



Mary-Ann Warmerdam
Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Minutes Parlier Technical Advisory Group Meeting September 19, 2005

In Attendance:

Randy Segawa – Department of Pesticide Regulation, Environmental Monitoring
Jay Schreider – Department of Pesticide Regulation, Medical Toxicology
Pat Matteson – Department of Pesticide Regulation, Pest Management
Pam Wofford – Department of Pesticide Regulation, Environmental Monitoring
Lynn Baker – Air Resources Board
Helene Margolis – Department of Health Services
Dave Rice – Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
John Faust – Office Environmental Health Hazards Assessment
Gary Van Sickle – California Tree Fruit Agreement
Tim Tyner – UC San Francisco VAPHER
Rey Leon – Latino Issues Forum
Dave Luscher – California Department of Food and Agriculture
Webster Tasat – Air Resources Board

Absent:

Tobi Jones – Department of Pesticide Regulation
Doug Edwards – Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Jim Marxen – Department of Toxic Substance Control
David Grantz – UC Kearney
Dmitri Smith – Integrated Waste Management Board
Evan Shipp – San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Lori Berger – California Minor Crops Council
Kent Pinkerton – UC Davis Center for Health and Environment

Randy started the meeting with the introductions and a note of some changes of personnel on the TAG. Due to workload, Michael Dong will be replaced with someone from the Worker's Health and Safety branch in DPR, Doug Edwards has left the ag commissioner's office and will be replaced by Karen Francone, and Dave Rice is sitting in for Bob Schlag while he is on vacation. Dave Luscher is sitting in for Charlie Goodman.

Protocol changes

Laboratory trapping efficiency results indicate that Iprodione and oryzalin will have to be dropped from the list of pesticides to be monitored (Table 1). The DPR and ARB sampling sites have been confirmed and permission (tentative) received. DPR will be sampling at Martinez School, Chavez School, and Benavidez School. ARB will set their trailer up at Benavidez School. ARB will collect samples for VOC's and metals 1 day every 6 days for the year. During peak use months of sulfur and 1,3-dichloropropene sampling will increase to 1 day every 3 days for the month. The air district monitoring does not include CO.



Comments received on protocol

Monitoring frequency

Selection of sampling days was discussed and it was decided that one day of the weekly DPR sample collection would coincide with the day of ARB sampling. ARB sampling is automated and is set to sample from 12 AM to 12 AM. Webster will verify if the sampling start time can be set to coincide with a start time for DPR samples (example 8 AM).

QC

It was agreed that quality control samples will include;

1 field spike every 3rd week

1 trip blank every 3rd week

1 duplicate sample every 3rd week.

Calculation of air concentration

It was noted that standard laboratory practice is to establish a minimum detection limit (MDL) and a quantitation limit (QL) for the chemicals analyzed. Samples below the MDL are reported as “no detectable amount” and samples between the MDL and QL are reported as “trace”. Exposure analysis often assigns a concentration of ½ the MDL to “non detected” samples and a concentration ½ between the MDL and QL for “trace” samples for risk analysis. Concern was expressed that chemicals which we are sure are not used in the area should not be assigned any concentration since there should be no exposure. Lynn suggested that we do not report results for chemicals that are not used and are not detected. Jay noted that the health evaluation method of calculating a health index is a well accepted approach. He stated that in Lompoc DPR considered the exposure to be additive and added up all the chemical concentrations using the method noted above. The screening levels of the chemicals are usually way above the detection limits for each chemical so the health index usually comes out way below the levels of concern even if non detect and trace concentrations are used. The health index is used as a screening tool and is only a 1st step in analysis. If the health index indicates a problem, then a closer look will be taken. Jay will add a sentence or two to clarify the approach.

Other items

John will add a few sentences to section 5.4 on the cumulative risk section. Tim will send an update of the UCSF’s VAPHER study. Helene had nothing to add but will check and call if necessary. Lynn will provide a few sentences to add to the background on ARB’s site selection criteria for their trailer and point out that sampling schedule is usually 1 day every 12 days.

Pat explained the assessment that the Pest Management Branch will be conducting in the Parlier area. After many meetings with stakeholders in the area, they will use the information to come up with project proposals to encourage better pest management practices. They will produce a report on pest management on crops produced in the area (especially on stone fruits and grapes) and identify the major problems and damage, what pest management methods are used, and what lower risk alternatives are available. The report will also include an analysis of the degree of adoption of the alternatives. Pat will give periodic oral updates and expects a preliminary draft to be available by fall 2006.

ARB has requested a sampler performance audit of their sampling equipment and will try and get DPR's equipment included in the audit.

Randy stated that the protocol will probably not be finalized until the laboratory can finish the method validation and write-up. He assumes it will take the lab about 3 weeks to complete. After all submitted changes have been made, the protocol will be reviewed by an independent technical review committee of the Central California Air Quality Studies.

Following a request by the LAG, DPR has agreed to host a community forum in Parlier on either the 3rd or 4th Saturday in January. The forum will be set up as an informal meeting with separate stations for different groups. Mary-Ann will open with a brief introduction and following questions community members will be able to go from station to station and can ask questions. Many of the members of the TAG may be requested to attend and answer questions. ARB will have their air monitoring trailer available for display.

For the next meeting Jay, John and Dimitri will discuss screening levels, estimating cumulative impacts, and the precautionary approach, respectively.