Department of Pesticide Regulation

Pesticide Registration and Evaluation Committee Charter

Revised for Consideration at the September 22, 2000 Committee Meeting
Pesticide Registration and Evaluation Committee Charter

This Charter restructures the Pesticide Registration and Evaluation Committee (PREC) in accordance with the evaluation of advisory committees conducted by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).

Mission/Purpose

The purpose of the PREC is to foster communication and understanding among the parties represented on the committee and DPR. The Committee will provide advice and guidance to DPR on regulatory development and reform initiatives, evolving public policy and program implementation issues, and science issues associated with evaluating and reducing risks from the use of pesticides. With the participation of knowledgeable and affected parties, DPR expects to develop practical, protective approaches to addressing many pesticide issues.

Authority

It is determined that the PREC is in the public interest and supports DPR in performing its duties and responsibilities under the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC), including Sections 11501, 13150, and 13165, as well as Section 6252 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulation. It is also determined that the PREC fulfills a critical interagency consultation role mandated by FAC Section 14103 and the certification of the pesticide regulatory program as functionally equivalent under CEQA.

Objective and Scope of Activity

The PREC will provide a forum for public agencies to communicate with, and provide feedback to, DPR regarding pesticide regulatory, policy, and implementation issues. The PREC may be consulted on environmental, technical, scientific, policy, regulatory, and economic matters.

As necessary, the PREC will hold meetings, analyze issues, review and compile information, produce reports, make recommendations, and undertake other activities necessary to meet its responsibilities. Comments, evaluations and recommendations of the PREC and the response of DPR shall be made available for public review. Meetings will be open to the public (unless an exemption to this is provided).

In addition to the statutorily constituted ground water subcommittee, the chairperson of the PREC may form other subcommittees when appropriate. Participation in a subcommittee will not necessarily be reserved for PREC members. The chairperson, with the concurrence of the committee, may solicit the participation of experts who themselves are not appointed members of the PREC or who may be employees of non-represented agencies.
Functions

The PREC functions include:

- To facilitate the exchange of ideas and information among the interested parties on a breadth of issues, especially scientific and technical issues, concerning the pesticide regulatory program with the aim of advising the Director of DPR on key decisions or courses of action.

- To advise the Director of DPR on the registration, renewal of registration, and reevaluation of pesticides.

- To identify and evaluate proposed modifications to regulations.

- To provide an adequate and balanced forum for consultation in fulfillment of DPR’s obligations under Section 14103 of the Food and Agricultural Code and its functionally equivalent program as certified by the Resources Agency pursuant to CEQA.

- To discuss, as a statutorily convened subcommittee (Section 13150), the finding of a pesticide in ground water and make a recommendation to the Director of DPR concerning continued use of the pesticide. If a hearing is requested, the subcommittee hears testimony from registrants of the pesticide and other interested parties.

- To advise the Director of DPR, pursuant to Section 13165, on the granting of a certificate of interim registration, including the following issues: (a) that the pesticide is needed and will be a significant component of a pest management system; (b) that the interim use of the pesticide is not expected to cause any significant adverse effects or threaten to pollute the ground water of the state; and (c) that the weight of evidence supports a scientific judgment in favor of interim registration.

Performance Criteria

Support staff from DPR will conduct a confidential survey of PREC members in 2001, and every two years thereafter, to poll members on the effectiveness of the committee and potential areas for improvement. The results of the confidential survey will be reported back to the committee and posted on DPR’s web site. The Director of DPR will take any actions that he or she determines is necessary to improve the effectiveness of the committee.

Composition

The Pesticide Registration and Evaluation Committee shall consist of the following members:

- The Director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation or his or her designee who shall serve as chairperson of the committee;
A representative from each of the other boards, offices and departments in the California Environmental Protection Agency:
- The Air Resources Board;
- The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment;
- The Integrated Waste Management Board;
- The State Water Resources Control Board;
- The Department of Toxic Substances Control.

A representative from each of the following state agencies:
- The Department of Food and Agriculture;
- The University of California;
- The Department of Fish and Game;
- The Department of Industrial Relations;
- The Department of Health Services;
- The Structural Pest Control Board in the Department of Consumer Affairs;

A representative from each of the following federal agencies:
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

The President of the County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association or his or her designee;

A representative of any other public agency that the Director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation deems appropriate after consultation with the existing committee membership.

Meetings

The PREC shall meet every other month, or more frequently at the call of the DPR Director if special circumstances require a more timely session. Staff from DPR's Pesticide Registration Branch will provide administrative and process support to the Committee.

Duration

The Committee will be needed on a continuing basis. This charter will be in effect until revised. The PREC will be periodically evaluated according to the performance criteria identified in this charter for its effectiveness in fulfilling its mission and functions. Subsequent to such reviews, revisions to this charter may be proposed.