




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 24 2016

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Status of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Workgroups

FROM: Jack E. Housenger, Director
Office of Pesticide Programs 

TO: PPDC Members
PPDC Workgroup Members
OPP Deputy Directors and Division Directors

The purpose of this memorandum is to communicate the status of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) Workgroups:

1. 21st Century Toxicology
2. Comparative Safety Statements
3. Integrated Pest Management
4. Pollinator
5. Public Health
6. Incidents

Background

The PPDC plays an essential role in providing advice and recommendations to OPP on a variety of topics. Similarly, workgroups working under the full PPDC have been productive in helping PPDC move issues forward with their time and effort, as evidenced by the attached PPDC Workgroup Summary chart.

At the October 2015 PPDC meeting, the group discussed the status of each of the PPDC Workgroups: the original charge, recommendations from the workgroup; whether the workgroup completed its charge (therefore may be wrapped up) or whether the workgroup should continue in order to complete its charge. No specific decisions on workgroups were made at that time, however it was clear that all the groups had significant accomplishments.

The October PPDC meeting also included a general overview of the roles and responsibilities of PPDC members and included a brief discussion of the purpose of workgroups under a Federal Advisory Committee such as the PPDC. The general purpose of these workgroups is to focus on specific, short-term tasks that are of limited duration. Workgroups should not replace the ongoing activities of the full PPDC.

Workgroup Status

Recently, the OPP senior leadership team met to discuss the status of the workgroups. Having reviewed the summary workgroup information and in light of the discussion at the October 2015 PPDC meeting, the recommendations from OPP's senior leadership, and the purpose of workgroups in general, I have concluded that the following five PPDC Workgroups have met their original charges and are now sunset: 21st Century Toxicology, Comparative Safety Statements, Integrated Pest Management, Pollinator, and Public Health. As the Incidents Workgroup was just formed in 2015, it will continue until its charge is completed.

Going Forward

All of the areas these workgroups focused on are important to the work of OPP. There may be new areas that OPP identifies, or that the PPDC recommends and the agency finds useful, where the formation of a new workgroup with a new charge would be beneficial.

For example, OPP has already identified the need for an additional workgroup that would be involved in determining the metrics to measure the success of Pollinator Protection Plans that states and tribes are currently developing. We believe that Pollinator Protection Plans are critical to the goal of protecting pollinators and would like ideas from this workgroup as to how to evaluate the effectiveness of the plans at a local and national level.

Consistent with the FACA rules, and to ensure that we receive a workgroup's and PPDC's advice in a time frame that is most useful to OPP, any new workgroups that are formed will have specific tasks to be accomplished within a designated period of time.

Discussion of areas where new workgroups may be beneficial will be a topic at the May 18-19, 2016, PPDC meeting.

Again, I want to express my appreciation for all the valuable work these workgroups have accomplished over the past few years, and assure you that while the workgroups are ending, OPP will continue fulfilling its mission in all these critical areas.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the above information, or if any PPDC or workgroup member would like to make a recommendation to OPP for additional area(s) for future workgroup consideration, please send your thoughts to Dea Zimmerman, the PPDC Designated Federal Officer, at zimmerman.dea@epa.gov or by phone at 312-353-6344, by April 29, 2016.

Attachment