

PESTICIDE INCIDENT REPORTING AND TRACKING (PIRT)

REVIEW PANEL

JANUARY 5, 2009 MINUTES

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

TUMWATER, WA

APPROVED BY PIRT FEBRUARY 19, 2009

PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Cynthia Lopez (CL), Chair | Department of Health | (360) 236-3340 |
| Pam Edwards (PE) | Labor and Industries | (360) 902-6457 |
| Allan Felsot (AF) (phone) | Washington State University | (509) 372-7365 |
| Rich Fenske (RF) (phone) | University of Washington | (206) 543-0916 |
| William Hurley (WH) (phone) | Washington Poison Center | (206) 517-2350 |
| Karen Ripley (KR) (phone) | Department of Natural Resources | (360) 902-1691 |
| Debby Sargeant (DS) | Department of Ecology | (360) 407-6139 |
| Ann Wick (AW) | Department of Agriculture | (360) 902-2051 |

PANEL MEMBERS ABSENT:

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| Bridget Moran (BM) | Department of Fish and Wildlife | (360) 902-2589 |
| Liesl Zappler (LZ) | Public Member | (425) 739.8100 EXT. 481 |
| Vacant | Toxicologist | |

COORDINATOR

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| Fran McBride (FM), Coordinator | Department of Health | (360) 236-3367 |
| Barbara Morrissey (BFM) | Department of Health | (360) 236-3368 |

This was an additional meeting for the panel to review sections of the PIRT report. The meeting started at 1 pm. CL, PE, AW, and DS were present, and RF and WH were on the phone. CL announced that FM was recording the meeting to assist with writing the minutes.

Labor and Industries: PE presented this section. Claims data was newly added. (AF joined the meeting here.) FM is researching a discrepancy between DOH and L&I Claims data. The panel suggested changes to a report reference and pointed out discrepancies. AF asked whether claims that L&I rejected but DOH determined to be definitely, probably or possibly (DPP) related to pesticide exposure can be appealed. PE will find out. CL proposed looking at the section at the January 15 meeting before approval.

WAPC: As suggested during prior review, BFM added more detail to the death case description. CL gave feedback from Gregg Grunenfelder on what appeared to be an inconsistency in classification of the death case by WAPC versus DOH, attributed to the difference in the way each agency classifies their calls or cases. DOH will add language to the death case description in the DOH section to explain this. This case demonstrates that WAPC can get a case that ends in death and DOH may not be able to classify it as definite, probable or possible (DPP). This could be highlighted in the executive summary.

CL went over a table on the number of organophosphate and pyrethrin calls DOH received from WAPC. The percentage of organophosphates and pyrethroids represented as a total of DOH DPP cases was higher than the percentage among WAPC calls, illustrating that cholinesterase inhibitors and pyrethrins account for much of DOH insecticide DPP cases. The panel discussed ways to represent this data more clearly. PIRT will look at the WAPC section with revisions to this table on January 15. FM will assist with making these changes.

WSDA: There have been no substantial changes since the last review. CL gave Gregg Grunenfelder's feedback on an unclear paragraph on response time; AW will clarify this. DS moved to approve the section with this change, PE seconded, and all were in favor.

DOH: CL pointed out the table listing the number of DPP cases and noted the decrease in insufficient classifications in 2007 when the pesticide program was fully staffed, as compared to 2006 when there were vacancies. This is an important comment for the executive summary. AW remarked that staffing levels can change the number of report incidents; if you have more staff in an area, you will get more complaints in that area. Other suggestions included a suggestion to change "prevention" to "prevent exposure to pesticides," define categories of "others" that use DOH data, and add references in the text to figures and tables. BFM had suggestions on rearranging some pieces of the section and on looking further at the number of cases classified as unlikely and suspicious. The suspicious classification often indicates insufficient toxicological information on the pesticide in the literature. Other suggestions included representing "Severity of Medical Outcome" with a table rather than a graph, adding a reference to the section on underreporting, summarizing barriers to reporting pesticide illness, adding more text on why the proportion of mildly and moderately ill may be overrepresented in the dataset, and adding information on health care seeking behaviors.

At this point, the panel talked about adding a discussion of the Governor's proposed budget cuts to the January agenda. As PIRT was established by RCW, the legislature would have to repeal the RCW to eliminate PIRT. AF moved to add the budget discussion to the January agenda with the objective of forming a subcommittee and listing the benefits of maintaining PIRT and the pesticide program. This would be done by members from agencies who do not report directly to the Governor. CL added that Science Corner could be moved to February. RF seconded, PE abstained, and all were in favor. AW clarified that she has no objection to a discussion, but when it comes to anything other than providing factual information, she will be abstaining. She reminded the panel that the Governor's budget is just the first version. (PE left the meeting here. There was still a quorum.)

The panel also recommended looking more closely at the decrease in agricultural cases and the increase in non-agricultural cases over time, specifying why it is important to look at seasonality of cases, and adding the number of incidents to the table on drift cases. (KR left here; there was no longer a quorum.) There was discussion of having a consistent time frame for representing data and removing data from prior to 2001, rethinking the use of the word "impoverished" in the section on cases classified as "insufficient information" when the reason for not acquiring enough information may be that farm workers are afraid to talk to government entities out of concern for their jobs. (WH left the meeting here.)

The meeting concluded at approximately 3 pm.