

PESTICIDE INCIDENT REPORTING AND TRACKING (PIRT)

REVIEW PANEL

OCTOBER 16, 2008 MINUTES

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

TUKWILA, WASHINGTON

(APPROVED BY PIRT ON NOVEMBER 20, 2008)

PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cynthia Lopez (CL), Chair	Department of Health	(360) 236-3340
Robert Arrington, (RA)	Department of Agriculture	(360) 902-2011
Allan Felsot (AF) (phone)	Washington State University	(509) 372-7365
William Hurley (WH) (phone)	Washington Poison Center	(206) 517-2350
Matt Keifer (MK) (phone)	University of Washington	(206) 616-1452
Karen Ripley (KR)	Department of Natural Resources	(360) 902-1691
Debby Sargeant (DS)	Department of Ecology	(360) 407-6139

PANEL MEMBERS ABSENT :

Pam Edwards (PE)	Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-6457
Bridget Moran (BM)	Department of Fish and Wildlife	(360) 902-2589
Vacant	Toxicologist	
Liesl Zappler (LZ)	Public Member	(425) 739.8100 EXT. 481

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Liz Dykstra (LD)	Washington Department of Health	
Zack Hudgins (ZH)	Washington State Legislature	
Sherrise Martin (SM)	Department of Health	(360) 236-3360
Fran McBride (FM), Coordinator	Department of Health	(360) 236-3367

The meeting started at 9:34 a.m. CL announced that FM is recording the meeting. The PIRT-approved minutes are the official meeting record. The panel introduced themselves: CL, DS, RA and KR in person, and MK and WH on the phone. ZH, representative from the 11th legislative district, introduced himself. He sits on the House Select Committee on Environmental Health, which oversees some of the PIRT panel recommendations. He thanked the panel for meeting in Tukwila.

CL reviewed the draft October agenda, and proposed additional agenda items. (AF joined the meeting by phone at 9:36.) She mentioned AF's email that included an article on the rise in poisonings from "safer" pesticides, specifically pyrethrins from lice shampoos. CL suggested scheduling this as a Science Corner topic in January 2009, possibly including biology of lice, the use of pyrethroids as a lice shampoo medication, and the emerging problem of resistance to pyrethroids. AF moved to add this to the January 2009 agenda. RA seconded; all were in favor. AF may be able to obtain video from a colleague who is an authority on the topic. CL moved to add an update from the subcommittees on streamlining the PIRT report and on pesticide use reporting to "Other Business." DS seconded, all were in favor. CL asked if ZH would give an

update on the Subcommittee on Environmental Health, and he agreed. CL made a motion for the update, RA seconded, and all were in favor. KR moved to approve the agenda as amended. DS seconded, all were in favor.

ACTION: FM will add the increase in poisonings from lice shampoos to the January 2009 agenda as a Science Corner topic.

September Minutes: RA put forward the following edits provided by Ann Wick, as she was not able to attend the meeting. On page two of discussion of the August 7 minutes, specify that AW and DS abstained “*because they were absent*” from the August 7 meeting. Break a paragraph in WPC section. A reference to “WR” should be “WH.” CL questioned a comment by LZ on correlating of insecticide calls in a WPC table with the letter on foggers, and a reference to sampling “*during the spray event*” in “Air Monitoring for Organophosphates.”

ACTION: FM will ask about LZ’s comment and get clarification from Rich Fenske on “spray event.”

KR moved to table the discussion of the September minutes until after the West Nile Virus update. RA seconded; all were in favor.

West Nile Virus (WNV) Update

Liz Dykstra, acting manager of the DOH Zoonotic Disease (ZD) Program, reviewed the number of Northwest WNV cases in 2007. Washington had no human cases. Eight horses, one dog and one bird were positive for the virus. Idaho had 34 human cases, compared to 996 in 2006. Oregon had seven human cases, compared to 70 in 2006. British Columbia had no endemic cases, but had 19 travel-related cases.

Last winter, the ZD program was told of major funding cuts for WNV. They did receive additional funding later in the year, and were able to provide mosquito testing for the virus as of July first. In the past, this testing started as early as late May. In 2008, the program changed testing labs, and lost its manager and another staff person. Despite the state agency hiring freeze, they will be able to recruit for a new manager.

Last year’s La Niña weather pattern caused heavy snow pack, resulting in much more standing water than usual, particularly in the Tri-Cities and Yakima areas, producing a bumper crop of floodwater mosquitoes. Individuals and agencies used their full allotment of water according to water rights rules, contributing to additional mosquito habitat.

In 2008, the ZD program switched from submitting whole carcasses of dead birds for WNV testing to submission of oral swab samples, reducing costs tremendously. The program moved to in-house mosquito identification and held a mosquito identification class to train partners to do their own identification. The program also implemented a cold chain method for preserving mosquito pools for testing, updated mosquito and bird protocols, held trainings on swabbing birds for testing and processing mosquito pools using the cold chain method, held WNV planning workshops on both sides of the state, and manned a WNV information table at Cabela’s.

Two individuals acquired WNV in Washington this year; one case was neuroinvasive. Thirty-seven horses in eastern Washington were positive. Twenty birds were positive, five of these in King,

Thurston, and Lewis Counties. Fifty-seven mosquito pools were positive. The counties with the most activity were Benton, Grant and Yakima. Yakima County had the most activity, largely in the southeast corner in Benton County Mosquito Control District (BCMCD). This was the first year that WNV was detected in Grant County. (Liz Dykstra later reviewed the minutes and added “The final positive numbers are 2 humans, 40 horses, 22 birds, and 57 mosquito pools.”)

This September, BCMCD submitted an application for a Section 18 emergency exemption for adulticiding. During the application process, unanticipated issues came up, and there was a question of whether the Ecology emergency adulticiding order, developed a year ago, should be put into play. After roughly four weeks, the EPA approved the Section 18 application. At that point, mosquito season was winding down, so BCMCD did not spray. LD is concerned about the time delay for approval in the event that emergency adulticiding becomes necessary earlier in the season.

Representatives of mosquito control districts expressed concern about being left out of discussions on emergency adulticiding at the state level and requested to have representatives at a meeting with state agencies to clarify the issues that came up during the Section 18 application discussions.

For 2009, she will be working on emergency response and emergency adulticiding issues, and getting final approval on a WNV outbreak response plan. The ZD program will conduct outbreak response planning next spring and continue environmental monitoring in the face of county level cutbacks. Moving out of the La Niña cycle may help decrease WNV activity in 2009.

The following were LD’s answers to PIRT panel questions. Both of the human cases were exposed to WNV in the Benton or Yakima area. One lived in Yakima County and one was a resident of King County who had traveled to eastern Washington. The Section 18 permit for BCMCD is good through October 2009. The active ingredient of the pesticide covered by the Section 18 application is Anvil Ten Plus Ten, a pyrethroid which is not labeled for crop and pastureland. The number and location of acreage to be sprayed is indicated on the application. The ZD program does not have an active netting program for birds. Residents report and submit dead or sick birds. Bird submissions were down across the state in 2008. ZD program staff did quality control checks on partners who were trained to identify mosquitoes. Counties with higher WNV activity mostly use larviciding for mosquito control, but were overwhelmed by the number of mosquitoes for a longer time due in part to standing water in locations inaccessible for larviciding. Benton County, the largest mosquito control district in the state, practices a robust IPM program. AF commented that despite its dry climate, Benton County has quite a bit of wetlands and coulees where groundwater comes to the surface. Benton County mosquito control trucks are often visible. LD said that it would be worth comparing what various mosquito control districts are doing in terms of outreach. AF said that the Tri City Herald would be a good vehicle for a story. KR suggested that mosquito trucks be labeled with signs offering more information via a toll-free number. DS offered to look into Ecology’s trust water rights program as an IPM tool to decrease the amount of standing water. BCMCD appears not to have the ability to do bilingual outreach. CL will encourage Kevin Shoemaker to participate in the Yakima meeting.

ACTION: DS will ask Ecology’s Water Resources Program for more information about putting water rights into trust. CL will contact Kevin Shoemaker about the Yakima meeting. FM will ask LD if she can determine whether bilingual outreach is available on the eastside, and remind her of KR’s suggestion about labeling of mosquito trucks.

DS requested detailed minutes on the WNV update.

September minutes: RA shared a change from Ann Wick to page five: “*AW said that Washington is sharing information with Idaho and Oregon on a response to the EPA fumigation rule proposal, as all of the Pacific Northwest potato industries are similarly affected.*” CL questioned language on chemigation in EPA Decision on Metam Sodium. KR spoke more about the land use study mentioned on page five, which depicts where structures are located in different time periods back to the 1970’s. This data can easily be made available. FM will forward an email from KR with this information to the panel. KR can continue to be a contact on the study and give the panel an update in 2009. She would like to hear more about DOH expedited investigations as DOH begins this change in 2009, and urged caution about decisions regarding which investigations will be expedited and which will be fully investigated. Another change from RA: change the WSDA agency update to “*WSDA is **conducting** a survey of why day cares...*” and drop the other institutions, as the survey only pertains to day cares.

KR moved to adopt the minutes as amended. DS seconded, all were in favor.

ACTION: FM will add “DOH Expedited Case Investigation” to the Jan 2009 agenda and “Science Corner - Colony Collapse Disorder” to the February 2009 agenda, schedule an update on the land use study in summer 2009, share land use information with PIRT and Nancy West and Barb Morrissey from DOH, have RF review Science Corner and Air Monitoring sections in the September minutes, and have Vince Hebert check the section on the EPA Decision on Metam Sodium.

Rep. Zack Hudgins is Vice Chair of the Select Committee on Environmental Health. The committee was set up two years ago to look at issues that were not well addressed by other committees. It is likely to become a permanent standing committee. Upcoming committee membership and agenda depend on the outcome of the November election. The committee will probably continue to look at toxins, such as lead, BPA and phthalates. Two pieces of their legislation around these issues were signed into law. They are looking at what other countries are doing to put together a list of high hazard chemicals and their source in consumer products. With a 3.2 billion dollar budget shortfall, priorities will be driven largely by ability to pay for them. It has not yet been determined where pesticide issues will live in the legislative committees on the house side. They could reside in the Environmental Health or in the Agriculture and Natural Resource Committees. This won’t be sorted out until the legislature reorganizes after the election. The 2009 legislative session starts January 12, and will go for 105 days.

CL asked why, given that some of the work of the Environmental Health committee on pesticides has been so lauded, is there a question whether they would continue to look at pesticide issues?

ZH: Everything the legislature does will come into question. All issues that go before the legislature must be sorted to determine which committee should receive it. Air monitoring could go to the Environmental Health committee because of its expertise and experience with the issue. The legislature changes in ways that reflects the concerns of constituents; this influences where issues go. The Toxic Toys bill that set the strictest standards in the country for lead, cadmium and phthalates came out of the Environmental Health committee with zero “no” votes. With a Republican chair and a Democratic vice chair, committee members are able to cross party lines. Many on the Environmental Health committee feel that pesticides have potential to adversely affect human health, and would like pesticide-related issues in their committee. New legislation requires

a new decision as to which committee it will go. Cholinesterase testing has been in Commerce and Labor for many years. PIRT has reported to Commerce and Labor in the past. Some issues end up in one place, and some are spread around. If bills concern issues that touch a number of committees, such as climate change or Puget Sound cleanup, they try to conduct joint hearings and have overlapping committees.

Rep. Hudgins thanked the panel for meeting in Tukwila.

2008 PIRT Report

Agriculture: This is a revised chapter. FM read comments from Gregg Grunenfelder at DOH. One regarded a separate sentence that appeared to belong to the previous paragraph. CL had a question about whether the categorization of WSDA complaints as “unclassified” is analogous to the DOH classification of “unrelated.” Mr. Grunenfelder had questions about language on pesticide misuse related to obstructing trees on complainants’ property, and about WSDA response time to complaints. RA will bring these comments to Ann Wick. CL suggested inserting language in the Executive Summary about the panel exploring Colony Collapse Disorder in 2009. KR spoke about breaking down the type of activity in WSDA complaints categories (e.g., agriculture, industrial) into subcategories to identify user groups that may be associated with relatively high numbers of violations. RA cautioned the panel about confusing complaints with inspections, where the intent is to identify violations so they can be corrected. CL suggested rephrasing a sentence to read “To determine if drift occurred, WSDA needs evidence such as residues or symptoms.”

ACTION: RA will bring suggested changes to Ann Wick. FM will add a discussion on the WSDA penalty matrix to the 2009 agenda topics. The WSDA section will be reviewed one last time with the final PIRT report.

Labor and Industries: There was no L&I designee at this meeting. The sections on Consultation Services and Claims Administration are still pending. FM will give DOH Claims data to PE in the next two weeks. RA had a question about the number of handlers with cholinesterase depression to work evaluation level (49) in table one, versus the number (55) in the second two. Panel members speculated that the numbers represented the number of individuals versus number of tests. L&I can clarify that.

ACTION: FM will get clarification on the above from PE and give her DOH Claims data. She will distribute the revised L&I section to the panel before the November PIRT meeting.

CL asked for questions from the public. There were none at this time.

At 11:15, RA made a motion for a break. DS seconded, all were in favor. (AF left the meeting here.)

The meeting resumed at 11:25. CL made a motion to review the November 20 agenda while there was still a quorum. DS and KR seconded; all were in favor.

Agenda for November 20 PIRT Meeting in Yakima

The panel reviewed the agenda for the November 20 PIRT meeting in Yakima. CL proposed having “Subcommittee Updates” as a standing agenda item after agency update. CL asked the panel to review the October minutes and submit changes to FM prior to the November meeting.

The WNV update on the draft agenda will be tabled until the April 2009 PIRT meeting in Yakima, as Kevin Shoemaker from BCMCD is not able in November. This is an important topic for the eastside audience because of the prevalence of WNV cases in Yakima and Benton County.

ACTION: FM will send a copy of the 2009 PIRT meeting schedule to the panel for approval in November.

DS moved to accept the proposed November agenda. RA seconded, and all were in favor.

At this point, MK left the meeting. The official meeting ended due to loss of the quorum. Informal discussion followed, and no PIRT decisions were made.

Ecology: DS reviewed information from the Ecology chapter. In the Spills section, she will clarify a discrepancy in the number of pesticide-related complaints. She would like to add information from a report on chlorinated pesticides to the Environmental Assessments Program section. KR thought the name of a lake should be corrected from “Chopak” to “Chopaka,” questioned the number of spills with potential exposure to humans of thirteen when only one was referred to DOH, and asked why there were so many pesticide-contaminated sites in Hanford. Suggestions for minor changes included changing word order to “applied sparingly and responsibly,” and spelling out the full name of “NPDES” permit. CL suggested highlighting collaborations of PIRT agencies in the executive summary, such as WSDA, Ecology, and DOH collaboration on WNV, and an overview of any WNV related cases. RA will send FM a section of his monthly report on the Section 18 request. Other collaborative efforts include outreach on pesticide handler trainings by DOH, L&I and WSDA.

ACTION: FM will ask Jennifer Sievert from DOH to pull out cases over the last three years that have resulted from exposure to adulticiding, and ask Barb Morrissey to look into other states participating with NIOSH Sensor for similar cases. FM will pull together Science Corner papers comparing the risk of exposure to pesticides used for adulticiding to the risk of acquiring WNV, and send to the Executive Summary subcommittee and to DS. FM will send RA’s email on the Section 18 request to the panel. DS will check on the penalties levied by Ecology for violations. FM will ask the panel to review and give feedback on the draft October minutes in advance of the November meeting.

Discussion of 2008 PIRT Report Executive Summary

WH said it would be useful to get feedback from people using the report, on how it is being used, and on what information is helpful or should be removed. CL suggested the following action item.

ACTION: FM will talk to Michele Davis and Kelly Cooper to see if we can formally solicit feedback. FM will compile OFM comments on the 2007 preliminary report and final report, as well as on earlier reports.

CL asked ZH for feedback on the PIRT Report. ZH said that Executive Summaries are useful to legislators who cannot read the full report. It would be helpful to receive the report before the start of legislative session. He recommended noting in the first paragraph or first heading of the Executive Summary where recommendations for legislative action or highlighted data can be found, and including a bibliography or references in the report.

CL suggested highlighting air monitoring, the EPA recommendation on metam sodium, and drift cases, if drift continues to be the number one problem. Children's exposures and pesticide-related deaths are always highlighted.

Agency Updates

Agriculture: RA reported that work on the notification survey by a graduate student of Dr. Keifer's is ongoing. WSDA is working on comments to the EPA on the fumigant reregistration eligibility decision, which Ann Wick will share with PIRT. These are due by October 30. WSDA is concerned about the impact of buffers on the potato and other agricultural industries, and about their ability to enforce requirement in EPA draft language. The agency is depending on industries to respond to the EPA on details.

WPC: WPC hosted their first advanced hazardous materials life support course this month, providing training on management of hazardous materials incidents to about 60 providers, most of them paramedics. The training had a fairly strong focus on management of organophosphate incidents.

Referring to the WSDA update, CL asked what alternatives were available if there weren't buffers. RA said that in looking at data from the Northwest, there is not much to support the level of buffers mentioned in EPA recommendations. There was some concern that the modeling used to determine buffer size was based on soil conditions in California, not the Northwest. WSDA is asking EPA to look again at buffer size based on other factors, and to consider phasing in restrictions to give industry time to look for alternatives and acquire equipment, if needed.

Health: The Pesticide Program is exploring expediting case investigations that have common profiles. Joanne Bonnar Prado will work with Dr. Hurley on getting more information in the initial WPC report for expedited investigations. Based on KR's comments, DOH will also look at ways to evaluate expedited investigations. DOH will be testing a new system for scanning data entry forms, and track the amount of time saved on manual data entry. DOH continues to work with UW and WSU on the air monitoring project. FM is organizing a technical review panel and a public meeting, and Barb Morrissey is looking at WSU results. She and Jennifer Sievert have contributed to an article with colleagues from Oregon in the October 17 *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* on total release foggers. They also sent a press release and developed a website on foggers.

ACTION: FM will distribute the article to the panel and send the link on the fogger webpage to the panel for feedback.

WPC is waiting for the death review on a suicide to see if there are any opportunities for prevention. A teenage boy obtained dinitrophenol over the internet to use for body building, and took an overdose. Coroners are not specifically listed on the legislation of required reporters on pesticide-related deaths.

ACTION: FM will ask Joanne Bonnar Prado to see if WSDA received information on this case.

Other Business

Subcommittee on Streamlining the PIRT Report met with Gregg Grunenfelder to identify steps that DOH upper management takes to review the PIRT report and determine ways to expedite review and approval of the report before it goes to OFM. FM is compiling a list of required DOH reviewers to see whether some review steps can be done simultaneously, and whether this can be

done before PIRT votes to approve the report. The plan is to establish a schedule with reasonable expectations. Gregg Grunenfelder is committed to reviewing report sections earlier.

Subcommittee on Roadside Pesticide Use completed the letter to Rep. Campbell, which was mailed last week. There is a copy of the letter and attachment in the meeting packet.

Forestry Subcommittee had discussion with Paul Figueroa on getting more information for a broader discussion. KR will figure out how to get the subcommittee together to develop key questions and determine how to use WSDA staff more efficiently.

Pesticide Use Reporting Subcommittee will look at characteristics of Oregon, California and New York pesticide use reporting systems to evaluate cost, frequency of reporting, who reports and at what level (county versus state), electronic versus written reporting, and who is allowed access to the data. CL asked agency representatives to consider how this data would be used, if it were available. For example, DOH would use the data to obtain spray records for case classification, or to provide to responders to fires or other emergencies. Real-time reporting of pesticide use may become a reality as computers become more ubiquitous. It may be helpful to have someone from Oregon to present on their system at an upcoming meeting.

ACTION: PIRT members will email CL with information on how their respective agencies would utilize pesticide use data. FM will add a presentation on the Oregon pesticide use reporting system to agenda topics.

Recommendation from Mark Calkins regarding posting contact information on the PIRT website: Mark Calkins, DOH assistant attorney general, told CL that as a courtesy to PIRT members, the panel should be afforded some protections and should not have to provide personal email addresses, but as a courtesy to the public, we do have an obligation to provide a business address or some meaningful contact information. This information is subject to disclosure by law. Members should think of what information they would like to have posted on the website. KR suggested listing emergency information on the PIRT webpage in case someone seeking assistance with a pesticide incident or emergency ended up there. DS suggested directing visitors to the spill response program or to WSDA for application violations. CL also spoke with Mark Calkins about possible lobbying of PIRT members, such as for feedback on recruiting the toxicologist. CL proposed that the panel consider having a code of ethics. KR suggested drafting a webpage for next meeting with contact information and instructions for pesticide emergency referrals.

ACTION: FM will work on providing contact information on the PIRT website for pesticide incidents or emergencies. FM will work with DOH web person to draft webpage with contact information and referrals for emergency and other pesticide incidents.

FM reported that the panel had voted on posting the PIRT report without OFM approval, but DOH upper management did not approve. Drafts of each chapter have been posted on the web. Gregg Grunenfelder was going to ask whether the report could be posted in a way that elicits feedback from the public.

SM asked whether WPC receives reports from tribes on exposures. WH said they get calls, but does not have specific reports from any tribes on issues or concerns. WPC can pull information by zip codes for that information.

Future 2008 PIRT Meetings

November 20 Department of Agriculture Yakima

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