

TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee
Subcommittee Charge

Date Approved

January 16, 2008

Sponsor

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC)

Chair

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Members

Participating and interested agencies and individuals.

Subcommittee Purpose

The primary goals of the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee are to:

- Test all implementation components of the Texas Pesticide Management Plan (PMP);
- Monitor groundwater quality for pesticides; and,
- Facilitate interagency communication for groundwater assessment programs addressing prevention of pesticide contamination.

The Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee will provide support for the goals and recommendations of the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* (TCEQ publication AS-188, http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf). More specifically, the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee will work in cooperation with appropriate member agencies to:

- Develop or update PMP components, identifying specific program activities and agency roles and responsibilities;
- Identify areas where groundwater quality is being impacted by pesticides;
- Coordinate member and interested agency and stakeholder input, primarily for the Texas Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) PMP Program;
- Identify appropriate best management practices to address pesticide contamination of groundwater;
- Identify new pesticide issues related to groundwater;
- Develop and support educational/outreach efforts and programs; and,
- Serve as a liaison to other state and federal agencies on pesticide-related water quality issues.

Expected Results

The Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee will:

- Accomplish the above stated goals through communication, cooperation, and support with the various state agencies on the TGPC and interested stakeholders;
- Provide support for the state's existing FIFRA PMP program; and,
- Work with the TCEQ and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to provide updated information for the PMP report submitted annually to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the FIFRA Grant.

Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee deliverables include, but are not limited to, contributing to the following efforts:

- Member agencies and stakeholder input for the Texas FIFRA PMP Program;
- Annual pesticide monitoring plan and report on previous year's activities, to be presented at the First Quarter Meeting of each fiscal year;
- Plan and support for Best Management Practice (BMP) development and education/outreach efforts;
- Interagency Pesticide Database maintenance and reporting, to be presented at the First Quarter Meeting of each fiscal year;
- Recommendations and plans for addressing the monitoring of pesticide degradates;
- Research recommendations where there is insufficient scientific data to thoroughly assess pesticide fate and transport;
- Review and comment on groundwater issues related to newly-labeled pesticides and re-registration reviews; and,
- Exploration of new technologies and new developments in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and data management related to pesticide use, water quality monitoring, and aquifer vulnerability.

Scope and Boundaries

The Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee may utilize additional staff from appropriate agencies as needed in order to address specific procedures and to maximize expertise related to its Charge. The Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee should coordinate with TCEQ program areas, contractors, and interest groups regarding the development of educational materials.

Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee members shall help establish and abide by ground rules and operating procedures and respect the autonomy of their fellow agencies. Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee meetings should be held quarterly, must meet all requirements of open meetings, and must maintain written records of all meetings.

The Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee may continue to form and/or work within Task Force working groups in order to address each of the itemized issues, as needed. These Task Force working groups shall meet as necessary in order to support the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee.

Reporting to the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

The Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee shall report on its activities at the regularly scheduled TGPC quarterly meetings.

Projected Completion Date

The Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee's continuing assessment of the state's program needs is open-ended, but it will usually provide annual reports and plans during the First Quarter Meeting of each fiscal year.