

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# **PPDC Workgroup on Public Health**

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# Agenda

1. Background of Public Health at OPP
2. Current and Recent PH projects
3. Collaborating on PH Issues
4. Public Health Workgroup to the PPDC
5. Next Steps

# Public Health at OPP

- In 1996, FQPA required EPA to
  - Develop list of pests of public health significance
    - Cooperative effort with HHS, USDA and EPA (PR Notice 2002-1)
  - Consult with HHS/CDC before taking regulatory action on any public health pesticide

# Public Health at OPP

- By law, public health pesticides must be registered using the same safety standards as agricultural pesticides
  - Efficacy data required for products used to control pests of PH concern
- OPP also considers benefits before taking regulatory action on a pesticide with public health uses

# Assessing Benefits

- Evaluating the benefits of a public health use can be an extensive process, involving:
  - Consultation with Federal partners and user communities;
  - Determining availability of alternatives;
  - Evaluating whether pesticide is replacement for pesticides of concern
- CDC is the primary contact, but others frequently have valuable input (including BEAD)

# Ongoing PH Projects

- Many public health projects do not arise from risk concerns
  - Many focused on improving use of pesticides to maximize PH benefits
- OPP public health projects focus on:
  - Application (encourage appropriate use, improve exposure and other data)
  - Pest control (IPM, efficacy)
  - Communicating and clarifying regulatory and policy issues (guidelines, efficacy review)

# Ongoing PH Projects

- Many projects are also multi-faceted, containing elements of:
  - Education/outreach;
  - Regulatory improvements;
  - Scientific updates (Data and information collection/sharing, SOPs); and
  - Labeling improvements.
- Collaboration is a key factor in almost all of the public health projects



# PH Projects: Application

- Examples of application-specific projects include:
  - Repellent Strategy
  - Mosquito adulticide initiatives (e.g, blanket tolerances and labeling for mosquito adulticides)
  - Foggers
  - Misting Systems

# **PH Projects: Pest-Specific**

- Projects to encourage appropriate pest control to improve PH include:
  - Bed bug initiative
  - PESP outreach and IPM projects
  - Accuracy in Communicating Efficacy and product performance rule
  - Regulating prions
  - Rodenticide risk mitigation

# Collaborating: Federal Partners

- Public Health Pesticide Consortium (PHPC) is a common forum for federal agencies with very different missions
  - Comprised of representatives from CDC, DoD, EPA, HUD, NIH, USAID, USDA (ARS, NIFA, IR-4)
- PHPC is productive venue for partners to openly discuss pest control, public health, and vectored disease issues
- OPP is also involved in several other interagency groups

# Collaborating: Federal Partners

- Almost all federal agencies interested in public health and pesticide use overseas
  - Infectious diseases may destroy lives, strain resources, and threaten nations
  - New diseases may spread across the world in days, or even hours
  - DoD has unique needs for protecting the troops serving overseas

# Collaborating: Internationally

- EPA recognizes it has a role to play in international pesticide use
- International markets could increase accessibility of public health pesticides both here and abroad
- Parallels exist between regulatory issues for public health and those faced by agricultural pesticides (esp. minor uses) 15 years ago
  - Very successful harmonization & global joint review processes exist for agricultural chemicals

# Collaborating: Internationally

- EPA/OPP is working with WHO and the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on a framework to carry the work forward
- Joint registration reviews and harmonization of requirements is a win-win-win
  - Greater availability of tools to user community
  - Fewer resources used by regulating agencies
  - Easier and more profitable for industry

# Collaborating: Public Participation

- Create public health workgroup under the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee
  - Allows representation of diverse stakeholders
- Provides venue for collaboration with the public

# PH Workgroup: Purpose

- Workgroup to focus on issues specific to pesticides used to control pests of public health significance
  - Issues may affect regulatory, policy, programmatic, environmental, technical, economic or science policy decisions



# PH Workgroup: Purpose

- Special workgroup more efficient and effective:
  - Input from broader group of PH stakeholders
  - Increased representation of PH departments, community and EJ organizations and proponents of children's health
- Workgroup will be ongoing, addressing issues as they arise
- Ultimately, will lead to more effective recommendations through PPDC

# PH Workgroup: Meeting

- Kick-off Meeting held April 28, 2010
  - OPP presented overview of public health activities
  - Public health spans most divisions in OPP and impacts many regulatory decisions
- Meeting was attended by a diverse group of stakeholders

# PH Workgroup: Discussion

- Workgroup discussed areas of interest and possible priorities for workgroup
  - Bed Bug Initiative
    - Concerns expressed about lack of tools, potential for misuse, need for IPM education
  - Further education on OPP process for determining PH benefits

# PH Workgroup: Discussion

- Other areas workgroup discussed
  - 25(b) and public health pesticides
    - Workgroup suggested products proliferate during times of pest/disease pressure
  - International efforts towards global harmonization/worksharing for public health registrations
    - workgroup suggested helping to locate pilot projects

# PH Workgroup: Discussion

- Even more areas workgroup discussed:
  - Efficacy and communication for products
  - Development of performance measure for public health
  - Concerns about new NPDES permitting process and effect on public health
  - Coordination within EPA about urban IPM
  - Misting systems, resistance concerns

# Next Steps

- Workgroup eager to work with OPP and provide advice and recommendations on these issues
- OPP will develop paper prioritizing suggested activities
  - Bed bugs likely early candidate
- Perhaps next meeting will be a one-day session in late June