



Paul E. Helliker  
Director

# Department of Pesticide Regulation



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Protection Agency

Meeting Notes  
Yurok Environmental Monitoring Workgroup  
Yurok Community Center, Weitchpec  
Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Participants: Richard Myers, Yurok Tribe  
Lori Harder, Yurok Tribe Environmental Program  
Ken Childs, Sr., Yurok Tribe  
Jene McCovey, Yurok Tribe  
Jennifer Kalt, California Indian Basketweavers Assoc.  
Ron Johnson, California State University Humboldt  
Susan Burdick, Yurok Tribe  
Ora Smith, Karuk Tribe  
LaVerne Glaze, Karuk Tribe  
Ed Mitchell, Yurok Tribe

Ex officio: Kean Goh, Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Pam Wofford, Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Eileen Mahoney, Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Brian Finlayson, Department of Fish and Game  
Dave Cavyell, Del Norte County Agricultural Commissioner's Office  
Jeff Dolf, Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Office  
John Pricer, Simpson Timber Company  
Lloyd Tangen, Simpson Timber Company  
Fred Blatt, Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Wendy Batham, Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Joelle Geppert, Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Notes from the August 28, 2001 meeting were reviewed and approved. **Lori** handed out information on the U.S. EPA Workgroup for Inert Disclosure.

**Susan** requested that additional water sampling be conducted to offset the samples lost in a car accident in the summer of 1999. **Kean** replied that we may be able to get an extension on the U.S. EPA grant. **Lori** noted that since the Tribe will be conducting some water sampling with ELISA sample kits, we may be able to take samples side by side if sampling were to continue.

**Brian** presented the fish tissue results. Six samples were collected at two sites, McGarvey Creek and West Fork of Blue Creek, at three different times, pre-application, first rain runoff, and one week later. Water samples were collected at the sites at the same times. Sculpins were harvested from McGarvey Creek and small trout were harvested from the West Fork of Blue

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Creek. The fish samples were analyzed for 2,4-D and its breakdown product dichlorophenol, and triclopyr and its breakdown product, trichloropyridinol. None of the samples contained any detectable amount of the chemicals. The question was raised as to the relevancy of the fish study due to the small sample size. **Brian** reiterated that the study was proposed as a pilot study only with limited sample numbers due to the high cost of analysis. **Lori** and **Susan** felt there was not enough rain to produce conclusive results.

The time line for the report was discussed. **Pam** noted that a draft should be available for review in February.

**Lori** discussed the study the Tribe will be conducting to test all possible domestic water sources. She noted the problems with getting the much-needed information on domestic water sources.

**Eileen** handed out information and explained that inert ingredients may be anything in a pesticide product that is not the active pesticide ingredient on the product. As an example, a fungicide may be in an ant bait station to prevent spoilage of the bait, but it would be listed as an inert ingredient. She explained that 10 years ago the U.S. EPA categorized inerts into 4 groups by their toxicity. Group 1 was chemicals known to cause cancer. Industry was given 3 years to remove the Group 1 chemicals from most products or they must declare the chemical on the label. Group 2 inerts are chemicals of high priority for testing because there is some concern over their toxicity. Currently manufacturers are being asked for any data. Group 3 chemicals are ingredients of unknown toxicity. Most of these products are used in other products such as cosmetics which should have some data available on them. The EPA is looking for that information. The fourth group is compounds considered totally safe. Any product containing greater than 10 percent of a distillate must have that information on the label. To find out what inert ingredients are in a pesticide, Eileen suggested either contacting the registrant or obtaining the information through the Freedom of Information Act. For the 5 herbicides used in the area, most of the inerts are in the fourth list.

She mentioned that the workgroup is considering 3 proposals for handling inert ingredients: 1) have all registrants list all ingredients, 2) have all registrants list all ingredients unless they can prove to the U.S. EPA the inert is part of a trade secret, or 3) the registrant must provide a summary of ingredients on request.

**Eileen** explained that adjuvants are anything that will enhance the activity of a pesticide. For example, they can be added to make a pesticides stick better, or spread on a surface for better uptake, or make the chemical penetrate a surface better. Registrants are required to list the three top ingredients and the accumulative percent in a product.

**Susan** asked if two chemicals together can produce a third chemical. **Eileen** noted that there are no studies that she knows of to address that question, but she will check to see if any of the tank

mixes used in the area may be a potential problem. **John** said they will mix 2,4-D and Garlon together, or Roundup (glyphosate), Oust and Herbimax together.

The discussion then moved to forestry activities during the fall ground spray period. **John** mentioned they had made ground applications of 2,4-D and Garlon in the Williams Ridge and Tule Creek areas and are done for the year. **Lori** had made maps of the application areas and she stated that Kevin McKernan (Environmental Program Director, with Yurok Tribe) had notified residents in these areas. Lori also mentioned that Kevin was onsite at the spraying. Plans for the spring spray period include possible aerial applications in Williams Ridge, the area from Johnsons to Blue Creek and Pecwan Creek. **Richard** discussed with **Lloyd** the concern over ceremonies that will be going on in mid-August through September in the Pecwan drainage. **Lloyd** said they would discuss it with the Tribe.

**Susan** and **Jene** gave a background of the present study and Tribe and agency interaction. Recommendations for future work were discussed. **Jennifer** provided CIBA's recommendations for future projects and collaboration. **Lori** indicated that the workgroup would like to continue meeting after DPR's grant runs out and has to discontinue participation. **Richard** noted that the Tribe is committed to continue looking for reasons behind the health issues concerning the Tribe. **Jene** will contact the Regional Water Quality Control Board to answer some questions about their involvement in the forestry herbicide issues.

No date was set for a future meeting. **Kean** and **Lori** will meet with Annie Yates at U.S. EPA to discuss an extension on the grant.