

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Tribal Pesticide Issues

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Tribal Pesticide Issues

- Background
 - US EPA Indian Policy
 - FIFRA and Tribes
- Development of Tribal Pesticide Programs
- Tribal Pesticide Program Council
- Current Tribal Pesticide Programs

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Tribal Pesticide Issues: Background

- US EPA Indian Policy

- The core principle of the policy is a commitment to working with Federally recognized tribes on a government-to-government basis to enhance environmental protection.

- The second principle of the policy is that the agency will recognize tribal governments as the primary parties for setting standards, making environmental policy decisions and managing programs for reservations, consistent with agency standards and regulations.

- The third principle of the policy is that the Agency will take affirmative steps to encourage and assist tribes in assuming regulatory and program management responsibilities for reservation lands.

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Tribal Pesticide Issues: Background

- US EPA Indian Policy Additional Promises

- To take appropriate steps to remove existing legal and procedural impediments to working directly and effectively with tribal governments on reservation programs.

- In keeping with the federal trust responsibility, to assure that tribal concerns and interests are considered whenever EPA's actions and/or decisions may affect reservation environments.

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Tribal Pesticide Issues: Background

- US EPA Indian Policy Additional Promises

- The policy says the agency will encourage cooperation between Tribal, State and Local Governments to resolve environmental problems of mutual concern;

- with other Federal agencies which have related responsibilities on Indian reservations to enlist their interest and support to help tribes assume environmental program responsibilities for reservations.

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Tribal Pesticide Issues: Background

- FIFRA and Tribes

- FIFRA includes tribes specifically as partners, in 18 USC section 23.
- Before the US EPA Indian Policy, Tribal Pesticide Programs were some of the first tribal environmental programs ever funded were pesticide programs (in the late 1970's).

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Tribal Pesticide Issues: Development of Tribal Pesticide Programs

- There are over 500 Federally Recognized Tribes in the US.
- It was US policy for many years to promote agriculture in Indian Country and to provide a wide variety of incentives to attract Indians to farming.
- Agriculture remains a significant part of the economy for over 90 tribes in the lower forty-eight states.

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Tribal Pesticide Issues: Development of Tribal Pesticide Programs

- The need for Tribal Pesticide Programs

- Pesticides are used in Indian Country by Tribes and others.

- Tribes are concerned with the health and welfare of their people, culture, religion, and resources.

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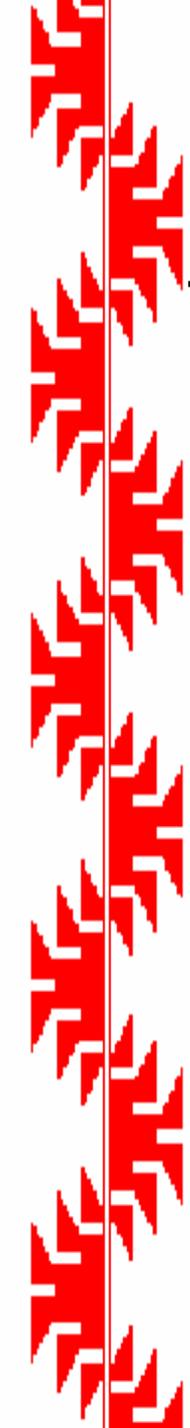
Tribal Pesticide Issues: Development of Tribal Pesticide Programs

- There are 36 federally-recognized tribes who have continuing cooperative agreements for management of pesticides.
- Another 60 tribes have expressed interest in and/or concerns about pesticides and how to develop their own programs.

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Tribal Pesticide Issues: Tribal Pesticide Program Council

- In September 1999, OPP funded the Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC), to serve as the tribal counterpart to the State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG). All TPPC representatives are authorized in writing by their tribes/Indian nations. The TPPC has grown from 30 to 44 members, and is recognized as one of the most effective tribal groups focused on the environment and human health.



Tribal Pesticide Issues: Tribal Pesticide Program Council

- TPPC areas of priority over the next five years:

- Need for more resources
- Training
- Invasive Species
- Protection of Tribal Traditional Lifeways
- NAGPRA
- West Nile virus
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Community Education
- Worker Protection
- Support for the Stockholm Convention (POPs)

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Tribal Pesticide Issues: Current Tribal Pesticide Program Activities

- Conducting monitoring and research.
- Developing codes, regulations, and conducting enforcement activities.
- Managing, training, and tracking pesticide use.
- Implementing IPM strategies.
- Developing models to adequately assess “risk”.
- Identifying other pesticide issues.

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Tribal Pesticide Issues: Current Tribal Pesticide Program Activities

- Challenges for the next five years:

- Adding pesticide programs to at least ten more tribes;
- Endangered Species protection;
- Developing baselines of data and meaningful performance measures;
- Increasing training and professional skills of tribal pesticide managers;
- Increasing enforcement capacity;
- Decrease in pesticide impacts on traditional lifeways;
- Funding has been flat-lined for a long time.

Thank You

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