

*Pesticides*

environmental perspective on the process of pesticides registration and regulation.

The Environment Minister went to the Treasury Board and gained an additional 13 person-years and \$1.5 million for 1986-87 as the first phase of a three-year concerted effort to ensure that the Department has the capacity to assess the potential impact of pesticides and to ensure that use of these products does not have undue adverse consequences for the environment.

The first phase of that program is now in place. Pesticide products now submitted for review for registration under Agriculture Canada's Pest Control Products Act are subjected to complete and comprehensive environmental reviews. Implementation of the full three-year program will make Environment Canada an effective and efficient partner in the pesticide registration process.

Environment Canada has begun the development of regulatory guidelines for pesticides. In co-operation with Agriculture Canada, the Environment Department is preparing guidelines on environmental chemistry and the fate of pesticides in the environment. In consultation with federal and provincial colleagues, Environment Canada officials are preparing guidelines for the disposal of these chemicals and their containers.

Agriculture Canada, with the co-operation and support of Environment Canada, is preparing guidelines for the registration of non-chemical pesticides that are biologically based. These guidelines, by defining the requirements for registration and by clearly defining the scientific questions that must be answered before registration of a pesticide can be considered, will allow the regulatory process to become more efficient and effective. Further, the regulatory guidelines, when published in an integrated form, can define for the public the criteria used in the evaluation of pesticides. Development of the guidelines will continue over the years until a complete and comprehensive set of instructions defining the full spectrum of environmental requirements is completed.

While the initial registration process for pesticides is a very important component of the management of these chemical products in Canada, it is equally important that the regulatory process have the capacity and flexibility to re-evaluate older products and to reconsider precautions and restrictions put in place in the past. Older regulatory decisions must be reviewed in the light of new information and new advances in science and technology in order to ensure that the use of pesticides continues to meet modern standards of environmental safety. This re-evaluation process, led by Agriculture Canada under its Pest Control Products Act, is in place. To serve the re-evaluation process, the Minister of the Environment has implemented a co-ordinated national research and monitoring program which will provide the necessary environmental data to undertake regulatory re-evaluation. This is, in effect, an early warning system which will allow preventive action to be taken before significant environmental contamination can occur.

The research and monitoring program conducted in close co-operation with provincial agencies will determine the actual presence, levels and trends of pesticides in the environment and will also define their fate and effects. The first phase of this research and monitoring program is under way. This year, Environment Canada has, in co-operation with its federal and provincial colleagues, established a municipal water testing and survey program in Atlantic Canada. In Prince Edward Island, the Department of the Environment, in co-operation with the provincial Government, is assessing the fate and impact of pesticide use in both ground water and surface waters.

We have signed agreements with Newfoundland, Quebec and British Columbia to implement a federal-provincial index station network to provide data on water quality and the future measurement of trends in water quality in major river basins within these provinces. Environment Canada hopes to expand this network to encompass major river basins in all regions of Canada.

In the area of wildlife, Environment Canada is developing methods to measure the persistence of low-level pesticide residues in birds of prey such as peregrine falcons. The Department is also conducting assessments of the impact of forest pesticide use on song birds and other wildlife.

In concert with the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers, Environment Canada is preparing water quality guidelines which will include acceptable maximum levels of pesticides in water intended for various uses.

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In the regional offices of Environment Canada inventories of pesticide use will be employed to identify specific products of regional concern and to identify environmental locales and wildlife populations which are particularly sensitive to environmental contamination so that appropriate precautions can be taken to protect them. Agreements and protocols for sharing this information have been reached between Environment Canada and many of its provincial counterparts.

At Environment Canada's National Water Research Institute in Burlington, Ontario, methodologies are being developed which will allow detection of minute residues of specific pesticides in the environment and allow an even earlier analysis of effects of these pesticides on aquatic organisms.

The Department's Atmospheric Environment Service has undertaken a program to determine the precautions necessary to minimize the drift of pesticides during their use. The service has also initiated an analysis to determine the importance of atmospheric transport of pesticides in contributing to environment pollution.

This list of accomplishments, by no means complete, represents the beginning of Environment Canada's renewed efforts in assessing the state of the environment and in defining