
EPA/IR-4 Technical Working Group Meeting (2000-4)

The most recent of a series of meetings between the IR-4 Headquarters staff and key scientists from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), intended to produce a more efficient system of IR-4 data submission and EPA review, was held on September 27, 2000, in Arlington, Virginia. Participants from the EPA included Hoyt Jamerson, Sidney Jackson, Shaja Brothers, Will Donovan, Jeff Herndon, Rick Keigwin, Rob Forrest, Doug Dotson, Bernie Schneider, and Luis Suguiyama. Additional participants included Neal Thompson (IR-4 Administrative Adviser, Southern Region), Doug Rothwell (by telephone from Health Canada), and by telephone from California Dept. of Pesticide Regulations—Jerry Campbell, Barry Cortez, Tom Leffingwell, and Roberta Firoved.

A proposal by Keith Dorschner that almond residue data alone be used to cover tolerances on pistachio was accepted by the Health Effects Division's Chemistry Science Advisory Council (ChemSAC). Previously, data on almonds and pecans were needed to cover pistachios. Michael Braverman discussed his recent proposal to establish an oilseed crop group 20, such as that which already exists in Canada. No decision has yet been made on this.

Bernie Schneider provided a handout which described changes to certain commodity definitions, including tropical and subtropical fruit, celery, cilantro, winter squash, and turnip greens. A separate handout from Bernie and Doug Dotson was a copy of a memo to HED staff entitled "Guidance for translation of field trial data from representative commodities in the crop group regulation to other commodities in each crop group/subgroup." This document will improve dietary exposure analyses for crop groups and subgroups by equating each commodity with one of the representative commodities, rather than with whichever representative commodity yielded the highest residues.

Hoyt Jamerson discussed the new policy on setting tolerances in grass grown for seed. Residue data on seed screenings and straw are no longer required, but will be accepted if submitted. Ken Samoil and Sidney Jackson discussed ChemSAC's approval of Ken's proposal that at-planting uses of zinc phosphide on cucurbits and post-harvest uses of zinc phosphide on commodities within the berry crop

group be classified as non-food uses. The nature of zinc phosphide is such that residues cannot result from these uses. (The berry crop group does not include strawberries or cranberries.)

Keith Dorschner submitted (and discussed) a proposal for an all-RAC (raw agricultural commodity) tolerance for spinosad. Dan Kunkel talked about electronic submission of data to EPA. Bernie Schneider distributed a list of dry matter percentages for raw and processed commodities. Michael Braverman discussed his proposal that okra be re-classified as a member of the fruiting vegetable crop group (representative commodities are tomatoes and peppers). Jerry Baron proposed that the number of field trials required for residue data to support pesticide uses on greenhouse vegetable seedlings that are subsequently transplanted into the field be reduced from the number required for the same commodities grown only outdoors. Additional topics of discussion were residue trials to support the apple growers need for chlorpyrifos application to apple tree trunks, a blanket tolerance (aka "super-crop-groups") for certain uses of carfentrazone, possibilities for using surrogate data for pyriproxyfen, and residue trials including two or more test substances. All of the above occurred before lunch.

In the afternoon, the participants were brought up to date on EPA's workplan for reviewing IR-4 petitions in FY 2000 and FY 2001. Jerry Campbell of California DPR discussed their hopes to review up to 25 IR-4 pesticide petitions next year. Hoyt Jamerson confirmed the receipt of Canadian data reviews supporting registrations of clethodim and clopyralid on oilseed crops, which will be used to establish tolerances in the U.S. Jerry Baron and Bob Holm reported on the recently-concluded IR-4/EPA/PMRA Biopesticide Workshop.

Rick Keigwin discussed a potential new policy on Experimental Use Permits, which may limit them to Reduced Risk pesticides, methyl bromide replacements, OP alternatives, FQPA-reviewed compounds, and/or to no more than 100 acres per minor use or watershed.

The next meeting of the EPA/IR-4 Technical Working Group will be during the winter in 2001.

Article by Ken Samoil