

Implementing the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act - Fiscal Year 2014

Eleventh Annual Report



March 1, 2015

Process Improvements in the Pesticide Program

Pesticide Reevaluation Programs

Registration Review

Water Quality Monitoring Data. An important goal of the EPA's pesticide Registration Review process is to prevent or resolve water quality issues related to the use of pesticides. Easy access to and consideration of water monitoring data can help OPP characterize pesticide exposures to water resources, design effective risk mitigation and evaluate whether risk mitigation has been achieved. Effectively addressing pesticide water quality concerns through the pesticide registration review process reduces the need for other EPA programs and state/tribal pesticide and water programs to use their limited resources to address pesticide-impaired waters under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and more efficiently protects human health and the environment from pesticide risks.

OPP routinely considers publicly-available sources of water monitoring data, such as the U.S. Geological Survey and the EPA's Storage and Retrieval Data Warehouse (STORET), in its human health and ecological risk assessments. State/tribal data can also be useful for characterizing pesticide exposure and informing re-evaluation efforts. At the beginning of registration review, OPP established a public process for the submission of state/tribal water quality monitoring data, including but not limited to CWA 303(d) & 305(b) data. In FY'14, OPP issued revised guidance, incorporating feedback from EPA regions and state partners (http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/registration_review/water_quality_sop.htm). Among other elements, the revised guidance establishes a dedicated mailbox for submission of data, (OPPWaterMonitoringData@epa.gov) and clarifies how OPP uses water quality monitoring data in its aquatic exposure assessments. In addition, we continue to coordinate with the EPA Office of Water to distribute information through its regional and state water monitoring networks regarding pesticide cases currently under review. We are continuing to receive additional data in response to these outreach efforts.

OPP has also been working with various external stakeholders to locate water monitoring information that is not publicly available. In FY'14, we collaborated with the National Water Quality Monitoring Council to organize and moderate a pesticides and water session at its April 28-May 2, 2014 National Monitoring Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. We also coordinated with the Association of Clean Water Administrators to hold a roundtable discussion on pesticide-water issues at their mid-year meeting in order to further broadcast OPP's message about our interest in state/tribal water monitoring data.

Reduced Timeline for Low Risk Chemicals. The Agency may accelerate the registration review process for low risk cases. In FY'14, the registration review docket for 4-CPA and

DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toulamide) were each opened for public comment on a combined Work Plan and Proposed Interim Registration Review Decision. In both of these cases, because no additional data or risk assessment work was needed, the Agency was able to advance the registration review to the regulatory decision phase. The program intends to utilize similar advancements with other appropriate cases.

Electronic Issuance of Data Call-Ins. As part of the registration review process, EPA assesses any changes that have occurred since the last registration decision to determine whether the pesticide still satisfies the statutory standard for registration and whether any new data or information on the pesticide are needed. If additional data or information are needed to conduct the review, EPA will issue a Data-Call In (DCI) notice to the registrant under the authority of FIFRA section 3(c)(2)(B) by certified mail. In FY'14, the program implemented the processes of issuing the DCIs and supporting information electronically to registrant recipients and accepted electronic confirmation of receipt of the DCI from registrants, which resulted in significant time and resource savings.