

**PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PMAC)
MEETING REPORT
FEBRUARY 26-27, 2015**

OPENING REMARKS AND REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

The Executive Director of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), Dr. Richard Aucoin, opened the meeting by welcoming the Chair and all members of the Pest Management Advisory Council. He indicated that the advice of the Council is of great value in the development of approaches to the many issues to be brought forward.

The Chair of the Council, Mr. Tom Beaver, also welcomed members, observers and other participants to the meeting. Mr. Beaver proceeded with an overview of the agenda, noting the new format aimed to provide more time for the Council members to deliberate and formulate recommendations to the Minister of Health.

COST RECOVERY RENEWAL

Jason Flint, Policy, Communications and Regulatory Affairs Directorate

The presentation was made in two parts, starting with a detailed overview of the updated fee proposal. This was followed by PMRA's proposal for re-investing new revenue to support activities that would serve to:

- align pesticide regulatory science policies and approaches with those of other pesticide regulators internationally;
- enhance PMRA's capacity to provide expertise in support of identifying and resolving pesticide-related trade irritants; and
- improve the timeliness, predictability and transparency of pesticide reviews by updating information management and technology platforms, and to pursue other priority business innovation measures.

Discussion

Council members discussed factors affecting the new fee structure, including work sharing as part of global joint reviews, costs associated with reviewing data requested as part of conditional registrations, and the criteria for defining a small business.

Council members expressed general support for both the fee proposal and the proposal for re-investment.

The Council continues to be concerned about the Agency's current and future funding to support its core functions and agreed to formulate a recommendation to the Minister in this regard.

See page 6 for the recommendations of the Council.

DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Janice Hopkins, Bowes and Co. Management Ltd.

This presentation gave an overview of the high-level environmental scan that is underway in support of the development of the next strategic plan. Ms. Hopkins presented findings of the interviews with stakeholders to identify priorities as well as emerging issues and trends that can affect PMRA's activities.

Discussion

Members of the Council expressed their support for the development of a new five-year strategic plan and their interest in being engaged in its further development.

PMRA should ensure that outcomes are achievable and measurable, and that achievements be accessible and published.

See page 6 for the recommendations of the Council.

POLLINATOR PROTECTION

Connie Hart, Environmental Assessment Directorate

This presentation included an overview of the pollinator incidents reported in Canada, risk mitigation and outreach activities implemented in response to the incidents, as well as ongoing work with stakeholders to reduce pollinator exposure. Current projects related to pollinators, including research and monitoring projects such as the Federal/Provincial Hive Monitoring Project, were discussed. Other activities related to pollinator health that were covered include the re-evaluation of neonicotinoid insecticides, the new Pollinator Risk Assessment Framework, the Canadian Bee Health Roundtable implemented by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and international pollinator health initiatives.

Discussion

The scientific approaches used for the pollinator health projects and the re-evaluation of neonicotinoid insecticides were discussed.

It was clarified that PMRA has received studies for review as part of the conditional neonicotinoid registrations and that PMRA is considering those as well as many more studies as part of the re-evaluation using the new Pollinator Risk Assessment Framework.

See page 7 for the recommendations of the Council.

MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS

Dr. Peter Chan, Health Evaluation Directorate

This presentation provided information on how maximum residue limits (MRLs) are established. Dr. Chan also discussed PMRA's participation in international initiatives that help provide consistency in health protection as well as facilitate the movement of food commodities between countries.

Discussion

The Council discussed Canada's contribution to international alignment of MRLs.

In discussing the dietary risk assessment conducted prior to approving an MRL, it was confirmed that the health risk assessment paradigm includes consideration of aggregate exposure from multiple sources (e.g., food and drinking water) and cumulative exposure to multiple active ingredients that share a common mechanism of toxicity. Dr. Chan also discussed the Agency's engagement related to the generation of occupational exposure data from various task forces.

Members recommend continued and enhanced work by the Agency in this area both domestically and internationally.

See page 7 for the recommendations of the Council.

THREE-YEAR PLAN FOR RE-EVALUATION AND SPECIAL REVIEWS

Regi Mathew, Value Assessment and Re-evaluation Management Directorate

This presentation covered the approach for the re-evaluation and special review of pesticide active ingredients. The workload challenges encountered for conducting re-evaluations and special reviews were presented along with the proposed path forward and workplan.

Discussion

The review of new data and the re-evaluation of neonicotinoid insecticides were discussed. The Council identified early user engagement in the re-evaluation process as a key factor, and recognized the value in aligning reviews internationally.

Members supported the proposed approach to re-evaluation and special reviews. It was also noted that additional resources are required to avoid delays in the completion of pesticide re-evaluations due to complex workload issues and the unpredictable nature of special reviews.

See page 7 for the recommendations of the Council.

TRANSPARENCY AND OPENNESS

*Mireille Prud'homme, Policy, Communications and Regulatory Affairs Directorate,
PMRA*

An overview of Health Canada's Transparency and Openness Framework and its goals was presented. Also presented were PMRA proposals to provide more information on its compliance and enforcement activities, enhancement of the pesticide public registry, and the publication of the next strategic plan. An update was also provided on the Government of Canada Web Renewal Action Plan, which has the objective of migrating all of the government websites to the Canada.ca website.

Discussion

It was noted that pesticide-related content is difficult to find on the existing Canada.ca website. The Council members would like to ensure that Canadians are able to locate the information they need.

See page 8 for the recommendations of the Council.

INFORMATION UPDATES

Council members took the opportunity to seek clarification from PMRA officials on the written briefs provided on:

- Treated Article Policy
- Report from the FPT Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides

OTHER BUSINESS

Poster Exhibit

Members of the Council complimented the posters shown as an engaging way for PMRA to provide information to the public about its regulatory and scientific activities. The Council suggested that PMRA showcase their posters to stakeholders more broadly.

Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

- Strategic Plan update
- Pollinators / Neonicotinoid insecticides
- Cost recovery
- Communications

- Re-evaluation / Special Review workload
- Response to the Auditor General of Canada's report
- Joint Review / NAFTA / Regulatory Cooperation Council updates

Next Meeting

It was proposed to hold the next meeting in February/March 2016.

February 2015 Recommendations of the Council

Cost Recovery

The Pest Management Advisory Council (PMAC) continues to be concerned about the Agency's current and future funding as previously noted in the Council's recommendations to the Minister of Health in 2013.

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) plays a crucial role in protecting Canadians and the environment, and ensuring access to safe and effective pest control products. PMAC members believe it is in the interest of all Canadians and industry stakeholders that the Agency continues to receive stable and appropriate funding to carry out its mandate.

PMAC recommends that the government's funding for the Agency be stabilized and maintained at no less than current levels to allow PMRA to execute its core mandate. In addition, the anticipated increase in revenue generated from the revised cost recovery regime should not result in a decrease in the Agency's A-base funding. Rather, the Council recommends that this additional revenue be directed to support priority areas such as:

- enhancing PMRA's capacity to provide expertise in support of identifying and resolving pesticides-related trade irritants;
- aligning pesticide regulatory science policies and approaches with those of other pesticide regulators internationally;
- improving the timeliness, predictability and transparency of pesticide reviews by updating information management and technology platforms, and by pursuing other priority business innovation measures.

Five-Year Strategic Plan

PMAC supports PMRA's efforts to date in the development of the Agency's new five-year strategic plan.

PMAC recommends that PMRA continue to engage Council members in the plan's development over the coming year.

PMAC also recommends that the new strategic plan include the priority activity areas identified for new spending under a modernized cost recovery regime (science policy, transparency and outreach, and business innovation enhancements, including IT and MRL/trade issue resolution).

Pollinator Protection

Insect pollinators are vital to agricultural production and the environment. PMAC recognizes the important role and international leadership of PMRA through the continued commitment to a risk-based scientific approach to the management of pollinator protection from the risks of neonicotinoid insecticides.

PMAC recommends that sufficient resources be allocated to allow PMRA to strengthen its activities both domestically and internationally, ensuring ongoing use of the best available data and science on a global basis.

As well, PMAC recommends that PMRA provide frequent updates to the public on the status of the re-evaluation of neonicotinoid insecticides and projects related to pollinator health.

Several Council members including the Canadian Honey Council commended PMRA for its commitment to a risk-based scientific approach to pollinator protection.

Maximum Residue Limits

PMAC recognizes the important role that the PMRA plays in facilitating agricultural trade through its work on maximum residue limits (MRLs). The Council recommends that PMRA continue to expand its work on MRLs internationally. PMRA is also encouraged to enhance its public and stakeholder communications regarding MRLs and related international activities.

Re-evaluations and Special Reviews

PMAC recognizes the challenges in balancing the workload for re-evaluations and special reviews. PMAC recommends that PMRA:

- continue to publish work plans on the website;
- receive sufficient funding to complete re-evaluations and special reviews in a timely manner;
- prioritize the completion of the original 401 re-evaluations of remaining active ingredients registered prior to 1995;
- continue its scientifically robust risk-based approach to the review of data;
- develop an effective communications plan for its re-evaluation work;
- implement processes for information exchange with affected stakeholders, including early engagement; and
- increase its international collaboration for re-evaluations.

Transparency and Openness

In noting the priority that is placed on transparency and openness within Health Canada, PMAC recommends that pesticide risk and benefit information become more accessible on the Canada.ca website and that the amount of pesticide-related information be increased and more easily located on the Canada.ca website.

PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Participants – February 26-27, 2015

Chair

Tom Beaver

Council Members/ Alternates

Claire Infante-Rivard, McGill University

Dave Carey, Canadian Seed Trade Association

David Beresford, Trent University

Karsten Liber, University of Saskatchewan

Kathleen Cooper, Canadian Environmental Law Association

Maria Trainer, CropLife Canada

Michèle Bouchard, Université de Montréal

Richard Phillips, Grain Growers of Canada

Robert Whiting, Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

Rod Scarlett, Canadian Honey Council

Shannon Coombs, Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association

Tracy Shinnars-Carnelley, Canadian Horticultural Council

Regrets

Anne Fowlie, Canadian Horticultural Council

Pierre Petelle, Croplife Canada

Patty Townsend, Canadian Seed Trade Association

Executive Secretariat

Richard Aucoin, Executive Director, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Secretariat

Martha Cunningham, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Stephanie Gauthier, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Trish MacQuarrie, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Presenters and Subject Experts

Connie Hart, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Janice Hopkins, Bowes and Co Management Ltd.

Jason Flint, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Lars Juergensen, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Margherita Conti, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

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Peter Chan, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Stéphane Lessard, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Neilda Sterkenburg, Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Yadvinder Bhuller, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Observers

Cheryl Fougere, Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association

John A. Lynch, Monsanto Canada Inc.

Jordan Hancey, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Laurie Goodwin, Syngenta Canada Inc.

Seshari Iyengar, Bayer CropScience Inc.

Steven Graff, Canadian Pest Management Association

Sigrun Kullik, Health Canada

Erin Windatt, Office of the Auditor General of Canada

Kristin Lutes, Office of the Auditor General of Canada

Marie-Soleil Nappert, Office of the Auditor General of Canada