

Data Quality Record for Long-Term Performance Goals

Long-Term Performance Goal Text: By September 30, 2026, consider the effects determinations or protections of federally threatened and endangered species in 50% of the risk assessments supporting pesticide registration review decisions compared to the FY 2020 baseline of 27%.

Corresponding Annual Performance Goal: Percentage of risk assessments supporting pesticide registration review decisions that include effects determinations or protections of federally threatened and endangered species.

Goal Number/Objective: Goal 7/Objective 7.1

NPM Lead: Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP)

1a. Purpose of Long-Term Performance Goal:

The intent of this long-term performance goal (LTPG) is to track EPA's progress in incorporating Endangered Species Act (ESA) determinations into its regulatory decision-making processes. The ESA requires that the actions of federal agencies do not jeopardize the continued existence of federally threatened or endangered species or destroy or adversely modify their critical habitat. Other than determinations of "no effects" (mostly for biopesticides), EPA has not routinely incorporated ESA effects determinations into its regulatory decisions due to the lengthy process of ESA consultation with the "Services" (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service). EPA is developing a process by which EPA's risk assessments for registration review decisions will more routinely incorporate and describe potential risks to federally threatened and endangered species. A positive trend in the percent of ecological risk assessments that incorporate ESA effects determinations for registration review decisions will indicate overall success in EPA meeting its obligations under the ESA. To support this effort, EPA released its first-ever comprehensive workplan which establishes four overall strategies and dozens of actions to address the challenge of protecting endangered species from pesticides.¹

1b. Performance Measure Term Definitions:

Registration Review: Through the Pesticide Registration Review Program, EPA is reviewing each registered pesticide at least every 15 years to determine whether it still meets the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) standard for registration and to ensure that pesticides already in the marketplace do not pose unreasonable adverse health effects on people or the environment based on current science standards.

Federally threatened and endangered species: Species and their designated critical habitats that are currently listed by either National Marine Fisheries Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered or threatened and those that are proposed for listing.

¹ [EPA Announces Plan to Protect Endangered Species and Support Sustainable Agriculture](#)

Risk Assessment: OPP's evaluation of potential ecological risks resulting from the labeled use of a pesticide.

Effects Determinations: OPP's risk assessments specific to endangered species.

1c. Unit of Measure:

The percentage of risk assessments.

2a. Data Source:

- Primary (original) Source(s) of Data and Name(s) of Relevant Information System(s): The source of the data is EPA's internal tracking database.
- Entity That Reports Data to the System: Each division in the OPP responsible for conducting ecological risk assessment supporting registration review decisions will track the number of ecological risk assessments conducted and the number of those assessments that included ESA considerations.
- Frequency and Timing at Which Primary Data are Reported to EPA: Progress toward strategic target is reported quarterly.
- Smallest Unit for Which Data are Collected: The number of ecological risk assessments that support registration review decisions conducted for biopesticides, conventional pesticides, and antimicrobial pesticides will serve as the denominator. The numerator will be the number of registration review ecological risk assessments that considers risks to endangered species.

2b. Data needed for interpretation of (calculated) Performance Result:

- Baseline: The Office of Pesticide Programs historically has made endangered species effects determinations in registration review risk assessments when the action would have "no effect" on listed species, which serves as the historical baseline. Increasing the extent to which EPA includes endangered species effects determinations or other ESA considerations into registration review ecological risk assessments will contribute to the predicted increase in ESA considerations into the ecological risk assessments. EPA expects to complete approximately 10 to 40 registration review ecological risk assessments per year over the next five years. Within the registration review process, EPA has incorporated effects determinations for federally listed species as part of its regulatory decision making for a small number of pesticides, with the overwhelming majority of these being "no effects" determinations. Over a 15-year period, OPP has evaluated over 680 registration review cases.
- Tracking Progress: The data will be compiled into a tracking spreadsheet quarterly and reviewed by senior management.
- Universe: Risk assessments for pesticide registration review decisions that incorporate Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements, including decisions subject either to the statutory deadline of October 2022 for the first cycle of registration review or to a 15-year schedule of review under the second cycle. The endangered species considerations could include determinations of 'no effect' on any listed species, other descriptions of potential risks to endangered species, or risk reduction options to particular species, a group of species, or a sensitive area where species are located.

3. Calculation Methodology:

As described in **Section 2a**, the metric is a percentage that is calculated using two values. The number of registration review ecological risk assessments made by OPP, including biopesticides, conventional

pesticides, and antimicrobial pesticides will serve as the denominator. The numerator will be the number of those risk assessments that include effects determinations or other ESA considerations of risks to federally threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats.

4. Quality Assurance/Quality Controls:

Divisional management will confirm/verify accuracy of the tracking spreadsheet. Results will be reviewed by senior management on a quarterly basis. Other QA/QC measures are not applicable.

5. Data Limitations/Qualifications:

There are no data limitations; however, success under this measure is dependent on successful implementation of the new ESA methodology, including adequate resources. Also, the registration review schedule may change. Therefore, the extent to which OPP may consider ESA may also change.

6. Technical Contact:

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7. Certification Statement/Signature:

I certify the information in this DQR is complete and accurate.

DAA Signature Original signed by Richard Keigwin **Date** 5/17/2022