

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Development of a Common Effects Methodology for OW and OPP

Pesticide Program Dialog Committee  
(PPDC)

December 15, 2010

# Beginnings

- SFIREG writes letter to OW-OPP September 1, 2006
- EPA sends response to SFIREG November 3, 2006
- OPP makes aquatic benchmarks web-available March 7, 2007 ([http://www.epa.gov/oppefed1/ecorisk\\_ders/aquatic\\_life\\_benchmark.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppefed1/ecorisk_ders/aquatic_life_benchmark.htm))
- SFIREG raised issues at bi-annual meeting (availability of benchmarks, differences in methodology, etc.) 2008
- Directors of Office of Water and Office of Pesticide Programs pledge joint effort to harmonize effects characterization methodologies at 6/23/2008 SFIREG meeting.

# Goals

- Build on the substantial high quality science developed and used by both programs and make ecological effects assessment methodologies **consistent**.
- Enable OW, OPP, and stakeholders to make consistent and best use of **available data**, with focus on chemicals **with smaller data sets than those currently used to derive AWQC**.
- Improve communications on consistency of EPA effects assessments.

# Scope

- Focus on **ecological effects assessment** methodologies.
- Focus on studies using **well-established population relevant endpoints** (survival, growth and reproduction)
- Based on **available** effects data.
- Potential for later application in NPDES permits for interpreting narrative toxics criteria.
- Approaches will **augment and enhance** existing OW *Guidelines* and the current taxa-specific OPP assessment methodologies **rather than replace them.**

# Milestones

- Common effects characterization methodology project outlined at the “PREP”, a workshop for state regulators 9/2008.
- EPA sends letter to stakeholders describing the goals for this project and the important role of stakeholders (11/08).
- OW and OPP issued a “Scoping Document” (4/09)
- Steering committee and workgroup established with participants from OW, OPP, ORD (7/09)
- OPP-OW-ORD Expert workshop held (8/09) – developed draft outlines for white papers
- Initial outreach efforts (SFIREG, PPDC, WQSMA)
- Regional Stakeholder meetings (1/11-22/2010)

# Work Products

- OPP-OW-ORD Expert Workshop decision to develop three white papers:
  - Development and Evaluation of **Predictive Tools** for use in Derivation of “Community Level Benchmarks”
  - Development of Aquatic Life **Community Level Benchmarks** with Datasets that do not Conform to the “1985 Guidelines”
  - Methods for Incorporating **Aquatic Plant** Effects into Community Level Benchmarks

# Commitments

- A national multi-stakeholder meeting in DC to solicit further public comment on the approaches (December 1, 2010)
- An SAB-SAP on the proposed approaches (Fall/Winter 2011 - TBD)
- Develop technical support documents and implement (2012)



# What we hope to achieve

- Common basis for the characterization of aquatic effects of pesticides under the CWA and FIFRA resulting in assessments that are consistent with both statutes. Supplement not replace methods used in OW and OP.
- An overview of predictive tools and how they can be used in generating data for use in effects assessment and derivation of aquatic community-level benchmarks.
  - to develop species sensitivity distributions for characterizing interspecies variability
  - for bridging data
  - to characterize uncertainty
- Methods for making better (and more consistent) use of community data for chemicals with smaller data sets in effects assessment for aquatic animals.
  - for assessment of monitoring data
  - by states in standards, permitting, 303(d)
  - in OPP assessments
- Methods for incorporating plant effects into aquatic community-level benchmarks.
- Transparency in pesticide registration decisions vis-à-vis CWA

# Comments and Updates

- Websites:
  - [http://www.epa.gov/oppefed1/cwa\\_fifra\\_effects\\_methodology/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/oppefed1/cwa_fifra_effects_methodology/index.html)
  - <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/waterquality/standards/criteria/aqlife/cem.cfm>
- Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2010-0818
- How to locate key references: on the web site
- How to provide comments on this project?
  - Submit written comments to the docket:
    - through [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (Docket ID)
    - through the website
    - via email to the steering committee
- Please contact the steering committee if additional questions

# Project Participant

- Steering Committee
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- Representing
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**Thanks for your interest and  
attention**