
MEMORANDUM

TO: Anson Tebbetts, Secretary
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

FROM: Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council through Razelle Hoffman-Contois and Cary Giguere

SUBJECT: Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council Staffing
Commercial Use Pesticide Information Management

DATE: February 14, 2018

Secretary Tebbetts:

For several years, the University of Vermont College of Medicine position on the Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council (Council) has stood vacant. Recently, the appointed member of the public representing environmental/health resigned to pursue higher education and the term for the appointed member of the public representing agriculture expired. As moved at the February 5, 2018 Council meeting, the Council respectfully requests that the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (Agency) collaborate with the governor's office to identify qualified candidates for these openings.

In addition, in the Council's January 2015 Focused Comments on Regulations for the Control of Pesticides submitted on February 3, 2015 to Cary Giguere for consideration by the Agency, the Council made the following recommendations related to information management. During the February 5, 2018 meeting, the Council reiterated support for these recommendations and asks that they be given priority consideration.

“Record Keeping, Maintenance and Information Management

Efforts to update and maintain the existing commercial use pesticide record keeping system/database would benefit all interested parties. Public access and a user friendly interface should be established. Data should be made available in a usable format (e.g., EXCEL) so that it may easily be obtained and worked with rather than in a static format such as pdf. Timely posting of data submitted is important. Specific reporting requirements could be included in a separate Procedure/Guidance document that is easily updated/revised as warranted and referenced in the Regulations.

It would also be very helpful to transition from requiring private applicators to keep paper records to an electronic reporting system.

The Council supports allocation of resources, including personnel knowledgeable in pesticides and data management, so that AAFM may develop and maintain such a comprehensive information management system.

While the Council is supportive of efforts to in some way capture homeowner usage, how this may be best achieved is not clear. “