

PESTICIDE INCIDENT REPORTING AND TRACKING (PIRT)

REVIEW PANEL

JULY 17, 2008 MINUTES

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

TUMWATER, WASHINGTON

(APPROVED BY PIRT SEPTEMBER 18, 2008)

PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cynthia Lopez (CL), Chair	Department of Health	(360) 236-3340
Pamela Edwards (PE)	Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-6547
Rich Fenske (RF) (phone)	University of Washington	(206) 543-0916
Vince Hebert (VH) (phone)	Washington State University	(509) 372-7393
William Hurley (WH)	Washington Poison Center	(206) 517-2356
Matthew Keifer (MK)	University of Washington	(206) 616-1452
Kelly McLain (KM)	Department of Ecology	(360) 407-6938
Bridget Moran (BM) (phone)	Department of Fish and Wildlife	(306) 902-2589
Karen Ripley (KR) (phone)	Department of Natural Resources	(360) 902-1691
Liesl Zappler (LZ)	Public Member	(425) 739.8100 EXT. 481

PANEL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ann Wick (AW)	Department of Agriculture	(360) 902-2051
Vacant	Toxicologist	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jay Brunner (JB) (phone)	Washington State University	
Geoff Calvert (GC) (phone)	Center for Disease, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health	
Steve Gilbert (SG)	Independent Toxicologist	
Heather Hanson (HH)	Washington Friends of Farms and Forests	
Alice Larson (AL)	Public	
Sherrise Martin (SM)	Department of Health	(360) 236-3360
Fran McBride (FM), Coordinator	Department of Health	(360) 236-3367
Candelaria Murillo (CM)	Columbia Legal Services	
Barbara Morrissey (BFM) (phone)	Department of Health	(360) 236-3368
Helen Murphy (HM)	Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health	
Mike Willett (MW)	Northwest Horticultural Counsel	

The meeting started at 9:32 am. CL announced that FM is recording the meeting to assist with writing the minutes, and only the PIRT-approved minutes are the official meeting record. Panel members introduced themselves (LZ, CL, WH, KM, PE, BM, KR, and VH). CL ascertained that a

quorum was present. (RF joined here by phone.) The panel reviewed the agenda. LZ moved to add a short discussion of the PIRT website to the agenda. WH seconded, all were in favor. (This was added to PIRT business.) CL announced that Marcos Santiago from the Governor's Office sent bios, but no application materials or resumes, for four candidates for the toxicology position, and that he may call in to the meeting. CL moved to add this topic to the agenda and discuss when Mr. Santiago calls in. LZ seconded, all were in favor. The panel reviewed the June minutes. LZ had a revision to page six, that the WSDA pesticide disposal website should not instruct the user to press "one" for English, as there is no Spanish language option. KM moved to accept the June agenda with LZ's revision. LZ seconded. BM abstained, as she was not present at the June meeting. All else were in favor.

Update of July 15 Meeting to Finalize PIRT Report

The minutes for the July 15 meeting will be reviewed at the September PIRT meeting. At the meeting, the panel made changes to the executive summary, introduction, and DOH and L&I sections, and approved the 2007 PIRT Report. BFM added a brief highlight on pyrethroid cases to the DOH section, and revised the combined agency data section in the introduction to better represent the total number of pesticide incidents reviewed by PIRT agencies. The panel also reviewed changes that were discussed at the June meeting. CL added that PIRT streamlined the report and made a few changes, and that most of these were approved unanimously. PE inquired how long until the report is out. CL responded that she and FM were authorized to make a few changes to the appendices. Afterwards, FM will be working on formatting the report and then it goes to OFM. As OFM reviewed the DOH preliminary report previously, the OFM review should proceed more quickly. CL will ask the DOH Assistant Secretary to help expedite report review. PE asked whether the report could be posted to the PIRT webpage with a caveat before going to OFM. SG suggested that PIRT send the executive summary to the legislature prior to report publication. KR would like to transmit the report to the legislature as well as others who may be interested. LZ made a motion to post the report on the PIRT website as soon as possible, with a caveat that it is still undergoing OFM review, and to send the executive summary to the legislature with the same caveat. CL added that we can send it to those mentioned in the PIRT RCW. After further panel discussion, WH seconded LZ's motion. PE abstained, and all else were in favor. The motion was approved.

ACTION: FM will post the report to the PIRT webpage and send the executive summary to the legislature after DOH completes its review.

Outreach: Audience Research - Targeted Outreach - Recommended Strategies for Evaluation

Ms. Helen Murphy, director of outreach and education at Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (PNASH), presented on the above topic. (The presentation is posted at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/Pirt/080717mtg.htm>.) Ms. Murphy spoke of the Center's work in trying to understand their audience for outreach on pesticide-related issues, including agricultural workers and health care providers. One survey of health care workers serving farm worker families in high organophosphate use areas assessed their communication of risks of organophosphate exposure in children. Ms. Murphy found that although they serve a high risk group of children, respondents were deficient in pesticide child health, and environmental/occupational health training, and many health care workers were not comfortable answering pesticide inquiries. The survey also evaluated their preferred means for obtaining information. Another survey of growers, managers, applicators and farm workers assessed their media habits, interest in pesticide health

related issues, and the best way to disseminate information on pesticide health risks. PNASH developed different types of educational materials for each group based on survey results.

There are many considerations in designing training evaluations. For instance, are you evaluating knowledge or practice? How long are new skills retained? What decisions will you make from the data, based on what parameters? Consider the goals of evaluation and criteria for success. In researching studies on the efficacy of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS), Ms. Murphy found four studies on compliance, but only one on efficacy. The goal of WPS is to reduce risk of pesticide poisoning. Geoff Calvert and Margaret Reese looked at the number of pesticide poisonings resulting from WPS violations and found that 38 percent of poisonings were unrelated to violations. When designing training curriculum, it should be based on learning objectives. For each objective, an evaluation tool should be built into the curriculum.

Panel discussion followed. WH: Outcomes data on increasing safe behaviors doesn't exist. PIRT doesn't know how to intervene when the panel observes pesticide illness trend data other than taking the agent off the market. CL: Establishing alliances with WSU and PNASH may help PIRT develop approaches to intervention.

Public comment followed. AL has been working with EPA since the WPS started. No one has been able to come up with an evaluation method because indicators of change may be interpreted differently. The most important motivation for changing behavior is having an accident happen to you, or knowing someone who has.

Dr. Geoffrey Calvert joined the meeting by phone. (BM had left the meeting.)

NIOSH Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risk (SENSOR-Pesticides) Multi-State Data on Pesticide-Related Illnesses

Dr. Geoffrey Calvert, medical officer with National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) with Center for Disease Control (CDC), presented on the Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risk (SENSOR) pesticide poisoning surveillance program (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/Pirt/080717mtg.htm>), referred to as SENSOR-Pesticides. Pesticide surveillance is done because of the large number of pesticide products on the market, the amount (one billion pounds) of pesticide used annually in the United States, ongoing concern about toxicity, difficulty in ensuring proper use of agricultural pesticides, and because pre-marketing testing of pesticides is not comprehensive. SENSOR pesticide surveillance is state based. Key features are case identification and follow up. The intent is to identify cases of occupational pesticide poisoning, learn from these cases and use the data for prevention. SENSOR has a standardized case definition, variables, and severity. Twelve states participate in the program. Though pesticide poisoning affects all industries, about 41 percent occur in agriculture. Of the twelve states contributing data, Washington has the highest rate of acute occupational pesticide illness per full time worker equivalent for 1998 – 2005. About fifty percent of pesticide cases involve insecticides. The functional class of pesticide responsible for most illness is insecticides. Organophosphates, organochlorines and pyrethroids are the insecticides most associated with pesticide illness. Though the system has relatively poor sensitivity (it likely captures a very small percentage of the total illness cases that occur in participating states), it is good for identifying emerging problems, such as off-target pesticide drift, pesticide exposures at schools, risks of accelerated corn production, and the need to strengthen the WPS.

The Washington pesticide surveillance program is unique in that it has been in operation since the 1970's, has a higher staffing level than other states, has decentralized staffing, and has excellent access to workers' compensation data. The SENSOR program addresses widespread concern about pesticides, has made many meaningful contributions, and promotes collaboration between CDC and state health departments. It is the best surveillance program for acute pesticide poisonings.

Discussion points: Part of case definition is documentation of health effects, identification of whether there was pesticide exposure and what the pesticide is, and determination of whether that pesticide, according to toxicological literature, is associated with those health effects. The strength of the evidence determines the case classification category that the case is assigned. Carriers and inert ingredients are considered proprietary business information, and in most states, data on these is not available. (MK came on phone at 11:20). NIOSH has a list serve that state agency and federal agency partners subscribe to. Among other things, NIOSH and its partners use the list serve to request notification on cases related to specific chemicals, such as new pesticide formulations. AL asked whether there was supplemental information that provides more evidence of underreporting. GC cited a survey suggesting that one out of thirty-two cases were captured by SENSOR. Washington may be a little lower. BFM reported on a study examining emergency room and hospital data in the Yakima region, which found that sixty percent of their agricultural cases were reported to the Washington surveillance system. This does not take into account workers that did not seek health care for their symptoms, or those that do not have "pesticide" listed in their diagnoses.

ACTION: FM will forward GC's email to panel members for further questions.

CL moved to delay the break until after Jay Brunner's presentation. WH seconded, all were in favor.

Pest Management Transition Project Update

Dr. Jay Brunner from WSU gave an update on the Pest Management Transition Project (PMTTP) (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/Pirt/wsuptpppt.pdf>). Government regulatory action is restricting use of many organophosphate insecticides. State funding was provided for the PMTTP to help the tree fruit industry make the transition from organophosphate use to new pest control methods. The main aspect of the PMTTP executed over the past six months involves working with the fruit industry through implementation units, which were patterned after a successful model used to introduce pheromone technology to the tree fruit industry. PMTTP held regular, local meetings with implementation unit participants for education, planning, and sharing experiences and interaction with crop consultants and university researchers to discuss how to use new technologies. Fourteen implementation units were established in fruit growing areas, involving about 190 people, and influencing activities on about 50,000 acres of apples. The main vehicle for imparting new knowledge is the implementation unit handbook, which guides growers and consultants through best practices on using new insecticides in apple integrated pest management (IPM) programs. Sixty percent of project effort was directed at the helping the tree fruit industry transition to new IPM technologies. Forty percent will be directed at education of non-agricultural audiences. Documentation of changes in attitudes, practices and policies is a component of both of these project efforts. There is also increased capacity to assess environmental impacts, farm workers perception and needs, and level of IPM adoption. Information on the PMTTP can be found at <http://pmtpt.wsu.edu/>.

Discussion points: MK encouraged involving the farmworker population in decision making, as that would go much further than something imposed upon them. The project's goal is to develop education material in Spanish and do more outreach to the Hispanic community. One strategy for moving away from organophosphates is to go organic. Challenges of organic pest control and adoption of softer pest control technologies in conventional farming are discussed at implementation unit meetings.

ACTION: MK will contact Dr. Brunner about providing contacts for outreach to Dr. Nadine Lehrer.

CL asked for public comment; there was none at this time.

KM moved to break for five minutes, WH seconded, all were in favor.

The meeting reconvened at 12:10. MK, VH, KR, PE, KM, WH, CL and LZ were present.

Agency Updates

Ecology - KM reported a positive mosquito pool in Benton County. Kevin Shoemaker is working with the county's local health office on stepping up surveillance. The positive mosquito pool was found much earlier in the season than in previous years. KM has been working with the Zoonotic Disease Program at DOH to ensure that a mechanism is in place if emergency adulticiding becomes necessary on either side of the mountains.

This is KM's last day at Ecology, as well as her last PIRT meeting. Ecology director Jay Manning should have a decision on the new PIRT designee by the September meeting. Rob Duff and Maria Victoria Peeler are still alternates.

Health – CL proposed that Joanne Prado from the DOH pesticide program present to the panel on conducting expedited case investigations. Joanne and BFM will work on analyses for a presentation for the September PIRT meeting. VH will give an overview of EPA's fumigant re-registration eligibility decision document on metam sodium, with assistance from BFM. The decision document specifies buffer zones base on application equipment. There is a 60-day time period to comment back to EPA. PIRT should look at this carefully.

BFM suggested asking UW if there will be preliminary data on the air monitoring project.

ACTION: FM will ask RF to give a progress report on his air monitoring research at the September meeting.

CL asked BFM about the WSDA letter to EPA on fogger and aerosol-related illnesses. BFM had presented DOH findings on these illnesses at a previous PIRT meeting. She and Ann Wick collaborated on a letter, which was reviewed by DOH and WSDA. The letter contains observations about causes of fogger and household aerosol-related illnesses, with recommendations for improvements to packaging and labeling of these products.

ACTION: FM will include a copy of the letter in the September meeting packet.

Labor and Industries - CL asked about the MOU between L&I and DOH. PE did not have an update on this, but reported that L&I was revisiting a prior memorandum of understanding they signed with WSDA and DOH. L&I will be inviting DOH in to this discussion next month.

WPC - WH announced that the injury prevention guide from DOH, which details injuries in Washington State, was released in June. Poisoning deaths became the number one cause of accidental death in the state in 2006, surpassing motor vehicle crashes. He believes that multiple agencies, including WPC, will be shifting resources to address this problem.

WPC put together 2007 data for pesticide exposures. It is not in an easily presentable format. Trends noted in 2006 (more exposures to borates, pyrethrins and pyrethroids, and less exposure to organophosphates) continue. WH will work with FM to put WPC data into a format that can easily be reviewed by the panel. Dr. Bill Robertson will attend the September meeting as the WPC representative.

September Agenda

Science Corner: The Science Corner discussion on “Organic Diets Significantly Lower Children's Dietary Exposure to Organophosphorus Pesticides” suggested for the July meeting was moved to September. RF was asked to present on this topic, as he co-authored the study. Some panel members recalled a discussion of this paper as part of a prior Science Corner discussion, but not as a detailed discussion. A reactive airway study had been suggested for Science Corner, but there were no volunteers to lead the discussion. FM can put this on the agenda as a tentative item.

2008 PIRT Report: CL requested that all report contributors come to the September meeting prepared to give a progress report on their sections and an estimated time of completion. KR requested that members provide any available materials to FM for distribution prior to the meeting. The WSDA section was previously submitted to FM. KM does not know who will be responsible for the 2007 Ecology data, but will discuss with FM later. Water quality pesticide use data should be tabulated by September. There will be forty five minutes for PIRT Report discussion.

FM will schedule fifteen minutes for presentation on expedited case investigations and fifteen minutes for the update on the EPA decision on fumigants. FM will ask RF to update the panel on his air monitoring research.

WH motioned to accept the proposed agenda. LZ seconded, all were in favor.

AGENDA: FM will include a copy of WSDA/DOH letter on foggers in the September meeting packet and distribute a list of Science Corner topics.

Update from Pesticide Use Reporting and Roadside Spraying Subcommittees (draft paragraph for response to Representative Campbell's letter)

KR reported that the roadside spraying subcommittee focused on a more immediate response to Representative Campbell's letter delaying discussion of forestry issues. FM distributed a draft prior to the meeting. The letter describes how PIRT investigated roadside spraying, summarizes WSDA and DOH data with a brief discussion of each case, and provides PIRT comments and conclusions on the use of herbicides for roadside vegetation control. The tables are missing a few things but the letter is otherwise ready to go to the pesticide use reporting subcommittee.

The pesticide use reporting subcommittee is comprised of CL and Ann Wick. CL contacted New York, California and Oregon about their pesticide use reporting systems. CL is hoping the subcommittee will be able to meet before the September meeting and have a finished product.

CL moved to include this on the September agenda. LZ seconded, all were in favor.

ACTION: FM will add this topic to the September agenda and provide a copy of the letter in the meeting packet.

Discussion of Contact Information on PIRT Website

LZ thought the list of members on the PIRT website should include contact information. PE suggested listing agency contact information instead, and wanted to bring the issue back to L&I. LZ felt that it could be discretionary whether members list their personal information or agency contact information. CL suggested tabling the motion until September when members can clarify what type of contact information should be listed. KR felt that there should be ground rules that clarify whether they speak on behalf of the PIRT panel, their agency, or as an individual. CL said she would ask Mark Calkins, the DOH assistant attorney general.

ACTION: CL will ask Mark Calkins about this issue.

Toxicologist Candidate Discussion

Two days ago, Marcos Santiago from the Governor's Office forwarded CL and FM bios on four potential candidates for the toxicologist position, but no application materials and resumes. For the recent round of interviews for public member and toxicologist, a complete set of application materials was provided to both the Governor's Office and to FM. A PIRT subcommittee reviewed the materials to identify candidates that met established criteria, and then interviewed them. RF expressed by email concerns as to whether we can adequately evaluate these candidates without the usual application materials. CL forwarded this email and the PIRT meeting call-in number to Marcos Santiago. (At this point, Mr. Santiago had not called into the meeting.) When CL contacted Mr. Santiago, he expressed concern about the privacy of these individuals, and said he would talk with Keith Phillips about getting application materials to PIRT. The Governor's Office is asking for feedback on candidates from PIRT by July 25, which is eight days after this meeting.

Panel discussion followed. CL understood that she would get an answer on distribution of application materials today. BFM mentioned that in the past, the Governor's Office sent materials to FM, who shared them with the PIRT subcommittee, not the entire panel. CL pointed out that PIRT can guarantee confidentiality in the interviewing process, but because this is a public position, application materials would be subject to public disclosure. In his email, RF commented that it is better to vet folks now and know potential conflicts before the individual is nominated. Dr. Timchalk provided written documentation of his resignation on the same day of the June PIRT meeting. LZ volunteered to chair a subcommittee regarding the toxicology member position and contact the Governor's Office to request more time to evaluate candidates. CL will assist. PE will assist if the subcommittee is given more time. CL motioned to form the subcommittee with LZ as chair to contact the Governor's Office. PE seconded, all were in favor.

ACTION: LZ will contact the Governor's Office.

Public Comment

AL thanked KM for serving on the PIRT panel and wished her good luck in her next position. CL formally thanked KM on behalf of the panel.

KM moved to adjourn the meeting, PE and WH seconded, all were in favor. The meeting ended at 1:01.

Future Meetings

September 18	Department of Health	Tumwater
October 16	Labor and Industries	Tukwila
November 13	Department of Agriculture	Yakima

See <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/Pirt/pirt-meetings.htm> for agendas, directions and meeting materials.