntary site-specific Drift Management Plans
 - Develop Citizen's Guide for spray drift

Technologies to Mitigate Drift

- **Recommendation:** Continue support of the Drift Reduction Technology (DRT) project
- **Actions:**
 - Continue DRT project
 - Explore opportunities to work with other foreign and domestic agencies and organizations

Design Standards vs. Performance Standards

- **Recommendation:** None
- **Action:** This issue will be addressed in the draft spray drift Pesticide Registration Notice

Tailoring Regulatory Restrictions to Local Conditions

- **Recommendation:** Work with States and applicators to explore mechanisms that tailor regulatory requirements to local conditions
- **Actions:**
 - Work with OW to improve coordination FIFRA decisions with TMDL programs and to get better monitoring data for future registrations

Tailoring Regulatory Restrictions to Local Conditions

- **Actions** (continued):
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of the regulatory action involving atrazine and how it could be adapted to other situations
 - Discuss with state lead agencies and tribes when to address local conditions at the federal level and what mechanisms are appropriate
 - Explore the value of a voluntary local “Best Management Practices” pilot program

Real-World Impacts of Labeling

- **Recommendation:** Strengthen the collection, use, and public availability of information regarding real world effects of EPA's regulatory approaches (e.g., labeling)
- **Actions:** EPA is reviewing technical, scientific, and management issues associated with the existing incident data systems and will make a presentation to a future PPDC meeting on our proposals for improving their role in the regulatory process

Real-World Impacts of Labeling

- **Actions (continued):**
 - EPA is developing a systematic approach to labeling and will use this project as an opportunity to obtain feedback on user response to labeling

CWA/FIFRA Overlap

- **Recommendation:** Develop water quality criteria for current use pesticides for adoption by the States as water quality standards. Continue or expand resources for monitoring of current use pesticides in water bodies

CWA/FIFRA Overlap

- **Actions:**

- Worked with State pesticide programs and OW to identify high priority pesticides for consideration by OW as candidates for the next rounds of water quality criteria development. Coordinate with OW during their deliberations. Address how OPP can support the development of water quality benchmarks with OW

CWA/FIFRA Overlap

- Actions (continued)
 - OPP and OW will continue to coordinate on risk management actions/decisions affecting water quality
 - Continue to make aquatic risk assessment benchmark values on pesticides available for potential use by state water regulators to help in monitoring activities