

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Soil Fumigants Update

**Presentation for PPDC Meeting
October 18, 2007**



Scope: Review of Soil Fumigants

- Methyl Bromide
- Chloropicrin
- Metam sodium/potassium
- Dazomet

- 1,3-dichloropropene
- Iodomethane



Objectives:

- **Ensure that soil fumigants essential to agriculture are available and safe**
- **Ensure a level playing field by evaluating alternatives concurrently and consistently**
- **Ensure that risk management decisions don't result in risk/benefit tradeoffs that neither improve safety nor help agriculture**



Process

- **6-Phase Public Participation**
 - **Error correction**
 - **2 Public comment periods**
 - **Decisions in 2008**



Milestones/Schedule:

Completed:

- ❑ Phase 1 – Develop preliminary risk assessments and error correction (2004-2005)
- ❑ Phase 2 – Risk assessment revisions (spring 2005)
- ❑ Phase 3 – Technical briefing and 1st Public comment period (summer-fall 2005)
- ❑ Phase 4 – Revise risk assessments, develop benefit assessments and risk management options (winter 2005 – 2006)



Milestones/Schedule (continued):

Currently:

- **Phase 5 - 2nd public comment period on risk assessments, benefit assessments, and risk management options**
 - **Opened May 2007**
 - **Focus on risk management options**
- **Comment period will close Nov 3, 2007**



Milestones/Schedule (continued):

Phase 5 comment period

- **Focus on risk management options**
 - Direct measures (e.g., buffers, respiratory protection)
 - Indirect measures (e.g., training, best practices, stewardship)
- **Stakeholder meetings held**
 - Pacific NW
 - Florida
 - California
- **Questions on impacts on risks and benefits**



Milestones/Schedule (continued):

Next steps:

Phase 6 – FY 2008

- Consider public comments on revised risk assessments, benefit assessments, and risk management options
- Develop risk management decisions
- Issue REDs
- Implement risk reduction measures



Other Soil Fumigant Activities

Methyl Bromide Alternatives and Outreach (MBAO) meeting

- **October 28 – Nov 1, 2007**
- **EPA-led sessions on emissions and emission-reduction measures**
- **Address range of risks (acute, ambient, ozone, air quality)**
- **California VOC-reduction efforts**
- **Significant research in this area**