

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

TIME AND DATE:

10:30 AM, April 17, 2013

LOCATION:

TCEQ, Park 35, Building F, Room 2210, Austin, Texas

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

The FY13 Second Meeting of the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

ATTENDEES:

AGENCIES

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality [TCEQ]
Texas Department of Agriculture [TDA]
Texas AgriLife Extension Service [TAES]
Texas Water Development Board [TWDB]
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board [TSSWCB]
Texas AgriLife Research [TAR]

REPRESENTATIVES

Joseph L. Peters	Chair, Member, TCEQ, Austin
Richard Eyster/David Villarreal	Member, TDA, Austin
Mark Matocha	Member, TAES, College Station
Janie Hopkins	Member, TWDB, Austin
Richard Egg	Member, TSSWCB, Temple
Kevin Wagner	Member, TAR, College Station

AGENCY STAFF

Alan Cherepon	TCEQ, Austin
---------------	--------------

INTERESTED PARTIES

None in attendance for this meeting

MEETING SUMMARY:

I. Opening Remarks

The Chairman of the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee, Dr. Joseph Peters (TCEQ), called the meeting to order. Subcommittee member Mr. David Van Dresar (TAGD) was

not in attendance. Dr. Peters welcomed everyone to the meeting and had the Subcommittee members introduce themselves. The meeting proceeded to the Task Force Reports.

II. Task Force Reports

Site Selection Task Force: Ms. Hopkins (TWDB), the Task Force Chair, provided a summary on the TWDB's planned sampling activities. The TWDB estimates they will collect about 305 samples in the 2013 monitoring season. The 2013 sampling will include the Gulf Coast, Sparta, Yegua, and Hickory aquifers. A larger number of samples will be collected in Cameron, Willacy, and Hidalgo Counties to gather information for a brackish water study related to a desalinization planning project being conducted by Mr. John Meyers and Mr. Sanjeev Kalaswad of TWDB. The study is also concerned with high concentrations of specific elements that could make disposal of the brine a bigger problem.

Mr. Cherepon indicated that he will present the draft 2013 monitoring plan during the presentation portion of the meeting.

Education Task Force: Dr. Matocha (TAES), the co-chair for the task force reported that TAES in January provided guidance to Galveston and Brazoria Counties relative to the Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permitting process. He added that they distributed some educational materials for the EPA Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) program, which had a policy change to include farm and agricultural producers. Because of this TAES will be providing some additional educational opportunities. Mr. Cherepon (TCEQ), the other co-chair, reported that the Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee did not address any pesticide related issues at their last meeting.

PMP Task Force: Mr. Cherepon (TCEQ) and Dr. David Villarreal (TDA), co-chairs of this Task Force, reported that Texas completed assessments on all 57 pesticides from the State FIFRA (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act) Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) list as required by the EPA for the grant. No additional assessments are anticipated for the year unless a pesticide not currently on the list is detected by monitoring.

III. Presentation of the Proposed FY13 FIFRA Pesticide Monitoring Plan

Mr. Cherepon (TCEQ) provided details of TCEQ's 2013 draft FY13 Pesticide Monitoring Plan. There are only two tasks for monitoring scheduled for 2013: Resampling of the areas sampled by the Superfund program in the Panhandle, where low detects of atrazine were present in the Dimmitt, Lorenzo, and Lubbock areas; and monitoring work done in cooperation with the TWDB.

Mr. Cherepon explained how in 2011, TCEQ's Superfund program had a sampling contractor sample specific wells in 3 areas that previously had low atrazine detects. The areas include two locations at Dimmitt, at the Airport, and just south of town; the

former Lorenzo Airport, ENE of Lubbock; and an area just NE of Lubbock, in the Acuff Road/Cimarron Drive area. In a cooperative effort with the FIFRA Program the Superfund samplers agreed to collect additional samples for immunoassay screening for atrazine. The samples collected for laboratory analysis tested very low for atrazine, while, inexplicably, the corresponding samples collected for immunoassay analysis all tested very high, most above the 5 parts per billion (ppb) upper quantitation limit for the atrazine immunoassay method. The wells in the Lubbock area tested the highest for atrazine, and thus were re-sampled by Superfund in 2012, again securing samples for both laboratory and immunoassay analysis. This time the results were more as expected, with both laboratory and immunoassay results indicating very low concentrations of atrazine, the highest immunoassay atrazine result being 0.42 ppb. Due to the discrepancy between the 2011 and 2012 analyses, the current sampling plan proposes a verification round of sampling and analyses; however, the proposed sampling will include additional pesticide analyses than performed previously, by both laboratory and immunoassay methods. Janie Hopkins asked if these were Superfund sites. Mr. Cherepon clarified that the site was not a Superfund site, but only an area undergoing preliminary investigation by Superfund to determine whether there may be a need for a full investigation for National Priority List (NPL) scoring. Maps of each area were presented, indicating well locations.

Mr. Cherepon continued with an overview of the cooperative monitoring effort between TCEQ and the TWDB. He explained that this would be the third round of sampling in the Gulf Coast Aquifers region since the cooperative monitoring program was initiated. It was explained that the TWDB would be sampling mostly the same wells as in previous years, but also a number of additional wells; and also, that TCEQ would be analyzing for some additional pesticides by immunoassay. A slide of a map of the 2009 cooperative monitoring was shown to provide a view of the general sampling areas.

The immunoassay analytical method will be used for analyzing samples collected in the Panhandle monitoring at the Superfund program areas. The immunoassay kits to be used will be those for atrazine, triazine metabolites, chlorpyrifos, and 2, 4-D analyses. Enough atrazine kits will be purchased to screen not only the Panhandle samples, but also the Cooperative samples. Fewer of the non-atrazine kits will be purchased. As many as possible of the Cooperative samples will be analyzed by the non-atrazine kits; this is estimated to be from a quarter to half of all the Cooperative samples. Laboratory methods will also be used to analyze the Panhandle samples. This will include an expanded Method 525.2 analysis, which is the method typically used for the FIFRA Program samples. Two other Methods, 515.4 and 531, which analyze for 2,4-D, picloram, dicamba, aldicarb, carbaryl, and carbofuran, as well as for a number of other pesticides, will also be used.

IV. Business Items – Review and Approval of Proposed FY13 Pesticide Monitoring Plan

A draft of the monitoring plan was provided to the members of the subcommittee for their review and consideration for approval. Several questions were fielded. Dr. Wagner (TAR) asked how this year's planned monitoring compared to last year in terms

of numbers of analyses. Mr. Cherepon explained that the atrazine analytical numbers should be similar, but the number of other analyses would be different in that different pesticides will be targeted this year. For one, the triazine metabolite kit has only been available since last year. Also chlorpyrifos and 2,4-D were not run on Panhandle samples before. Some of these Superfund program sites have the potential for having a wider range of pesticides present, since one was a former aerial applicator site, and another possibly was a pesticide retail facility. The three lab methods will target a wider range of pesticides than usual. A motion was made and seconded to accept the monitoring plan which was then approved by a vote of the subcommittee.

V. Information Exchange – Status Updates

There were no announcements made at this meeting.

VI. Announcements

Mr. Cherepon had knowledge of several upcoming conferences to share with the subcommittee:

- The EPA Region 6 Pesticide meeting will be held in Oklahoma City on May 21 and 22.
- Dr. Joe Peters, Mr. Scott Underwood and Mr. Cherepon will be sampling the week of May 13-17.
- The National Groundwater Summit will be held in San Antonio at the end of April into the beginning of May.
- The Environmental Trade Fair will take place April 30th and May 1st.

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further announcements or public comment, the meeting was adjourned.

Recorded and transcribed by Alan Cherepon.

The next semiannual meeting of the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee will take place at 10:30 A.M., on the same day and the same room as the first quarterly meeting, FY14, of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee, which will take place in October of 2013, on a day yet to be determined.