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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PESTICIDE PROGRAM DIALOGUE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

11:00 a.m.

DAY 1

1 PESTICIDE PROGRAM DIALOGUE COMMITTEE ROSTER

2 May 2023

3 NAME

AFFILIATION

4 User/Grower Groups/ Farmer Representatives

5 Amy Asmus

Weed Science Society of
6 America

7 Jim Fredericks

National Pest Management
8 Association

9 Mark Johnson

Golf Course Superintendents
10 Association of America

11 Patrick Johnson

National Cotton Council

12 Dominic LaJoie

National Potato Council

13 Lauren Lurkins

Illinois Farm Bureau

14 Tim Lust

National Sorghum Producers

15 Bob Mann

National Association of
16 Landscape Professionals

17 Gary Prescher

National Corn Growers
18 Association

19 Caleb Ragland

National Soybean Association

20 Damon Reabe

National Agricultural
21 Aviation Association

22 John Wise

IR-4 Project

23

24

25

1	NAME	AFFILIATION
2	Environmental/	Public Interest/ Animal Welfare Groups
3	Nathan Donley	Center for Biological
4		Diversity
5	Jessica Ponder	Physicians Committee for
6		Responsible Medicine
7	David Shaw	Mississippi State University
8	Alexis Temkin	Environmental Working Group
9		Alternatives to Pesticides
10		
11	Farmworker Representatives	
12	Becca Berkey	Community-Engaged Teaching
13		and Research Program
14		Northeastern University
15	Lauren Dana	Legal Aid Chicago
16	Mayra Reiter	Farmworker Justice
17	Mily Treviño-Sauceda	Alianza Nacional de
18		Campesinas, Inc.
19		
20	Public Health Representatives	
21	Joseph Grzywacz	Department of Family and
22		Child Sciences Florida State
23		University
24	Aaron Lloyd	Lee County Mosquito Control
25		District

1	NAME	AFFILIATION
2	Marc Lame	Indiana University's O'Neill
3		School of Public and
4		Environmental Affairs
5		
6	Chemical and Biopesticides Industry/Trade	
7	Associations	
8	Manojit Basu	CropLife America
9	Steven Bennett	Household and Commercial
10		Products Association
11	Lisa Dreilinger	Reckitt Benckiser
12	Keith Jones	Biological Products Industry
13		Alliance
14	Karen Reardon	RISE, Responsible Industry
15		for a Sound Environment
16	Charlotte Sanson	ADAMA
17	Anastasia Swearingen	American Chemistry Council
18		
19	State/Local/Tribal Government	
20	Jasmine Brown	Tribal Pesticide Program
21		Council
22	Dawn Gouge	Arizona Experiment Station
23		University of Arizona
24		
25		

1	NAME	AFFILIATION
2	Megan Patterson	Maine Department of
3		Agriculture, Conservation
4		and Forestry
5	Dave Tamayo	County of Sacramento
6		Department of Water
7		Resources
8	Wendy Sue Wheeler	Pesticide Resources and
9		Education Program,
10		Washington State University
11		
12	Federal Agencies	
13	Walter Alarcon	National Institute for
14		Occupational Safety and
15		Health Centers for Disease
16		Control and Prevention
17	Cameron Douglass	Office of Pest Management
18		Policy, US Department of
19		Agriculture
20	Charlotte Liang	Division of Plant Products
21		and Beverages, US Food and
22		Drug Administration
23	Ed Messina (Chair)	Office of Pesticide Programs
24		Environmental Protection
25		Agency

1	NAME	AFFILIATION
2	Cathy Tortorici	Endangered Species Act
3		Interagency Cooperation
4		Division
5		National Oceanic and
6		Atmospheric Agency

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 DAY ONE - MAY 31, 2023

3 MEETING WELCOME

4 THOMAS TRACY: All righty. Well, welcome
5 everybody to this public meeting of the Pesticide
6 Program Dialogue Committee. I am Tom Tracy, serving
7 as the Designated Federal Officer for this meeting.
8 I'm currently the DFO for a couple of other EPA
9 committees.

10 This meeting is being held in accordance
11 with Federal Advisory Committee Act rules and
12 guidelines. Most importantly, a Federal Register
13 notice was published, and there is time for public
14 comment today.

15 So we are officially underway, and with
16 that, I'd like to kick it off with Danny Giddings.

17 Thank you.

18 ZOOM SUPPORT: Daniel, give it another 20
19 or 30 seconds. We've still got people filing in.

20 DANNY GIDDINGS: Sure.

21 ZOOM SUPPORT: Thanks.

22 DANNY GIDDINGS: For everyone that has
23 already joined the webinar, we're giving folks,
24 members of the public, and any interested folks time
25 to log in to the webinar. It takes just a moment

1 for everyone to get into the webinar room. So just
2 heads up, that's what's happening.

3 (Pause)

4 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Tom. Thank
5 you, Jackie. Hello, everyone and welcome. I think
6 we have everyone in the webinar room. A warm
7 welcome to members of the public, Federal Advisory
8 Council members, workgroup members, EPA, and other
9 agency staff. This is Day 1 of the May 2023
10 Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee, or PPDC, as
11 I'm going to be calling it for the rest of the two
12 days' meeting.

13 My name is Danny Giddings. I will be your
14 moderator for the next couple of days. I do want to
15 go over some quick housekeeping items as we get
16 started today.

17 We're all accustomed to Zoom by now, so
18 for the sake of time, I'm just going to focus on the
19 trickier aspects of today's webinar. However, if
20 you have any technical questions over the next
21 couple of days, you can please just email Michelle
22 Arling at arling.michelle@epa.gov. That's A-R-L-I-
23 N-G-M-I-C-H-E-L-L-E@epa.gov, or you can call (202)
24 566-1260. Again, (202) 566-1260.

25 The first thing I want to do is to draw

1 your attention to the interpretation button at the
2 bottom panel of your Zoom window to the right of
3 your screen. Regardless of your preferred language,
4 you need to click on that button and select either
5 English or Spanish and mute original audio to be
6 able to fully participate in the meeting. This is
7 going to place you either in the Spanish channel or
8 the English channel. And as we anticipate a
9 bilingual meeting today, it's very important that
10 you choose one of these channels.

11 For our Spanish-speaking colleagues, I'll
12 now turn it over to our interpreter, Jacqueline, who
13 will provide these instructions in Spanish in the
14 main channel.

15 (Spanish translation.)

16 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Jacqueline.

17 And a note to our team on the back end,
18 Jacqueline will now be going to the Spanish Channel.

19 And I also want to mention, as you can see
20 on the slide, that EPA is providing ASL and CART
21 services today. That is American Sign Language and
22 CART services. For those who require that service,
23 we're -- I'm going a little off script here from
24 what's on this slide. But for those who require
25 those services, you'll want to find your provider,

1 the video of your provider. Those providers, those
2 interpreters have their video enabled right now, and
3 you'll find them and you'll go to the ellipses at
4 the top right of their thumbnail, and you'll click
5 "pin." This will pin them to your screen. So you
6 have access and can see them regardless of who else
7 is talking in the webinar, and it will do that on
8 your specific computer and not everyone else's.

9 So again, go to the ellipses at the top
10 right of their thumbnail, click it, and then choose
11 "pin." That's going to pin them to your display on
12 your laptop so you can see them.

13 All right. You can go to the next slide.
14 And we're going to talk about just some very general
15 Zoom things. And as you look at the slide, I'm
16 going to speak directly to the PPDC and workgroup
17 co-chairs who are designated as panelists in the
18 Zoom meeting that they can request to be recognized
19 during the discussion sessions by using the raise
20 hand function and can unmute themselves and activate
21 their webcams after being called upon.

22 We have around 50 panelists during the
23 meeting, including PPDC and workgroup members, as
24 well as EPA staff. So that means it's really
25 important that if you're one of those folks, that

1 you remain muted with your webcam off unless you're
2 recognized to speak. And, of course, there's going
3 to be dynamic, active discussion throughout the next
4 two days, so this is just going to keep everything
5 as orderly as possible and keep the bandwidth
6 requirements down.

7 A conversation should only take place
8 orally. The chat function is going to be used only
9 to contact meeting hosts, and I'll add a note that
10 the chat function is only enabled for panelists and
11 hosts. So the public can contact the hosts and
12 panelists by using the Q&A function.

13 Today's meeting is being recorded for the
14 purpose of having meeting transcripts produced.
15 Because we are recording and because we have
16 multiple types of live interpretation happening for
17 today's meeting, we ask that all presenters speak
18 slowly and clearly to ensure everyone can understand
19 participate fully in the meeting. That includes me.
20 And so I am going to be reminding myself and all of
21 our other speakers today to speak both slowly and
22 clearly, so everyone can participate.

23 We can go to the next slide and talk about
24 -- well, actually go two slides in and we'll talk
25 about discussion periods. So if you're a member of

1 the public, unless you indicated interest in
2 providing oral comments when you registered for
3 today's public meeting, you will be in listening
4 mode for the duration of the event. If you did not
5 pre-register for comment, you may still email
6 Michelle Arling or use the raise hand function once
7 we get to the public comment period at the end of
8 the day, and we'll do our best to recognize you
9 during the public comment sessions on each day of
10 the meeting after we recognize those who have
11 already signed up to make public comments in
12 advance.

13 Again, you can email Michelle Arling at
14 the email address that I spelled out before. That's
15 Arling.Michelle -- with two Ls -- @EPA.gov to get on
16 the list. I think currently we have two confirmed
17 speakers at the end of the day today. So we'll be
18 trying to get to those folks who pre-registered
19 first, and then we'll go on to anyone who signed up
20 during the day today.

21 And, finally, as a disclaimer, I am going
22 to recognize members of the PPDC and the public for
23 comments. And when I do that, I will do my best to
24 correctly pronounce all your names. I apologize
25 ahead of time if I mispronounce your name, and I ask

1 that you please, please, please do correct me in the
2 case that I do, and I will correct it going forward.
3 I've got some notes here, so I can write
4 pronunciation notes down as we go.

5 So before we introduce the panel members
6 and walk through the agenda, I want to kick it to Ed
7 Messina, Director of the Office of Pesticide
8 Programs and your PPDC chair, to give a welcome.

9 Ed?

10 ED MESSINA: Thanks so much, Danny. And
11 thanks and welcome to everyone who's joined today,
12 over 200 folks currently in the Zoom call. And
13 really thank you for joining us to talk about really
14 important issues that the PPDC has identified and
15 also issues related to our mission here in the
16 Office of Pesticide Programs.

17 As Danny's going to discuss in a moment,
18 we have a full agenda based on input from PPDC
19 members for today and tomorrow. And I want to talk
20 briefly about the background of PPDC in my opening
21 remarks and then also its purpose, as well as many
22 of the workgroups and folks that have provided their
23 time to help with these workgroups. And then
24 Danny's going to go into a roll call for the PPDC
25 members after we do this brief welcome, and then I

1 will talk a little bit about OPP priorities, and
2 then we'll go into the rest of the agenda for it for
3 today.

4 So just to refresh why we're all here
5 today and the purpose of PPDC, as mentioned at the
6 beginning, the PPDC is a federal advisory committee.
7 It was formed in 1995 under the FACA statute that
8 Congress passed in 1972 to create a procedure that
9 federal agencies could seek collective advice from
10 diverse customers, partners, and stakeholders. So
11 the FACA establishes procedures for the management
12 of the federal advisory committees, ensures
13 transparency of those advisory committees in
14 decision-making, and also needs to ensure balanced
15 representation.

16 We also know that PPDC supports the EPA in
17 performing its duties under the many statutes that
18 Congress has provided for our implementation, the
19 Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act,
20 the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, amendments
21 to both by the Food Quality Protection Act, and then
22 the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act, which I
23 will talk a little bit about later in the morning.
24 And then, in terms of the charter, the objectives
25 and scopes, a scope of activities related to the

1 PPDC charter, you know, our Office of Pesticide
2 Programs is entrusted with the responsibilities of
3 ensuring that Americans are not exposed to unsafe
4 levels of pesticides in food, protecting Americans
5 from unreasonable risk, educating pesticide
6 applicators and others who may be exposed to
7 pesticides and protecting the environment,
8 especially ecosystems and wildlife from the
9 potential risks posed by pesticides.

10 The PPDC is a policy-oriented committee
11 that provides policy advice, information,
12 recommendations to EPA, and also is a cooperative
13 public forum to collaboratively discuss all of the
14 wide variety of pesticide regulatory topics that
15 come up in this great space. The policies are
16 certainly evolving and there's new initiatives and
17 initiatives that the agency has been working on for
18 some time, and so understanding how OPP's pesticide
19 work relates to environmental justice and climate
20 change and pollinator protection and endangered
21 species are all really important topics that we
22 thank PPDC members for engaging in.

23 So with this background, I also wanted to
24 give a little bit of information on some of the
25 things that have been happening in the background

1 recently. And we are doing this meeting remote, but
2 our hope is to have the next one in person, and I'll
3 talk a little bit about that. And, in addition,
4 we've had a couple of Designated Federal Officials
5 going -- within OPP, sort of coming and going. And
6 so the communication to PPDC members has sort of
7 been happening in bits and starts.

8 So I want to thank Tom Tracy, who
9 introduced himself at the beginning, if you weren't
10 able to hear, as our represented Designated Federal
11 Official for this meeting from Office of Mission
12 Support, OMS, and we're happy to have him as our
13 Designated Federal Official today.

14 And there was a time where we didn't have
15 a DFO, which created some constraints for us talking
16 with the PPDC members and letting them know what
17 sort of was happening. As folks know, we had to
18 cancel the Fall 2022 PPDC meeting based on the loss
19 of our DFO. And also sort of resources and standing
20 up a meeting, the amount of time that folks, Danny
21 and Michelle and others, Troy, and folks that have
22 put this meeting together, it really takes a village
23 with all the IT and our interpreters. So I want to
24 thank everyone in advance for being able to pull
25 this meeting off today, and also know that we were

1 hoping to pull off the Fall 2022 meeting, but we
2 just didn't have the resources. We didn't have a
3 DFO. And I understand the frustrations that might
4 have ensued for our inability to kind of pull that
5 off.

6 We also were hoping to have this meeting
7 in person and we -- given the resources in pulling
8 off a meeting, we really decided we were going to
9 just try to do one more virtual. So we ensured we
10 were having a meeting in May, which we're doing
11 today. And one of the reasons that we are not able
12 to have sort of this in person for this meeting is
13 just travel budgets. We pay for many of the costs
14 for PPDC members to travel, so we had been under a
15 pre-COVID travel budget. We're starting to get more
16 funds devoted towards travel as things are opening
17 up. But we just didn't have the travel dollars to
18 provide those resources to the PPDC members.

19 We -- and also being able to logistically
20 pull off an in-person meeting, you know, for
21 bringing people together and all the other folks
22 that would need to be on board, you know, for hotel
23 rooms and bookings and ethics forms and sort of
24 meeting space.

25 But I'm happy to announce that we are

1 having the PPDC Fall meeting on November 15th and
2 16th, 2023, and that will be held in person at
3 Washington, D.C.'s headquarters. So we will be
4 reaching out, as we have with this meeting, to let
5 folks know about those resources and get that
6 scheduled. So barring any major changes, we're
7 going to have the Fall PPDC meeting in person, and I
8 am looking forward to seeing folks in person at that
9 meeting.

10 In terms of topics, members can always
11 nominate topics for the next meeting in the ways
12 that you've nominated topics for this meeting, and
13 there's some time on the agenda at the end of this
14 meeting to talk about the future meeting and what
15 topics might be of interest to PPDC members, and
16 also, as we have done in this case, we will reach
17 out in advance of this meeting and solicit input on
18 potential topics.

19 Also, at any time, PPDC members can email
20 Michelle and our staff to nominate topics that you'd
21 like to hear about, either as part of my OPP update,
22 which is what we're going to talk about later this
23 morning, or specific topics where we'd like to do a
24 deeper dive.

25 The other thing that I wanted to address

1 is sort of the workgroup formation. I know there's
2 been some questions about which groups -- workgroups
3 were formed, which ones are going ahead, which ones
4 are being sunsetted. And there is some discussion
5 on today's agenda for that, but, briefly, the way
6 workgroups are formed is, you know, there's --
7 basically, we have sub-workgroups for the major PPDC
8 FACA, and that's outlined in the Charter in terms of
9 how they're formed.

10 And so some of the requirements are that
11 the subcommittees of the workgroups may not work
12 independently of the chartered committee and need to
13 report out their recommendations, which we're having
14 some folks report out today for full deliberation of
15 the PPDC membership, and the subcommittees have no
16 authority to make decisions on behalf of the
17 chartered committee, nor can they report directly to
18 the EPA. So we use this mechanism and agenda to
19 have those sub-workgroups report out to the full
20 PPDC members.

21 And as happened in the last meeting where
22 we met in the fall, PPDC members can make
23 suggestions for potential workgroups during the
24 meeting there. There isn't an official process for
25 forming the suggested workgroups, but just in terms

1 of outlining sort of how it happens, you know,
2 generally, the decision to form a workgroup depends
3 on several factors, so including whether there's
4 similar work being done by other outside groups
5 within EPA or outside EPA, the resources for EPA to
6 sort of staff some of these workgroups, and the
7 interest of other PPDC members or other interested
8 individuals for kind of staffing the workgroups that
9 were formed, and then bringing that to the full
10 PPDC.

11 And so the workgroup membership is open to
12 PPDC members and the members of the public. All the
13 workgroups are formed under the FACA or Federal
14 Advisory Committees, and they cannot include 50
15 percent or more of the total Advisory Committee
16 membership. That's one of the requirements.

17 So that means that there may not be more
18 than 19 PPDC members on a workgroup. This limit
19 applies to all Federal Advisory Committee workgroups
20 to ensure that the discussions involving the
21 majority of the Advisory Committee members are held
22 in the public forum, like we are doing today,
23 because the workgroup meetings are not subject to
24 the same requirements or meeting information as the
25 Federal Advisory Committee, like PPDC as a whole.

1 There's no limit on the number of people
2 who participate in a PPDC workgroup beyond the
3 restriction of the PPDC members. Generally, folks
4 that have been co-chairs of the groups, you know,
5 sort of an outside person and an internal EPA
6 person, have sort of limited that to 20. But there
7 is no limit. It's really up to the chairs of that
8 sub-workgroup.

9 And then, in terms of what workgroups were
10 formed, just a refresher, there were workgroups
11 formed in 2020 that started working in 2020. These
12 groups explored various charge questions on topics
13 of emerging viral pathogens, emerging agricultural
14 technologies. There was a farmworker and clinician
15 training sub-workgroup. There was a pesticide
16 resistance management workgroup.

17 These are all really important areas for
18 OPP and a lot of great work came out of those sub-
19 workgroups and was taken up by the last PPDC meeting
20 in October. And then at the PPDC meeting in October
21 of 2021, the four workgroups reported out on the
22 work they had done over the preceding year and
23 addressed the various charge questions. They also
24 submitted recommendations to the full PPDC, which
25 PPDC discussed and then sent forward as

1 recommendations to the agency, which is the similar
2 process that we will follow today and tomorrow. And
3 the reports and presentations, and all the agendas
4 can be found on the PPDC website that has all of the
5 prior agendas, transcripts, and report-outs.

6 So currently, there are two active PPDC
7 workgroups that are going to report their activities
8 during our meeting today, the Emerging Agricultural
9 Technologies Workgroup and the Emerging Viral
10 Pathogens Workgroup.

11 A new workgroup, the Resistance Management
12 Workgroup Number 2 was formed to handle three charge
13 topics that came out of the original Resistance
14 Management Workgroup's report. That was approved by
15 the PPDC and sent to EPA. And this workgroup is
16 currently seeking members, and they are going to
17 report on their initial efforts tomorrow.

18 And then at the last PPDC meeting, the
19 PPDC suggested that a Label Reform Workgroup be
20 formed. The Workgroup's co-chairs will be
21 presenting their vision for the workgroup and
22 providing information on how to join during
23 tomorrow's session for that workgroup.

24 And then, during the Spring 2022 PPDC
25 meeting, two additional workgroups were suggested,

1 one focusing on environmental justice and new
2 approach methods and one focused on integrated pest
3 management related to environmental justice, climate
4 change, and biodiversity.

5 These workgroups have not been formed for
6 a couple of reasons that I'll cover during the OPP
7 update, and, also, as information is provided in the
8 agenda on environmental justice-related activities,
9 we have an entire session on that. But, generally,
10 we've had significant engagement on environmental
11 justice work, and you're going to hear about all of
12 that work. And there were papers provided to the
13 PPDC members on all of our environmental justice
14 work.

15 And we've been engaged separately with
16 another FACA group called the National Environmental
17 Justice and Advisory Council, or NEJAC, and there
18 were several charge questions presented to that
19 group are related to some of the PRIA 5 work for
20 bilingual labeling. So we've had a fair engagement
21 on environmental justice as a topic for the other
22 FACA, which is why we don't really have a currently
23 formed workgroup in this PPDC FACA, but that's okay
24 because we are continuing to work on that really
25 important topic. And so that -- all that activity

1 is to be highlighted at the scheduled sessions
2 today, and then, similarly, for -- for today and
3 tomorrow.

4 And then, for IPM, the agency has been
5 engaging with industry and academia through meetings
6 and webinars on the implementation benefits of IPM
7 separately outside of the PPDC. So that's the
8 reason why that workgroup hasn't -- hadn't been
9 formed, because of the other engagement that was
10 happening elsewhere.

11 So, you know, in addition to the workgroup
12 updates on the agenda David is going to go through
13 after we go through the roll call, we're really
14 excited to share OPP's Environmental Justice
15 Endangered Species Act activities and engage in
16 discussions on those topics. These are topics that
17 the PPDC members had suggested. And for those
18 agenda items where we don't have a full agenda topic
19 around, we have added information in my OPP update,
20 which we'll get to earlier in the morning, and those
21 slides will be available.

22 And, of course, many of the OPP updates
23 that are coming out almost on a daily basis are
24 showing all the incredible work that Office of
25 Pesticide Programs is engaged in on various topics

1 that is of interest to PPDC members and the public.

2 So I am really looking forward to the
3 discussions today with the committees' help and the
4 subcommittees, and I thank you for joining, for
5 taking time out of your busy day and listening in on
6 this session.

7 And with that, I will pass it back to
8 Danny for committee member introductions, agenda,
9 and the rest of the meeting. So thank you.

10 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Ed. So really
11 quick, as Ed mentioned, this morning's business is
12 OPP updates. We'll break for lunch at 12:45. This
13 afternoon's business is Emerging Agricultural and
14 Technologies Workgroup update and then an update on
15 our equity and environmental justice work, including
16 PRIA 5 implementation. We'll have a public comment
17 period at the end of the day, and then we'll do our
18 best to adjourn at 5:00.

19 PPDC MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

20 ED MESSINA: So let's now do some PPDC
21 member introductions. I will call in alphabetical
22 order by first name. The list of members will be
23 shown on screen. When I call your name, please
24 unmute your microphone, activate your webcam, tell
25 us your name, your role, the organization or group

1 you represent, and their mission. As a reminder,
2 please mute your microphone and turn off your webcam
3 when you are finished.

4 So let's start with Alexis Temkin.

5 ALEXIS TEMKIN: Yeah, hi, my name is
6 Alexis Temkin. I'm with the Environmental Working
7 Group and our mission organization is to protect
8 public health when it comes to pesticides and other
9 environmental contaminants found in food, drinking
10 water, and personal care products.

11 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Alexis.

12 Amy Asmus.

13 AMY ASMUS: There we go. Good morning.
14 My name is Amy Asmus. I'm one of the principal
15 owners of Asmus Farm Supply, an ag retailer in
16 Northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota. I'm also a
17 certified crop advisor and part of our family
18 farming operation.

19 I was nominated by the Weed Science
20 Society of America to PPDC. And their mission is --
21 I had to look it up -- the Weed Science Society of
22 America is a nonprofit professional society,
23 promotes, research, education and extension outreach
24 activities related to weeds, provides science-based
25 information to the public and policymakers and

1 fosters awareness of weeds and their impacts on
2 managed and natural ecosystems.

3 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Amy.

4 Anastasia Swearingen.

5 ANASTASIA SWEARINGEN: Hi, I am Anastasia
6 Swearingen, the Executive Director of the American
7 Chemistry Council Center for Biocide Chemistries.
8 We represent registrants of antimicrobial products,
9 dealing with registration issues and ensuring that
10 these products remain on the market for safe use by
11 all users.

12 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Anastasia.

13 Aaron Lloyd.

14 (No response.)

15 DANNY GIDDINGS: Aaron Lloyd, are you with
16 us?

17 (No response.)

18 DANNY GIDDINGS: All right. We'll move
19 on.

20 Becca Berkey.

21 BECCA BERKEY: Hello, everyone, I'm Becca
22 Berkey. I'm at Northeastern University in Boston,
23 Massachusetts, but here representing the Farmworker
24 Health and Justice Team of Coming Clean, and their
25 mission is to campaign for better working

1 conditions, stronger health and safety regulations,
2 and reduce toxic chemical exposures for farmworkers.

3 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Becca.

4 Bob Mann.

5 BOB MANN: Good morning, everyone, Bob
6 Mann. I'm with the National Association of
7 Landscape Professionals. Good to see everyone.

8 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Bob.

9 Caleb Raglan.

10 (No response.)

11 DANNY GIDDINGS: Caleb?

12 (No response.)

13 DANNY GIDDINGS: All right. Let's move
14 on.

15 Cameron Douglass.

16 CAMERON DOUGLASS: Hi, good morning,
17 everyone. Cameron Douglass. I'm with the USDA's
18 Office of Pest Management Policy. Among other
19 roles, we coordinate -- represent the views, rather,
20 of specialty and minor crop producers to EPA and
21 other federal regulatory agencies as part of -- on
22 pest management issues.

23 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Cameron.

24 I'll note that Cathy Tortorici has since
25 retired since the last meeting. You'll see her name

1 here, but she will not be joining us today.

2 Charlotte Liang.

3 CHARLOTTE LIANG: Good morning, everyone.

4 My name is Charlotte Liang. I'm a chemist with the
5 U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food
6 Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Safety. Our
7 mission is to protect and promote public health. We
8 monitor pesticide residues in food and enforce EPA's
9 pesticide tolerances. I work on policy issues
10 related to pesticide residues in human food.

11 I'm glad to be here. Thank you.

12 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Charlotte.

13 Charlotte Sanson.

14 CHARLOTTE SANSON: Hi, good morning. My
15 name is Charlotte Sanson. I'm head of North America
16 Regulatory Affairs and Sustainability for ADAMA.
17 We're a global pesticide manufacturer that provides
18 crop protection tools to satisfy the pest needs of
19 growers.

20 Thanks so much. I'm happy to be here.

21 DANNY GIDDINGS: Appreciate it, Charlotte.

22 Damon Reabe.

23 DAMON REABE: Good morning. My name is

24 Damon Reabe. I'm an aerial applicator here in

25 Wisconsin, as well as an aerial application company

1 business owner. I'm representing the National
2 Agricultural Aviation Association, and our mission
3 is to promote the safety through education of aerial
4 applicators themselves, as well as educate the
5 public and lawmakers on the important role that
6 aerial application plays in providing a safe and
7 abundant food supply, as well as fibers and
8 biofuels.

9 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Damon.

10 Dave Tamayo.

11 (No response.)

12 DANNY GIDDINGS: Dave Tamayo.

13 (No response.)

14 DANNY GIDDINGS: I'll move on.

15 I hear that David Shaw is present and
16 listening in, though he's not at a place where he
17 can chime in right now. So we'll mark him as
18 present, and move on to Dawn Gouge.

19 DAWN GOUGE: Good morning, everybody. I'm
20 Dawn Gouge. I'm a medical entomologist and an IPM
21 specialist for the University of Arizona. I'm
22 Representing the National Environmental Health
23 Association today and tomorrow, and that association
24 supports the environmental health workers of the
25 nation.

1 Thank you.

2 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Dawn.

3 Dominic Lajoie.

4 DOMINIC LAJOIE: Hey, good morning,
5 everybody. My name's Dominic LaJoie. I'm a potato
6 farmer from Maine, representing the National Potato
7 Council. The National Potato Council is committed
8 to providing a unified voice for the U.S. potato
9 industry on national legislative, regulatory,
10 environmental, and trade issues.

11 Thank you.

12 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Dominic.

13 Gary Prescher.

14 GARY PRESCHER: Good morning, everyone.
15 I'm Gary Prescher. I live and farm in South Central
16 Minnesota. I represent the National Corn Growers
17 Association, and our mission is to create and
18 increase opportunities for corn growers.

19 Nice to be here with you all.

20 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Gary. Nice to
21 have you.

22 Gretchen Paluch.

23 GRETCHEN PALUCH: Good morning. I
24 currently work for the Iowa Department of
25 Agriculture and Land Stewardship as the Pesticide

1 Bureau Chief. I'm here today to represent the
2 American Association of Pest Control Officials,
3 AAPCO, and the mission of AAPCO is to represent
4 states in development, implementation, and
5 communication of sound public policies and programs
6 related to the sale, use, transport, and disposal of
7 pesticides.

8 Thank you.

9 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you.

10 Jasmine Brown.

11 JASMIN COURVILLE-BROWN: Good morning,
12 everyone. I am Jasmine Courville-Brown. I am the
13 Chairman of the Tribal Pesticide Program Council.
14 We're a national grassroots organization. We deal
15 with pesticide issues across the board and we offer
16 regenerative and companion planting solutions.

17 Thank you.

18 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Jasmine. Good
19 to have you.

20 Jessica Ponder.

21 JESSICA PONDER: Good morning, everyone.

22 My name is Dr. Jessica Ponder. I am with the
23 Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine where
24 I am a Ph.D. toxicologist. We advocate for the
25 improvement of public health and saving human and

1 animal lives through more efficient, more effective,
2 and more ethical safety testing.

3 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Jessica.

4 Jim Fredericks.

5 JIM FREDERICKS: Hi, everyone. I'm Jim
6 Fredericks, the Senior Vice President for Public
7 Policy with the National Pest Management
8 Association. NPMA represents pest management
9 professionals who work every day to protect food,
10 property, and public health from pests like
11 mosquitoes, ticks, rodents, bed bugs, and termites
12 in homes and businesses all across the country

13 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Jim.

14 Joseph Grzywacz.

15 JOE GRZYWACZ: Hey, good morning,
16 everybody. My name is Joe Grzywacz. I'm a faculty
17 member at Florida State University. I was nominated
18 by the Farmworker Association of Florida given my 25
19 years of research conducting pesticide exposure
20 research with immigrant farmworkers.

21 It's nice to be here.

22 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Joe.

23 John Wise.

24 JOHN WISE: Good morning, everybody. I'm
25 John Wise. I'm a Professor of Entomology at

1 Michigan State University, but I'm also involved in
2 the IR-4 Project, which I represent here with you.
3 And the IR-4 Project is a USDA-NIFA-funded
4 nationwide program that assists in gathering the
5 data necessary to register pesticides for food crops
6 and environmental horticulture crops and working
7 with registrants in the USDA.

8 Thank you.

9 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, John.

10 Karen Reardon.

11 KAREN REARDON: Hi, everyone. I am Karen
12 Reardon, Vice President of Public Affairs for the
13 trade association, Responsible Industry for a Sound
14 Environment, and we represent the manufacturers of
15 products that are applied by consumers and
16 professionals.

17 Thanks.

18 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Karen.

19 Keith Jones.

20 KEITH JONES: Good morning. I'm Keith
21 Jones, Executive Director of BPIA. BPIA is the
22 Biological Products Industry Alliance. We're the
23 association representing the reduced risk for the
24 biopesticides industry. Our mission is advancing
25 sustainability through biological solutions.

1 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Keith.

2 Lisa Drellinger.

3 LISA DRELLINGER: Hi, good morning, Lisa
4 Drellinger, Head of Regulatory for the Americas,
5 Consumer for Arxada. We are a global leader in
6 microbial control.

7 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Lisa.

8 You'll see Lauren Dana's name on the
9 slide. She's no longer with Legal Aid Chicago and
10 so will not be joining us today.

11 Lauren Larkins is still on PPDC; however,
12 is not available today.

13 So we'll go to Mano Basu.

14 MANO BASU: Thank you, Daniel. Mano Basu.

15 Good morning, everyone. I'm the Vice President,
16 Science Policy, at Croplife America. We represent
17 the developers, manufacturers, formulators, and
18 distributors of pesticide and plant science
19 solutions for agriculture and pest management in the
20 United States. We were established in 1933. So we
21 are celebrating our 90th anniversary this year.

22 CLA's member companies produce, sell, and distribute
23 virtually all the pesticide and biotechnology
24 products used by the American farmer.

25 Thank you, Daniel.

1 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Mono.

2 Marc Lame.

3 MARC LAME: Good morning. I'm Marc Lame.

4 I'm an entomologist with Indiana University School
5 of Public and Environmental Affairs. I'm
6 representing the public health portion of the FACA
7 and specialize in reducing the health risks
8 associated with pests and pesticides with the
9 implementation of integrated pest management.

10 DANNY GIDDINGS: Great. Thank you, Marc.

11 Mark Johnson.

12 MARK JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

13 I'm Mark Johnson, GCSAA, Golf Course
14 Superintendent's Association of America's Director
15 of Environmental Programs, representing our members
16 today whose mission is to serve our members, advance
17 their profession, and improve communities through
18 the enjoyment, growth, and vitality of the game of
19 golf.

20 Thank you, everyone, for this hard work in
21 putting this on.

22 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Marc.

23 Mayra Reiter.

24 MAYRA REITER: Good morning, everyone.

25 I'm Mayra Reiter, Project Director for Occupational

1 Safety and Health, with Farmworker Justice.
2 Farmworker Justice is a nonprofit that works to
3 empower migrants and seasonal farmworkers to improve
4 their living and working conditions, immigration
5 status, health, occupational safety, and access to
6 justice.

7 Thank you.

8 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you.

9 Mily Trevino-Sauceda.

10 MILY TREVINO-SAUCEDA: Good morning. My
11 name is Mily Trevino-Sauceda, and I represent
12 Alianza Nacional de Campesinas. I am the Executive
13 Director and cofounder of Alianza, and we created
14 this farmworker women's movement since the late
15 '80s. I always say I was five years old. No, I'm
16 kidding.

17 The mission of Alianza, which is a 15-
18 organization -- farmworker organization across 20
19 states, we're representing more than 800,000
20 farmworker women. Our mission is to unify the
21 struggle to promote farmworker women's leadership in
22 a national movement to create broader visibility and
23 advocate for changes that ensure our human rights as
24 farmworkers and women.

25 And as an organization by and for

1 campensinas organizing, we're organizing our
2 communities for labor standards, that center around
3 worker health and safety for immigrant and migrant
4 justice and for an end to gender-based violence. We
5 still have a lot of issues there. We work at the
6 intersection of gender, migrant labor, and climate
7 justice. We work for sustainable and healthy
8 communities where campensinas and their families can
9 live a better life. We have -- as many already
10 know, we have been marginalized and exploited in
11 many ways, and to top it off, the issues of
12 pesticides.

13 So this is me representing the farmworker
14 women. Thank you.

15 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you so much for
16 being here, Mily.

17 Nathan Donley.

18 NATHAN DONLEY: Hey there. My name is
19 Nathan Donley. I'm the Science Director for the
20 Environmental Health Program at Center for
21 Biological Diversity, and our mission is to advocate
22 for public and environmental health protections from
23 pesticides and other harmful pollutants.

24 Thanks.

25 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Nathan.

1 Patrick Johnson.

2 PATRICK JOHNSON: My name is Patrick
3 Johnson, and I farm in the Mississippi Delta, row
4 crops, cotton, rice, corn, soybeans, and wheat, and
5 I'm representing the National Cotton Council, which
6 represents the seven segments of the U.S. cotton
7 industry, ranging from producers and ginners, all
8 the way through to U.S. manufacturers.

9 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Patrick.

10 Steven Bennett?

11 STEVEN BENNETT: Good morning, I am Steve
12 Bennett, Executive Vice President of Scientific and
13 Regulatory Affairs at the Household and Commercial
14 Products Association, or HCPA. We're a trade
15 association that represents the manufacturers and
16 marketers of disinfectants and pest management
17 products used in and around the home to protect
18 people and their pets.

19 Thank you.

20 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Steve.

21 Tim Lust.

22 TIM LUST: Yes, good morning, Tim Lust. I
23 service as CEO of the National Sorghum Producers, a
24 trade association that represents sorghum growers
25 and industry around the United States.

1 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Tim.

2 Walter Alarcon.

3 WALTER ALARCON: Good morning, this is
4 Walter Alarcon. I am a research epidemiologist with
5 the National Institute for Occupational Safety and
6 Healthy, NIOSH, which is an institute within the
7 Center for Disease Control and Prevention of CDC. I
8 work for the SENSOR Pesticides Program. The SENSOR
9 Pesticides Program tracks acute pesticide poisonings
10 among workers and it is most useful for identifying
11 outbreaks and emerging pesticide problems.

12 Thank you.

13 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you.

14 And last, but certainly not least, Wendy
15 Sue Wheeler.

16 WENDY SUE WHEELER: Thank you. My name is
17 Weedy Sue Wheeler. I am the Director of the
18 Washington State University Pesticide Resources and
19 Education Program. I'm representing the American
20 Association of Pesticide Safety Educators. AAPSE's
21 mission is to enhance public health and environment
22 through involvement in education, outreach, and
23 research which directly benefits pest managers,
24 policymakers, and the public, retrain and certify
25 500,000 applicators in agriculture, urban

1 landscapes, parks, structures, and buildings,
2 forests, roadsides, rights-of-ways, watersheds, and
3 public health.

4 It's great to be here.

5 DANNY GIDDINGS: Great to have you. Thank
6 you, Wendy. And thank you to all the members of the
7 PPDC for being here today and for your service to
8 EPA and the American public.

9 With that, I hand the meeting back over to
10 Ed for a program update. Ed?

11 ED MESSINA: All right, thank you, Danny.

12 OPP UPDATES: RECENT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

13 ED MESSINA: So I want to echo Danny's
14 thanks and this -- for your membership and
15 participation here.

16 So this is the standard part of the PPDC
17 meetings. Folks are interested in hearing from us
18 on what OPP's been up to and to sort of do a little
19 table setting for some of the conversations that
20 will ensue later today. So with that, we'll kick it
21 off to next slide.

22 I wanted to give folks a sense of some of
23 the recent changes in leadership within OPP, the
24 most recent one starting with Jan Matuszko, who is
25 now the permanent Director of the Environmental Fate

1 and Effects Division. So I'm really happy to make
2 that announcement. She had been acting in that role
3 for some time and now is the newly a permanent
4 member and director of that organization -- division
5 with an OPP.

6 Next is Madison Le, who is the new
7 Director of the Biopesticides and Pollution
8 Prevention Division. She comes to us from the
9 Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics within
10 OCSPP, so our sister office in OCSPP. And so she is
11 now the Director, and we're fortunate to have her,
12 of the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention
13 Division.

14 Madison's position was made open by Billy
15 Smith's move from BPPD to the Registration Division.
16 So Billy is now the new permanent Registration
17 Division Director, recently appointed. So he has
18 moved over there to the Registration Division.

19 Biological and Economic Analysis Division,
20 Anne Overstreet, the permanent Director. She had
21 been acting for a while and is now the permanent
22 Director for the BEAD Division that helps within OPP
23 the scientists understand the benefits for pesticide
24 products as we're doing our evaluation of new
25 products and existing products. So it a really

1 important, important position.

2 And then, last, but not least, on the
3 recent chair movements, is Monique Perron has been
4 selected as a Senior Science Adviser for OPP. She
5 comes to us from the Health Effects Division within
6 OPP. So she's got lots of great experience in OPP
7 and in that division, and she is taking the spot of
8 Ann Lowitt who moved over to OPPT to be OPPT's
9 Senior Science Adviser. So Monique is now the
10 permanent Senior Science Advisor.

11 I think many folks recognize the names in
12 the other divisions, but just to let folks know,
13 Anita Pease, Antimicrobials Division Director;
14 Elissa Reeves, Pesticide Reevaluation Division
15 Director; Dana Vogel, our Health Effects Division
16 Director rounding out the leadership team.

17 We still have a vacancy at the top of your
18 screen there for the Deputy Director for Management
19 that was occupied by Arnold Lane previously. He has
20 taken on a bigger and better job within Office of
21 Mission Support within EPA or OMS. And so we just
22 recently -- and I think today or yesterday -- did an
23 announcement for a detail to that position and also
24 we'll be seeking to fill that position permanently
25 in the future.

1 Next slide.

2 Okay. So what are OPP's priorities?

3 Historically, when I would show this slide, it would
4 look very similar. The recent addition, though, is
5 PRIA 5 implementation being front and center for the
6 statutory requirements that were implemented in that
7 statute, and I will go through all the various
8 provisions that have been added. Some of them, you
9 know, really great provisions that we'll also have
10 future conversations around them. I include
11 bilingual labeling in that space and grant money to
12 farmworker communities and process improvements, and
13 IT improvements. So I'll talk a little bit about
14 how we are focused on making sure that we meet those
15 statutory deadlines that are in PRIA 5.

16 As always, new registrations, new tools
17 for growers, or new active ingredients and new uses
18 is an important aspect of what OPP does in our
19 priorities. Equally important is the review of
20 existing chemicals in the marketplace through
21 registration review, at least every 15 years, and
22 the recent PRIA 5 statute or the statute within PRIA
23 5, there were some provisions that went along with
24 that passage that included an extension of the
25 registration review date, and I've got some metrics

1 around how we're meeting those requirements.

2 Endangered Species Act implementation, big
3 priority. We're going to talk about that.
4 Agency-wide priorities, including the environmental
5 justice and climate change, we'll talk about
6 environmental justice later on.

7 Advancing the state-of-the-art science, if
8 you're getting our Office of Pesticide Pollution --
9 Office of Pesticide Programs updates, you will see
10 that we have issued a number of things advancing
11 state of the art science related to PFOS, related to
12 new approach methods, related to EDSP Program and
13 endocrine-disrupting chemicals. So we continue to
14 advance the state-of-the-art science there.

15 Rule-making, guidance, litigation, OIG
16 responses, petition responses, we've certainly had a
17 lot of activities there.

18 And then our -- not forgetting our
19 employees, the most important part of our
20 organization; getting the work done. We have an
21 Employee Experience Organizational Development
22 Program. We're focused on IT upgrades and part of
23 "Great Place to Work Initiative" and people,
24 processes, and technologies initiatives.

25 Next slide.

1 The work continues. Last year, we had
2 almost 12,000 submissions to our portal for
3 registration actions. We had over 7,700 PRIA and
4 non-PRIA actions that we completed. So we're still
5 doing the non-PRIA actions in 2022, and we've got
6 some metrics on those. We provided those to
7 industry in terms of the large number of non-PRIA
8 actions we've completed and also the large amount of
9 Non-PRIA actions we received and the non-PRIA
10 backlog, which we've been tackling as of late and,
11 you know, given the workload.

12 Many new active ingredients. Again, one
13 of our major priorities is getting new active
14 ingredients to the marketplace.

15 Section 18s for States, these emerging
16 pests that don't have currently registered products.
17 Certainly, COVID-19 was one of those big issues in
18 2022. Amaranth, coffee leaf rust, some of those
19 requests that have come in from the states. There
20 were 38 Section 18 emergency exemption decisions
21 issued, some new and some reissued.

22 We have certainly been responding to a lot
23 of public inquiries, Hill inquiries, and continue to
24 post that information on our website.

25 And we've received last year -- in 2022,

1 we received about \$31 million in collected fees and
2 \$23 million in maintenance fees related to FIFRA
3 fees, the two different fees that we get, which I'll
4 talk a little bit about in a minute.

5 Next slide.

6 This chart just shows, you know, a
7 reflection of the work that OPP does. In 2022,
8 we're supporting about 18,000 different product
9 registrations. You can see that has been increasing
10 over time. And with each of those product
11 registrations, there's more label submission
12 changes. There's more activity around the
13 portfolio. But just to give a sense of what OPP's
14 portfolio entails -- next slide.

15 And then the PRIA completions. Year over
16 year, you know, the highest number of PRIA
17 completions within the last three years. Certainly,
18 COVID playing a part in that. You can see sort of a
19 drop from '21 to '22, but still 2,300 PRIA
20 completions, you know, the highest within a three-
21 year period, at least, you know, the highest ever,
22 and part of the three-year sort of large increase in
23 PRIA completions that we've had.

24 Next slide.

25 All right. So PRIA 5 came along -- you

1 know, for a reminder -- the Pesticide Registration
2 Improvement Act -- allows and authorizes EPA to
3 collect fees for the decisions that we are required
4 to make under the statute, under PRIA 5. There's two
5 funding sources under PRIA. One is that one-time
6 registration service fee that comes along with new
7 evaluations and the other is the annual FIFRA
8 maintenance fee that is charged for products that
9 are currently in the marketplace, and that fee is to
10 support the registration review portion, where at
11 least every 15 years the pesticide products need to
12 be reevaluated.

13 That deadline had been October 1st of 2022
14 to do that and the PRIA 5 statute extended that
15 deadline, with some conditions, which I'll talk
16 about, to October 1st of 2026.

17 And then the PRIA fees, the registration
18 service fees and the FIFRA maintenance fees are
19 meant to supplement our appropriations budgets, and
20 they don't represent the total cost of doing each of
21 these activities, and they represent about a third
22 of the funding that OPP gets through its sort of
23 appropriations plus fee. So fees represent about a
24 third and the appropriations represent two-thirds of
25 the money that is used to do registration decisions.

1 Next slide.

2 So this is the provision that I was
3 talking about that extended the deadline to 2026 for
4 registration review. The conditions that exist,
5 however, is where we are doing interim decisions.
6 As part of that analysis, we need to include the
7 measures to reduce the effects of those applicable
8 pesticides on endangered species. And in developing
9 those measures, we need to take into account input
10 received from the Secretary of Agriculture and other
11 members of the Interagency Workgroup established
12 under FIFRA.

13 So with that extension, we need to include
14 these interim measures for any interim decisions
15 that we're doing as part of registration review.

16 Next slide.

17 So folks have seen this chart before, and
18 this is the scenario of funding and FTE levels that
19 OPP expected to be able to maintain, based on the
20 funding that we had been receiving for
21 appropriations in the '21-'22 budget, as well as the
22 PRIA 4 funds. And you can see that OPP was slated
23 to go down to about 400 staff. That was holding
24 contracts constant, and so this didn't represent,
25 you know, where OPP might land. We were going to,

1 you know, cut some contracts to maintain about a 500
2 level FTE. You know, maybe just shy of a 500, but
3 this represented sort of what we could afford.

4 With the passage of PRIA 5 -- next slide
5 -- this is a general scenario for how much OPP can
6 afford now going forward. So again, similar
7 scenario, holding contract spending constant and
8 taking into account any future increases related to
9 salaries for the employees. So you can see PRIA 5
10 was really helpful in preventing OPP from needing to
11 go off, I would say, the FTE cliff, and it's
12 preserved our ability to, you know, continue to do
13 the priorities we want to do. So it sort of held us
14 at a constant level, which was better than the
15 scenario certainly that PRIA 4 had us operating
16 under.

17 We're hiring about 30 more folks under
18 PRIA 5, and that is because of some of the attrition
19 that has occurred enabling us to hire those folks.
20 And on average, OPP attrits about 30 to 40 people.
21 So as we hire folks up as part of this push, the FTE
22 numbers will be able to support sort of this level.
23 And this is a scenario, you know. This -- you know,
24 there's different things we could do, either cutting
25 contracts to maintain more FTE or, you know, as part

1 of the IT digital transformation, we might actually
2 need more money to do that as we're, you know,
3 trying to retire our legacy systems.

4 So this FTE number, you know, can change,
5 but it just gives you a sense of kind of what --
6 comparing sort of apples to apples, what did PRIA 4
7 look like and what does PRIA 5 look like now with
8 the additional funds that we received through the
9 increase in PRIA fees and the additional money that
10 went for the FIFRA registration -- FIFRA fees, but
11 also taking into account increasing those funds
12 going to some of the grants that were added as part
13 of PRIA 5, which I'll talk about.

14 Next slide.

15 So PRIA 5 increased the fees, as I
16 mentioned, about \$11 million for maintenance and \$6
17 million for registration fees, and then we received
18 from appropriations in '23 about an \$11 million
19 increase in ESA -- targeted ESA FTE. Again, that's
20 enabled us to hire about 30 folks based on where we
21 were and based on attrition.

22 Again, I mentioned the deadline extended,
23 the 2026 -- to 2026; that what had been the October
24 2022 deadline with the IDs requiring measures to
25 reduce exposure to risk for interim measures.

1 A decent percentage of the increase in the
2 maintenance fee number went to set-asides for really
3 important work, some set-asides for reducing the
4 backlog to meet statutory time frames, additional
5 monies for pesticide safety grants, including
6 farmworker training and education, healthcare
7 provider training, partnership grants and pesticide
8 safety and education programs. We're going to cover
9 some of that in the EJ session later on.

10 Developing performance standards for
11 antimicrobial devices, the Vector Expedited Review
12 Voucher Program, which I'll talk a little bit about,
13 the Pesticide Surveillance Program, including
14 funding for interagency agreements with CDC/NIOSH to
15 support SENSOR -- and this will be covered in the EJ
16 session -- and some of the papers that were
17 circulated regarding our EJ work, which will be on
18 the PPDC website and which has been made available
19 to the PPDC members, and then set-asides for
20 training for OPP staff for some of the new hires
21 that are coming on, making sure that they're
22 adequately trained and enabling them to get
23 experiences for how to do the regulatory work within
24 OPP.

25 Next slide.

1 And some of the other big provisions that
2 folks should be aware of, an important work that
3 came out of PRIA 5, bilingual labeling for
4 pesticides. We'll talk a little bit about that on
5 the EJ session. ESA guidance to registrants, we'll
6 talk about that in the ESA session.

7 Process improvements for PRIA, including
8 different renegotiation provisions for submission
9 and how we're going to handle sort of renegotiations
10 under the new statutory language for PRIA 5. The
11 requirement for IT upgrades for OPP and linked to
12 increases in fees that we can collect if we meet
13 these targets for IT upgrades, a centralized web
14 page for guidance and pesticide-related resources,
15 posting of data evaluation records for PRIA actions,
16 an audit of OPP processes and workforce with a
17 report and implementation. There's some government
18 shutdown provisions. Should the Government shut
19 down, being able to access fees potentially. Many
20 reports to Congress and many measures related to how
21 we're reporting out on our metrics for registration
22 decisions.

23 And then, when you see these slides posted
24 to the website, there's a link there to the actual
25 statute. If you hit control F and search

1 pesticides, you'll see all of the different PRIA
2 provisions that were passed recently that we are
3 trying to implement.

4 Next slide.

5 And so in that vein, there have been many
6 workgroups that have been formed within OPP, with
7 workgroup leads to make sure that we're meeting our
8 measures and metrics on implementing PRIA 5. Here's
9 some of the -- a couple of things we've done
10 recently. In January, we sent out the invoice for
11 the maintenance fees reflecting the new amount. We
12 posted the updated fee tables for PRIA 5 on the
13 website, along with updated webpages.

14 As required under the statute, we sought
15 stakeholder input on ways to make bilingual labeling
16 accessible to farmworkers. We're doing that during
17 this meeting. We've done it with the NEJAC. We've
18 also reached out to our state lead agencies
19 regarding bilingual labeling provisions in PRIA 5.
20 We have an upcoming discussion and upcoming sessions
21 on that topic.

22 We've also put out the public comments --
23 put out for public comment the Endangered Species
24 Act guidance to registrants for outdoor uses of new
25 active ingredients, registration review cases. And

1 the finalization of that is due in September, so
2 we're under -- it's good. We got the provision out
3 that the -- we got the document out for comment.
4 It's going to take us some time to address those
5 comments. And so we're under a really tight
6 deadline for September, which is right around the
7 corner, to put out the final for that.

8 Next slide.

9 And so one of the things to highlight that
10 isn't being highlighted in some of the future
11 discussions related to PRIA 5 is the Vector
12 Expedited Review Voucher Program. So what this did
13 in the statute is -- it says, "In addition to
14 amounts otherwise available for each fiscal year,
15 the Administrator shall not use more than \$500,000
16 of the amounts made available to the Administrator
17 in the Reregistration and Expedited Processing Fund
18 to establish and carry out a Vector Expedited Review
19 Voucher Program."

20 These are the team members that are
21 working on this.

22 Next slide.

23 And so the mechanism for this is EPA will
24 issue a voucher to a registrant if they submit and
25 receive approval for a new vector control product.

1 And so, you know, think about mosquitoes, ticks, any
2 kind of the vector-borne organisms that, you know,
3 transmit disease for public health pests. And so if
4 a registrant submits a registration request for that
5 new vector control product and they receive it, they
6 can receive a voucher, and then that voucher can go
7 to somebody else or any other sort of type of
8 registration product. And so when that voucher is
9 redeemed, that voucher holder entitles it to receive
10 expedited review of a different pesticide.

11 And then, under the statute, the program
12 needs to be established by six months after passage
13 of PRIA 5 -- so that would be December 2022 --
14 December 22nd of 2023 -- to incentivize the
15 development of new insecticides for disease vectors
16 and initially being mosquitoes.

17 So we're working towards creating that
18 administrative oversight, and we've met with FDA and
19 the Innovative Vector Control Consortium and with
20 the goal of allowing voucher products to be
21 expedited with minimal impact on scheduling for
22 other standard PRIA outputs. So just a little
23 highlight on the VERV program.

24 Next slide.

25 So these are our upcoming deliverables.

1 Again, there are many, which I've -- we've got an
2 Excel spreadsheet with over 50 deliverables related
3 to PRIA 5, and then some of those activities need to
4 be started now, so that we can meet the deadlines.
5 So in June -- the things that are in green are
6 things we've done and then the things that are in
7 the regular font, we're sort of on track, and the
8 things that are in red, are -- you know, we're a
9 little worried about some of those deadlines
10 slipping.

11 But we've, again, sought stakeholder input
12 on bilingual labeling. There's an upcoming webinar,
13 which was announced through an OPP update, and then
14 posting to a single web page, guidance documents
15 related to risk assessments is coming up in June.
16 We are on target to do that.

17 Issue the Endangered Species Act guidance
18 to registrants, again, we're on target to do that.
19 Depending on the comments received, that's going to
20 be a tight squeeze, but we're feeling confident
21 about it.

22 Establishing -- in December, establishing
23 the VERV program. We seem to be on target issuing
24 ESA guidance for the new outdoor uses for registered
25 active ingredients. That's a December deliverable.

1 Establishing the grant program to develop
2 curriculum and then the IT deliverables, we're
3 pretty sure we can do the part that's going to
4 require the Registration Division and the Science
5 Divisions to be in the new CRM. We're in the --
6 what's called the sort of scoping phase or moving
7 into the design phase, and we're hoping to be in
8 that implementation phase by July for that aspect.

9 And then some of the ones that are going
10 to be difficult to meet the deadlines are -- include
11 developing dashboards for registrants. We certainly
12 want to provide additional information that the new
13 digital transformation is going to allow us to do.
14 But in terms of getting full dashboards, one portal
15 bidirectional communication, it definitely a goal,
16 we're just concerned about that deadline being a
17 little aggressive and we're striving to meet it, but
18 it could be something that slips.

19 And then issue a process assessment
20 contract, we've been exploring, you know, where we
21 can sort of find a vehicle to do the audit of EPA's
22 processes, and that is for December as well.

23 Next slide.

24 So alongside a PRIA 5 implementation,
25 certainly registration review. These numbers

1 include the fact that there are new pesticides that
2 were registered after 2007, that have a due date of
3 2026. In addition to the deadline for pre-2007
4 pesticides that moved to 2026, we still have a
5 number of new pesticides that were issued after
6 2007, that need to be part of the registration
7 review process to meet the 2026 deadline.

8 And so you'll see these numbers
9 incorporate the fact that we've completed about 712
10 draft risk assessments, which is about 90 percent of
11 the total for DRAs for meeting the 2026 deadline.
12 We've completed about 85 percent of the interim
13 decisions for the 2026 deadlines, and we've issued
14 452 interim decisions, about 57 percent. And so
15 they're interim decisions because we probably
16 haven't finished the Endangered Species Act part,
17 which would make them final decisions.

18 And as we'll talk about later on, you
19 know, all the work we're doing to bring on
20 Endangered Species Act review, implement and issue
21 biological evaluations and implement the biological
22 opinions will take some time. So those will remain
23 interim decisions until we're able to finish that
24 where they will turn into final decision, but still
25 a pretty good significant amount of interim

1 decisions, which includes lots of mitigation on
2 human health and eco.

3 Next slide,

4 And then 154 final decisions, which is
5 about 20 percent of the total number of cases which
6 documents the proposed changes and responding to
7 public comment, and, you know, each time along the
8 way, there's three different places where we take
9 public comments on the registration review part, the
10 preliminary work plan, the draft risk assessment,
11 and the proposed interim decision. And then there's
12 other -- two other places under Endangered Species
13 Act where we take public comment, the draft
14 biological evaluation from the EPA and the draft
15 biological opinion from the services.

16 So again, a large amount of work in front
17 of us, but a large amount of work that was
18 completed.

19 And then of the 606 interim decisions or
20 final decisions, about 140 cases resulted in
21 cancellation of some of the uses that didn't pass
22 either human health or eco and which represents
23 about 23 percent of the total number of cases.

24 Next slide.

25 And if you're interested in seeing more

1 about our progress in meeting the registration
2 review deadlines and the schedule for upcoming
3 pesticides that are going through registration
4 review, you can scan that QR code either now or
5 after the session when this is posted on the
6 website, and you can obtain more information on our
7 progress towards registration review.

8 Next slide.

9 So these were some topics that PPDC
10 members were interested in hearing about, sort of
11 updates. So these are some of the individual
12 chemicals and projects that we've been working on.

13 So I'll just call your attention to, for
14 atrazine, an upcoming scientific advisory panel, a
15 virtual meeting for August of 22 through 24 of 2023,
16 where we are focusing on the Agency's reevaluation
17 of 11 atrazine cosm studies identified at a previous
18 scientific advisory panel in 2012, that we've agreed
19 to do further review on. And so we're seeking
20 feedback from the SAP on these 11 cosm studies and
21 their potential inclusion or exclusion in our
22 analysis. And so that is related to the
23 registration review work for atrazine, where, in
24 June of 2022, we released the interim decision for
25 public comment.

1 Next slide.

2 Chlorpyrifos. I think this is one of
3 great interest to many. As folks are aware, we
4 canceled all food uses based on the Eighth Circuit's
5 decision and our inability to make the safety
6 finding given the data that we had. And so we
7 sought to cancel all the tolerances and have
8 proceeded with Notice of Intent to Cancel on the
9 registrations and also receiving voluntary
10 cancellations.

11 The recent update is that we've published,
12 in April, final cancellations for food uses for
13 several registrants, as well as several registrants
14 agreeing to return programs for these products which
15 had been an issue for states who are holding these
16 products and for growers who had these products. So
17 at least for Corteva and Adama, there have been
18 approved take-back programs for Chlorpyrifos
19 products.

20 Next slide.

21 Rodenticides. In November, we released
22 the proposed interim decisions for 11 rodenticides
23 in registration review. These included additional
24 mitigation measures and also mitigation of
25 ecological risks, and we took comment on that.

1 We're reviewing comments. And the interim decisions
2 for these Rodenticides are scheduled for sometime in
3 2023.

4 Next slide.

5 Folks are interested in hemp and what
6 we've been doing there, so I'll just call your
7 attention, there's a website where we have about 98
8 products that have been approved since hemp became a
9 legal crop. Most recently in April, thanks to our
10 partnership with IR-4, we have the first tolerance
11 set for a hemp product for a conventional pesticide
12 for ethalfluralin, and that work -- you know,
13 proceeded with a lot of work from IR-4 and, you
14 know, developing tolerances, doing the studies,
15 doing the crop-growing and tolerance setting that
16 needs to happen for conventional. So we'll continue
17 to receive products for hemp, you know, and process
18 them.

19 This is one of the recent approvals that
20 happened with hemp.

21 Next slide.

22 Dicamba. Recently, in February, we
23 approved label amendments that were requested by
24 Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and South Dakota. The
25 revised labels changed the cutoff date for Dicamba-

1 tolerant crops to prohibit application after June
2 12th in these states, except South Dakota, which was
3 June 20th, and it moved generally these dates to
4 earlier for the federal label, and also sort of
5 solidified what had been done in Indiana, as well
6 for deadlines that they already had and sort of
7 updating the federal label.

8 So in addition, there were other
9 requirements adding amendments to the label for
10 training and educational materials and the
11 dissemination of information to pesticide
12 authorities and agricultural extension services to
13 assist users in their local area.

14 Next slide. I think there's a couple
15 more. Yeah.

16 So those amendments followed what we had
17 done in '22 for Minnesota and Iowa. We're
18 continuing to review the dicamba-related incidents.
19 Dicamba is also going through registration review.
20 We put out our draft risk assessment, which talked
21 about the incidents.

22 If states are interested in directionally
23 correct mitigation, we are happy to entertain them.
24 We are not requiring states to do that directionally
25 correct mitigation. We are sticking with the

1 general federal label. But where states are
2 interested and a desire to reduce incidents in
3 certain states, which are still occurring, we are
4 certainly open to entertaining those requests.

5 Next slide.

6 I think the last thing to mention about
7 Dicamba is the registration review part. I
8 mentioned the draft risk assessment. I mentioned
9 the scientific report released on incidents. The
10 public comment for those sort of draft risk
11 assessments closed in October and we're proceeding
12 with the registration review process, which will be
13 to propose a proposed interim decision currently
14 planned for 2024.

15 In addition, Dicamba is currently being
16 litigated in three different jurisdictions, Arizona
17 being the most active, and we provided a brief in
18 response to the petitioners on both sides. So
19 there's petitioners, intervenors arguing that EPA's
20 decision was too tough and couldn't be complied
21 with, or EPA's decision on Dicamba was too lenient
22 and should be restricted. So EPA is defending our
23 decision that we made for the label that occurred in
24 2020. So that's the state of play for Dicamba.

25 Next slide.

1 Application Exclusion Zone Requirements.

2 We recently put out the proposed rule in March. We
3 proposed to reinstate several provisions of the 2015
4 WPS standard, including where the AEZ requirements
5 applied beyond the facility boundaries. And then
6 related to ground-based spray applications, we kept
7 the 2020 version of the Agricultural Protection
8 Standard, which allowed and changed some of the
9 spray instances, 25 feet for sprays using medium or
10 larger droplet sizes, and then 100 feet for sprays
11 using fine droplet sizes, and then next slide.

12 Also, we clarified that the "immediate
13 family member exemptions" allowed immediate family
14 to remain inside enclosed structures or homes while
15 pesticide applications were being made.

16 Public comments closed in May, and we are
17 looking at next steps for the AEZ role.

18 Next slide.

19 Certification of Pesticide Applicators
20 Rule, an important provision that ensures that the
21 applicators of pesticides, particularly restricted-
22 use pesticides, have received adequate training,
23 that those restricted-use pesticides are managed in
24 a way to ensure that risks are reduced. So we
25 issued, in 2017, the final rule. And we have a lot

1 of work to approve those plans. The final deadline
2 for approving state plans is November. It had been
3 extended based on some of the complexities related
4 to COVID and the work of states, but the -- the next
5 slide shows our progress.

6 I think folks were worried we weren't
7 going to meet the deadline when we only had, you
8 know, three plans approved by the end of last year,
9 but we've been making a lot of progress recently
10 with the regions and with states and with tribes.
11 There have been 24 state plans approved, and of the
12 33 -- 17 of the 33 are back with EPA after
13 revisions. So we have 56 state lead agency plans.
14 There are more than states, given different
15 jurisdictions. And then we have six tribal plans.
16 All of those plans have been reviewed and are back
17 with tribal members. And so we're hoping to approve
18 those.

19 And then we have six agency plans. Five
20 plans have been approved for the other federal
21 agencies that have those certification plans and one
22 plan that's administered for Indian country is under
23 initial review and hoping to have that sixth plan be
24 approved in time for the deadline.

25 So out of the 68 plans that need to be

1 approved, you know, the good news is they've all
2 been reviewed by EPA, they've all been returned to
3 the state lead agencies, and the tribes are awaiting
4 for revisions and 29 approved certification plans,
5 SLA plus the federals have been approved as of a
6 couple of days ago. And we'll, you know, continue
7 to add those new plans as we receive them and
8 approve them.

9 Next slide. And there's a website folks
10 can go to.

11 Ethylene oxide was in the news recently, a
12 pretty big effort for the Antimicrobials Division.
13 So in April, we proposed new health standards to
14 reduce exposure for ethylene oxide. We proposed
15 lots of mitigation efforts to reduce the amount of
16 ethylene oxide used and to control emissions. We
17 partnered -- or I would say the Clean Air Act Office
18 has a companion rule where they're addressing the
19 facilities that emit ethylene oxide. So there was a
20 joint announcement between OPP and Office of Air and
21 Radiation related to this.

22 And so, you know, some of the proposed
23 mitigations include prohibiting the use in museums
24 and archival settings and beekeeping, cosmetics and
25 musical instruments, and then reducing the amount

1 for medical devices and sterilization. You know,
2 it's an important sort of disinfectant and sterilant
3 for medical equipment, but also has a pretty severe
4 risk profile that needs to be addressed for workers
5 and bystanders in the area, which we've attempted to
6 do through the proposed interim decision and through
7 the Clean Air Act work for air toxics.

8 Next slide.

9 And so the proposed decision is on our
10 website and the docket is open until June 27 of
11 2023, taking comment on our proposed mitigations,
12 particularly for workers and bystanders and that's,
13 you know, personal protective equipment for those
14 workers.

15 Next slide.

16 Organophosphates. So today even, I think
17 -- or at least in the last couple of days, we've
18 been making announcements related to -- as we're
19 finding risks for organophosphates as part of
20 registration review, we're trying to address those
21 risks in a more expedited fashion that might
22 otherwise have happened under our standard
23 registration review process.

24 So in March, we released updated
25 occupational and non-occupational spray drift

1 exposure risk assessments for diazinon, ethoprop,
2 tribufos and phosmet. We assessed the potential
3 risks for mixers and loaders and bystanders, and
4 even though the registration sort of review for
5 these pesticides wasn't scheduled until 2025, 2026,
6 we've been examining the organophosphates, and these
7 four in particular, and recognized that there were
8 several issues that these pesticides presented for
9 human health risk. And so we were taking
10 accelerated and early action to address these risks.

11 Next slide.

12 And so we published our updated exposure
13 and we are moving our proposed interim decisions to
14 '25-'26, and then we announced early mitigation,
15 both in April and in May, working with the
16 registrants to address the risks that were
17 identified for these four organophosphates early.

18 So those are the links to the OPP updates
19 and you can take that for further reading, but I
20 just wanted to give context for why you might be
21 seeing, you know, these things that are somewhat
22 certainly within the scope of registration review,
23 but identifying mitigations earlier and trying to
24 get those mitigations for workers earlier.

25 Next slide.

1 I believe, there's one page or two on this
2 as well, related to our environmental efforts.

3 Plant-Incorporated Biotechnologies to
4 Protect Against Pests. In May, we released the
5 final rule exempting certain plant-incorporated
6 protectants, which are pesticides under the statute,
7 creating -- that were created using genetic
8 engineering from registration requirements under
9 FIFRA. The rule balances, you know, public health
10 protection with efficiency, making sure that folks
11 that are bringing these products to market can do so
12 in an expedited manner, but also maintaining a
13 registry or sort of records that these products were
14 approved related to industry.

15 In a nutshell, what this does is the
16 genetic modification of plants has been occurring
17 through conventional breeding over centuries. What
18 this does is it allows things that could have
19 occurred through conventional breeding, but using
20 genetic techniques, to go through an expedited
21 review, assuming there's certain safety protocols in
22 place and certain conditions are met, and so
23 providing a notice to the agency that, yes, we've
24 manufactured this PIP, here's what it is and we'd
25 like approval and automating that process.

1 Because where those manipulations are
2 occurring as part of natural selection, that is
3 something that doesn't need as much scrutiny from
4 the agency, and likewise for things that were
5 genetically created, but could have been obtained
6 through conventional breeding, those should also be
7 processed more quickly, and that is essentially what
8 this plant-incorporated biotechnologies PIP rule
9 does, and you can read all about it by clicking on
10 that link.

11 Next slide.

12 PFAS. We continue to work on PFAS and
13 ensuring that PFAS are not unintentionally showing
14 up in pesticide products. So folks who are aware of
15 the work we did on the inerts and removing those
16 inert ingredients from the lists to be used because
17 they were identified as PFAS, we're continuing to
18 look at any of the active ingredients. Out of the
19 1,200 active ingredients that exist for pesticide
20 registrations, less than a dozen, maybe six or
21 seven, meet the PFAS definition. And we're using
22 our definition and we're also looking at OECD's
23 definition for PFAS.

24 But, very recently, May 30th, yesterday,
25 we released information based on a study that had

1 been published in the Journal of Hazardous Material
2 that indicated that there were PFAS chemicals found
3 in a certain number -- about a dozen pesticides --
4 that were tested. We then obtained samples from the
5 person who did that study. We subjected them to our
6 own testing. We purchased them also off the shelf
7 and we released new data indicating that we did not
8 detect PFAS in those pesticide products.

9 All of the study materials are out there.
10 People can take a look at it. And we also released
11 a newly developed method and validated the
12 analytical methodology using the testing alongside
13 of our summary findings to show the world kind of
14 what our testing looks like. And so we are pretty
15 confident in our analysis and we will continue to
16 progress and ensure that PFAS compounds are not
17 contained in pesticide products, either through the
18 containers themselves or through the pesticides
19 themselves. And we are asking industry to continue
20 to police this area and ensure that there are not
21 PFAS products being unintentionally added to
22 pesticide products.

23 And also we are evaluating any products --
24 again, a small, small amount of pesticide products
25 that potentially are defined as PFAS under either

1 OECD or our definition and examining any potential
2 human health impact. So we're continuing that work
3 and, as recently as yesterday, updated the
4 information on these efforts.

5 Next slide.

6 All right. My last slide. I just wanted
7 to call attention to the PPDC membership and others
8 who will be soon receiving this information. So
9 we've got afternoon sessions on environmental
10 justice, among the many topics that you're going to
11 hear about on the agenda. We couldn't cover all of
12 the activities we've been doing under EJ, so there
13 are certain one-pagers that have been developed
14 related to our work, as I mentioned, on EJ for the
15 National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee
16 charge questions, the other FACA -- another FACA --
17 I shouldn't say "the other;" there are many --
18 another FACA called the Children's Health Protection
19 Advisory Committee, or the CHPAC, and consultations
20 on consideration of legally working children and
21 pesticide exposure assessments and take-home
22 exposure.

23 I mentioned the early organophosphate
24 pesticide mitigations a little bit today. There's
25 also more detail on that on a one-pager, and then

1 the ethylene oxide risks that I mentioned on the
2 slide here. There's more information for your take-
3 home reading as part of a one-pager that was
4 developed.

5 Next slide.

6 So if you haven't signed up for our
7 pesticide OPP updates, it seems like almost every
8 day we're issuing information on all of the
9 incredible work that the staff here in Office of
10 Pesticide Programs is doing, all the incredible
11 science and all of the registration review decisions
12 and new decisions that are coming out from OPP. So
13 feel free to scan that code, sign up for the
14 updates, and you can stay in the know and be on our
15 LISTSERV, which includes about 40,000 folks that are
16 already signed up, and you can get real-time
17 information about OPP activities.

18 So with that I will -- I think next slide.
19 I think that's it and -- yeah, that's for the next
20 slide when we're done. So you can go back one or
21 just take the slides down and we can have any
22 conversations and see if there's any questions in
23 the time that we have left from our PPDC members.

24 DANNY GIDDINGS: Hi, folks. Thank you,
25 Ed. And, yeah, we are a little bit ahead of time

1 for lunch. So we do have the opportunity to take
2 any questions from PPDC members, if there are any
3 questions on the OPP update that Ed just presented.

4 ED MESSINA: Steve.

5 STEVE BENNETT: Good afternoon, Ed. Great
6 presentation. I really appreciated that. I really
7 liked your transition on the resources under PRIA.
8 That slide -- 9:00 to 5:00 -- really good
9 demonstration of the impact of the resources.

10 In your estimation at this point, I know
11 you probably can't fully determine it yet, but will
12 the additional resources under PRIA 5 allow the
13 agency to meet the deadlines for RD, AD, and BPD?
14 You know, especially you talked about ESA and the
15 other activities. So I'd like to get an idea of,
16 you know, whether you think you're going to make the
17 resources at this point or how that's going to
18 affect your timelines?

19 ED MESSINA: Thanks, great question. I
20 hope what you can see in that slide is -- you know,
21 folks' expectations of OPP getting all these new
22 resources, it's sort of -- you know, it sort of
23 flatlines, right? So it sort of put us where we had
24 been, so I'm not -- on that score, I'm a little
25 concerned that we may be -- and I know that the

1 amount of work that we have, there could be an
2 argument that we would need more resources for that.

3 Now, what I'll say is, as a member of the
4 Executive Branch, I support the President's budget
5 and we will do the work with the resources we get.
6 And so this is not a call for anyone to lobby or
7 advocate on OPP's behalf to get us more resources.
8 But in terms of your question, when you put the
9 amount of things we have to get done, PRIAs, non-
10 PRIAs, registration review, Endangered Species Act,
11 endocrine disruptors, screening program work, all of
12 those priorities, I am personally concerned about
13 meeting all of the PRIA 5 deadlines.

14 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you.

15 Let's take Charlotte Samson's comment
16 next.

17 CHARLOTTE SANSON: Hi, thanks.

18 [Connection issue].

19 All right. I think I'm good now.

20 Thanks, Ed, for the comprehensive
21 overview. So I have a PRIA question, of course. So
22 with the implementation of PRIA 5, obviously, the
23 process has changed. That impacts PRIA 4 actions in
24 terms of, you know, those that are still pending
25 where the timeline may have expired or, you know, is

1 about to expire before the PRIA decision can be
2 made.

3 So, you know, my question is, how will
4 that prioritization process go forward with regard
5 to, you know, those actions that are, I guess,
6 spilling over into this prioritization zone or
7 category? I'm not sure if there's a term for that
8 yet. But if you can explain how that process is
9 going to work and how that's going to be
10 communicated with registrants, because, you know,
11 that is a change that we all understand, but just
12 kind of knowing how you all are navigating it and
13 communicating would be really helpful. So thanks.

14 ED MESSINA: Yeah, great question.

15 So I'll start with the metrics that we're
16 tracking that will help incentivize that these
17 actions do get done. So, you know, whereas before
18 we had been tracking the percent of on-time
19 completions and we had been, you know, claiming that
20 during a renegotiation we were completing things on
21 time, 98 percent of the time, the problem being we
22 had moved the -- renegotiated the PRIA date many,
23 many times. And so it really, in my estimation,
24 wasn't the most valuable metric, and I think the
25 industry agreed, because now we're sort of changing

1 the metrics and measures.

2 So now moving to looking at, are we
3 meeting the PRIA deadline -- that is certainly a
4 metric -- but also how many days past the original
5 PRIA date is that action taking, and collectively
6 how far beyond those PRIA dates are we doing actions
7 and completing them, and by looking at that metric
8 over time we can see are the majority -- are the
9 actions, on average, meeting the deadline, or are
10 they beyond, and how much are they beyond, and then
11 being able to reduce the amount of time that they're
12 beyond that PRIA metric with the goal of meeting
13 those PRIA timelines.

14 So any action that has missed the PRIA
15 deadline is not going to be taken off the clock, per
16 se, and sort of put aside and we're never going to
17 deal with it, because that's going to impact our
18 overall measure of "here's an action contributing to
19 the measure that is beyond the PRIA date," but we
20 want to finish it as quickly as we can because we
21 don't want those number of days beyond the PRIA date
22 to be reflected in our overall count.

23 So just because something has missed the
24 deadline doesn't mean it sort of disappears and
25 we're never going to work on it -- we're not going

1 to work on it, it still means it's a priority action
2 and we're going to work on it. Now much of PRIA 5
3 in this vein, sort of the new language, you know,
4 there is a culture shift that needs to happen within
5 OPP and within industry.

6 On the OPP side, we did not like missing
7 deadlines. You know, it is baked in. The staff,
8 you know, really don't like doing it. Managers
9 don't like doing it and didn't like reporting out on
10 it, which is why we renegotiated everything. I
11 think the culture shift is we're going to work as
12 fast as we can. We're going to try to meet the
13 deadline. If we can't meet the deadline, we're
14 still going to work on it, and just because we
15 missed a deadline isn't sort of the end of the
16 world, right? We want to meet that deadline.

17 But there's -- until we get resources that
18 are matching the amount of registrations we're
19 getting and we're as efficient as we can be, which
20 is part of PRIA 5, and we've got the IT systems to
21 help us be as efficient as we can be, until those
22 resources align with the amount of work, we're
23 potentially always going to have things missing the
24 deadline. The goal is, on average, to reduce those
25 total number of days and then eventually to sort of

1 meet those deadlines.

2 Did that answer your question?

3 CHARLOTTE SANSON: Yeah, thank you, Ed.

4 It did answer my question. I think we're also kind
5 of interested in -- and maybe some registrants have
6 already been informed in terms of, you know,
7 approximately how much time they think is still
8 outstanding, you know, that would be needed. So,
9 you know, rather than renegotiating to a new date,
10 you know, what that looks like.

11 ED MESSINA: Yeah, we'll probably -- as
12 part of the new system internally, because we want
13 to have goals and measures for completing that
14 particular action, we won't have a renegotiated, you
15 know, PRIA date, but we'll definitely have a date by
16 which we're hoping to have this completed. And
17 we're going to track that amongst all the other ones
18 and make sure that we've given ourselves a new
19 deadline to try to meet that deadline internally,
20 even though the PRIA date has officially passed.

21 So we're going to build the system to be
22 able to track these metrics from a LEAN standpoint
23 to say, okay, we missed the deadline, what's our new
24 goal internally, and are we meeting those new goals?

25 CHARLOTTE SANSON: Okay, good. Thank you.

1 And I assume that once the sales force tool is up
2 and running, that will also help track the progress.

3 ED MESSINA: Yes, we need that to track
4 the progress because we can't really do it in the
5 system we have now, and once we're able to track it
6 internally, as part of PRIA 5 and as part of our
7 goals, we want to make sure that industry and others
8 who are interested have a window into how long a
9 particular product will take, and on the whole, how
10 is the agency doing, vis-a-vis, its metrics in a
11 dashboard form even before you submit something.
12 Like, on average, how many days is it taking to do a
13 new AI or how many days is it doing to take a new
14 use? And you can kind of, you know, help manage
15 your workflow and expectations based on how the
16 agency's current metrics are doing in real time --

17 CHARLOTTE SANSON: Thanks.

18 ED MESSINA: Of a future --

19 DANNY GIDDINGS: Awesome. So --

20 ED MESSINA: -- (inaudible), but like I
21 don't want to promise that tomorrow, Charlotte, I
22 want to like -- that is maybe part of the five-year
23 plan, you know, seeing that level of sort of
24 dashboards and sophistication.

25 DANNY GIDDINGS: So we have Nathan and

1 Mano, and then we'll go to lunch after those two ask
2 their questions.

3 So, Nathan, go ahead.

4 NATHAN DONLEY: Great, thanks. Thanks for
5 the intro, Ed. A lot of work going on right now. I
6 actually don't really have any questions. Just a
7 few comments

8 On Dicamba, I want to say that I really
9 can't think of any greater embarrassment for OPP
10 than to amend Dicamaba labels five times over as
11 many years and still not fix the inherent problem
12 with these over-the-top products and, respectfully,
13 it makes the agency look weak and inept and
14 completely in over its head. And I understand you
15 all are considering a sixth label amendment to, you
16 know, fix the Dicamba problems, but, you know, if
17 you think that five separate failures will somehow
18 get fixed if you just have one more crack at
19 changing the label, I think you're really deluding
20 yourselves.

21 So I just implore the agency to really
22 begin the process of canceling over-the-top Dicamba
23 uses because the longer you wait, the bigger failure
24 this boondoggle will be and the more people will be
25 harmed.

1 And with regards to PFAS and pesticides,
2 first, I really do want to thank the agency for
3 doing this testing. It was long overdue and
4 something that many of us had requested.

5 My organization also had Eurofins, which
6 is one of the leaders in PFAS testing, test some of
7 the products at issue here and we found some PFAS.
8 So now we have three separate studies, the one EPA
9 just put out, the one that we commissioned from
10 Eurofins, and then the one published in the
11 literature by a group out of USDA, all done in
12 different labs with different extraction methods,
13 which have all found wildly different levels of PFAS
14 in these products. This is a problem.

15 You know, I understand EPA thinks that
16 their study is the one that matters, but there's
17 just a lot of questions here that haven't been
18 answered. There's a lot of uncertainty when
19 everyone's getting different results. And I know
20 that this is kind of a nascent testing, you know,
21 for PFAS and pesticides that's still kind of being
22 figured out, but I think the public needs more
23 answers than just EPA is right, and everyone else is
24 wrong. I mean, that may be the case. I really
25 don't know, but without answers about why everyone

1 is getting different results, you know, that's just
2 not an acceptable answer.

3 So I urge you to keep communicating with
4 the public about this and keep studying it, because
5 right now I don't particularly feel comforted by EPA
6 finding that none of these products have PFAS in
7 them because there's just a lot of questions that
8 don't have answers right now.

9 And just to wrap up, you know, with
10 regards to organophosphates, they really have no
11 place in responsible pest management. None. And
12 the agency should really cancel all organophosphates
13 immediately to protect public and farmworker health,
14 because it's the right thing to do.

15 Thank you.

16 ED MESSINA: Thank you for your comments,
17 Nathan.

18 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Nathan.
19 Mano.

20 MANO BASU: Thank you, Danny. And quick
21 question more around the resource slide that you
22 presented -- and I have no idea why the Zoom
23 function is working the way it is. I'll just get
24 rid of the video and speak.

25 Does the projection you shared, Ed, on

1 your resources take into account somehow, you know,
2 the retirements that are eligible, because, I mean,
3 you know, we hear about these numbers and where --
4 what you are projected to be from a resource point
5 of view, but don't know if the overall retirements
6 on a monthly basis kind of was exceeding the number
7 of hires you have, thereby you're still at a net
8 negative or positive.

9 So how do we get a feel of where the
10 agency is from maybe -- I mean, you cannot predict
11 retirement; that's someone's choice -- but, you
12 know, still get a overview of where the overall
13 number is on a monthly basis or as a regular PPDC
14 briefing.

15 ED MESSINA: Yeah, great question. So as
16 part of our projections -- and historically, OPP has
17 had an attrition rate of about 30 or 40 people. The
18 charts that I showed are the FTE support, meaning if
19 -- assuming X number of full-time employees, that's
20 how much we can afford to pay for in FTEs.

21 MANO BASU: Okay.

22 ED MESSINA: That's slightly different
23 from the amount that we have onboarded. So
24 specifically, we are hiring another 40 people right
25 now as part of the PRIA 5 passage. We know that

1 because we're hiring them now -- and we've hired
2 about 16 or 17 people since the beginning of the
3 year -- we know that as we continue to hire, we're
4 bringing these folks on board towards the end of the
5 fiscal year, right? So they're sort of -- although
6 they're full-time FTE, we're only paying for half of
7 their salaries this year, because we're bringing
8 them on. So that creates a savings that we can
9 apply to 2024, which means that, yeah, we can
10 comfortably hire the 40 people.

11 We know that, depending on the budgets,
12 you know, if they're level, we may be in a position
13 in 2024 where we cannot hire as many and we're going
14 to address any lack of funding to support those FTE
15 through attrition, which is about 40 people.

16 That's sort of how it works. So we are
17 making sure we are hiring as many people as we can,
18 because we want to, within the budget that we have,
19 and we're being aggressive about it, even in the
20 face of a potential declining budget for '24,
21 because we know that we should be able to address
22 any overhiring through attrition and not have to
23 worry about, you know, for example, telling people
24 to stop working or going home, which we never want
25 to do.

1 MANO BASU: Yeah. That's helpful. Again,
2 I mean, it seems that these numbers are the maximum
3 you can afford to hire, but not necessarily the
4 number of bodies within OPP. So, you know, if there
5 is an update on the slides in a future meeting or
6 maybe even tomorrow how many people are there within
7 all of OPP for maybe, you know, this year, that
8 would help us kind of see what's the maximum number
9 you can hire and what's the number you actually have
10 within OPP. So thank you.

11 ED MESSINA: It's about 570. We're
12 heading towards 600, and you can see that that
13 number on the chart is about 557 or 5- -- you know,
14 it's in the 560s. So, yes, we will be -- onboard,
15 we will be higher than the FTE number that we can
16 afford for '23, but that's because we're paying for
17 half of salaries. We'll have some carryover. We'll
18 see what '24 looks like.

19 MANO BASU: Sure. Thank you.

20 DANNY GIDDINGS: Great. So we are at
21 12:55. Let's break for lunch. But before we do
22 that, I want to give you some Zoom instructions. So
23 during lunch instead of leaving the webinar, you'll
24 want to stay in the Zoom session, but stay on mute.
25 So this will ensure that everyone gets back into the

1 meeting easily after lunch. So yeah, mute your
2 microphone and deactivate your webcam. And let's
3 keep on schedule for after lunch. So we'll do a 30-
4 minute lunch and come back at 1:30. And when you
5 do come back, raise your hand function so that --
6 and I'm speaking to the panelists -- to the PPDC
7 members -- raise your hand function when you're
8 settled and ready so we know that we have a quorum.

9 And one last note -- and this is for
10 everybody -- when you come back, if you are in the
11 English channel -- this is a note on it on the
12 translation -- if you're in the English channel and
13 only in the English channel -- this does not apply
14 to you if you're in the Spanish channel -- but if
15 you're in the English channel, you can deselect the
16 language option to mute original audio so that
17 you'll basically -- if the original audio is in
18 English, it will be coming through you. If you have
19 that option selected, then you're not going to hear
20 anything.

21 So again, if you are in the English
22 channel, only the English channel, please do select
23 the language option to original on [connection
24 issue].

25 All right. Thank you, everyone, for a

1 productive morning, and we'll see you at 1:30 after
2 a lunch break.

3 ED MESSINA: Thanks.

4 (Lunch break taken.)

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1 AFTERNOON SESSION

2 DANNY GIDDINGS: -- everyone. We are at
3 1:30 -- past 1:30. I see 16 folks with their hands
4 up.

5 Michelle Arling, I will wait for you as to
6 making the call as to when we go or not.

7 MICHELLE ARLING: Okay, that sounds great.
8 I think we need to wait for a few more people --

9 DANNY GIDDINGS: Okay.

10 MICHELLE ARLING: -- to return.

11 (Pause.)

12 DANNY GIDDINGS: Michelle, if you don't
13 mind, I'll start going forward with kind of the Zoom
14 finders and the "business-ny" type stuff.

15 MICHELLE ARLING: That sounds perfect.
16 And I think you can move on from there.

17 DANNY GIDDINGS: To the workgroup update.
18 Okay, sounds good.

19 So really quick, as people are coming back
20 on from lunch, welcome back, first of all, and
21 remember that we have both English and Spanish
22 interpretation channels. So please click the
23 translation icon which looks like a globe at the
24 bottom of your Zoom screen and choose the language
25 of your choice. Now, this is important -- and we

1 had some questions about this in the morning session
2 -- to all in the event in the English channel --
3 this is only the English channel -- please deselect
4 the language option to mute original audio. But for
5 those using a Spanish channel, you'll want to keep
6 that mute original audio box selected so that you
7 don't get a soft original audio feedback. Original
8 audio so far this morning has been in English.

9 So this applies really only to those in
10 the English channel. Please deselect the language
11 option to mute original audio.

12 And this is a reminder, particularly as we
13 get into the workgroup updates, to all of our
14 presenters and anyone else speaking, to please speak
15 slowly and clearly to give all of our translators
16 time to do their work so that we can have full and
17 meaningful participation in the meeting. We have
18 several types of live interpretation happening,
19 Spanish, American Sign Language, CART. So we want
20 to make sure that we're giving those folks time to
21 do their jobs and to give everyone full access and
22 opportunity to participate in the meeting.

23 And lastly, in terms of housekeeping --
24 and this is to the panel member -- to the work -- to
25 the PPDC members, you should have received over the

1 lunch break an email from Michelle Arling with
2 details on how to vote. In the event that we have
3 votes this afternoon, we'll be using Poll
4 Everywhere. And as we discussed before we went
5 live, there is a way to access voting and access my
6 account on Poll Everywhere, and so check your email
7 and -- honestly, the easiest way might be via text,
8 because once you enter the initial code to get into
9 my accounts voting space, then you can just use the
10 prompts on the specific votes to record your vote.

11 So just look at that email and you can, of
12 course, vote via text or via whatever web browser
13 you're using the web address that's provided.

14 Okay. So with that, I want to welcome the
15 full group back. If you weren't -- just got back,
16 I was just buying some housekeeping updates. And
17 our first workgroup update is from the Emerging
18 Agricultural Technologies Workgroup. Leading this
19 session will be Workgroup co-chairs Amy Blankenship,
20 who is the acting deputy director of the
21 Environmental Fate and Effects Division, Craig
22 Watson, who is a Regulatory and Policy
23 Manager/Analyst at Bayer, and the presentation will
24 be made by Dan Martin of the USDA Ag Research
25 Services.

1 Amy, Greg, and Dan. So you know what, I
2 might have actually gotten Dan -- is Dan part of
3 this presentation or is it just Amy and Greg?

4 DAN MARTIN: I'm here, Daniel.

5 DANNY GIDDINGS: Okay.

6 DAN MARTIN: Can you see me yet?

7 DANNY GIDDINGS: Okay. Let me check.

8 (Pause.)

9 DANNY GIDDINGS: Let me get my tech team
10 to see if you can see Dan.

11 AMY BLANKENSHIP: I can see Dan.

12 DANNY GIDDINGS: Okay, all right. Thank
13 you all.

14 DAN MARTIN: Okay, perfect.

15 DANNY GIDDINGS: Okay, go ahead.

16 EMERGING AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES: WORKGROUP
17 UPDATE

18 DAN MARTIN: All right. Thank you,
19 Daniel.

20 So first let me introduce myself. My name
21 is Dr. Dan Martin. I am a research engineer with
22 the USDA ARS, Aerial Application Technology Research
23 Group, in College Station, Texas. I've been doing
24 aerial application research for some 30 years now.
25 As you may know, 30 years ago, we didn't have any

1 unmanned aircraft that was ubiquitous in
2 agriculture. So a lot of that was on the manned
3 side and I continue to do that work.

4 But about six years ago or so, these
5 drones -- spray drones is a general term for them --
6 became widely available in the U.S. A lot of that
7 work had been done in Asia for, you know, probably
8 more than a decade now back in the late 2000s. But
9 these types of autonomous equipment, both on the
10 ground side and on the aerial side, became more
11 widely available in the U.S.

12 And so today, I'm going to talk a little
13 bit about some of these emerging technologies and
14 how they play into the regulations and to the labels
15 that are on a lot of the products that are used
16 around the world.

17 So the slide that you see in front of you
18 is a listing of those that were on our team, this is
19 the Emerging Technology Workgroup. And what you can
20 see from this is that we have a wide array of
21 individuals from academia, from the regulatory side,
22 both state and federal. We have researchers, like
23 myself, that are government researchers, but we also
24 have those from state universities, and we have
25 manufacturers among others. And then AEM was a big

1 part of this process as well. So kudos to everyone
2 who provided their input into this. And you can see
3 the list there is -- we had a really good
4 representative group.

5 You can go to the next slide, please.

6 So we had a couple charge questions that I
7 wanted to go over with you for this. This is the
8 Emerging Technology Workgroup. This is the second
9 round that we've done, and I'll go into the meetings
10 that we've had for this a little on -- maybe on the
11 next slide. But earlier on we were looking at what
12 available emerging technologies were on the market
13 right now, both on the ground and on the aerial
14 side. And then for this one we really tried to
15 focus down on a target case study. And the first
16 question here was, you know, is there information on
17 the availability and affordability of these emerging
18 technologies for all communities?

19 The other part of that is to account for
20 the emerging technologies. How should the EPA OPP
21 establish a process for determining what additional
22 information is needed or data for these, looking at
23 updating the risk assessment or practices, or the
24 standing or operating procedures that surround that,
25 and then looking at it updating the label language.

1 A lot of this work that's been done in the past is
2 for broadcast application with conventional
3 technologies. But these emerging technologies use
4 GPS to apply products exactly where it's needed in
5 the amount that it is needed.

6 So really our task for this one was really
7 looking at these labels and how do these emerging
8 technologies impact the label language.

9 So some of the examples that we have are
10 on the manned aerial side. Almost 100 percent, if
11 not 100 percent, of the manned aircraft have GPS
12 systems. So, I mean, this was developed back in the
13 1990s for wide public use. And so those are one of
14 the technologies.

15 The other thing on the manned side that's
16 available is independent boom control, where they
17 can shut off either the right boom and the left boom
18 to mitigate drip.

19 On the UAV, unmanned aerial vehicles -- we
20 call them by a lot of different names -- remotely
21 piloted aerial application systems. They're drones,
22 right? We're looking at offsite movement. We don't
23 really have models -- good models that show how
24 applications from these types of platforms drift and
25 how do they compare to some of the traditional forms

1 of application that we know a lot about,
2 specifically, the manned aerial and the ground
3 application? So these are some of the data gaps
4 that are out there that we're trying to address.

5 And then, there's some best management
6 practices. As an emerging industry, what are the
7 things -- some of the things that those in the
8 industry that have some experience under the belt
9 now can advise for being best management practices
10 in the use of these emerging technologies? And then
11 what are the use conditions? Where are they best
12 being used and how are they being used? Are they
13 being used for broadcast application or is it for
14 more targeted application? And how large are these
15 units? So these are some of the things that we need
16 to take into account.

17 And then the last part of it really is how
18 should the EPA continue to establish a digital
19 mindset for its program and staff. Everybody has a
20 smartphone now, right, and that smartphone, if you
21 have location services enabled, it knows exactly
22 where you are. So some of these emerging
23 technologies, let's say with the spray drones, if
24 I'm in a certain field it could be that that
25 information is sent to wherever, you know, knowing

1 my location, knowing what field I'm in, it would
2 know the boundaries of that field, it would know
3 what waterways are close by to me, it would know
4 what endangered species are nearby.

5 It could be that in that database it also
6 knows the soil type and the slope of that field and
7 that all could dictate and play into how that
8 application is made and perhaps even what the buffer
9 zones need to be for me to make a safe and
10 efficacious application.

11 Next, please.

12 So these are the meetings that we've had
13 on a very regular basis over the last two years.
14 You can see it's virtually monthly, and then at the
15 end of '22 -- 2022, we had kind of a wrap-up meeting
16 for that with you guys as well, and then we started
17 into the new charge question. And part of that new
18 charge question is really taking the emerging
19 technologies that we knew about and then really
20 drilling down to that as a case study and figuring
21 out if this type of targeted application, a site-
22 specific type of application, is used, which we have
23 the capability in the industry to do right now, how
24 would that affect labels? Because the labels were
25 actually intended more for broadcast application.

1 But if we're just treating spots in a
2 field, weed by weed, spot by spot, how would that
3 actually impact the label language that is on many
4 of the products nowadays?

5 Next slide, please.

6 So back in May of '22, the Emerging
7 Technologies Workgroup did a report-out to the PPDC.
8 In August of that same year, there was a
9 presentation on the CropLife America Drone Working
10 Group with drift curves and a summary of the current
11 knowledge. In July of that year, AEM presented a
12 presentation on how these technologies are
13 accessible because they can be retrofitted on a lot
14 of the existing equipment, and that there is
15 targeted application capabilities both for ground
16 and aerial.

17 John Deere has a see-and-spray technology
18 type thing that's very useful in this field. It's
19 where sensors are used to identify where a target
20 weed is, let's say, for a herbicide, and then only
21 that weed is targeted with a very precise spray
22 application.

23 So AEM presented some of that technology
24 that is on the market right now and then, also, what
25 is to come in the near future.

1 In June of 2022, EPA presented -- their
2 Environmental Fate and Effects Division presented on
3 the existing approaches that they use for exposure
4 assessments.

5 Next, please.

6 So this helped develop the framework for
7 what the current structure is for those risk
8 assessments.

9 So one of the charge questions here, the
10 very first one is really what type of access do all
11 communities have to these emerging technologies?
12 And part of that is retrofitting existing equipment.
13 AEM had presented some of that to us. And so it's
14 very possible, from the data management standpoint,
15 that we can have consistent, very reliable data that
16 we can gather from field monitors, weather stations
17 that can be right there in the field, that's on the
18 application equipment that's already being used, to
19 enable the operators at that location to make better
20 decisions.

21 So, for example, it may be the ability to
22 monitor product placement and application totals
23 during the application. A lot of that information
24 is fed to a monitor right there in the cab of the
25 equipment. That shows you how much is being put

1 out, what's the area that's being covered, what the
2 swath is, those types of things. Very useful
3 information. And then that data can be transferred
4 off of the machine to a laptop or a notebook or even
5 to the cloud nowadays.

6 So some of that is, you know, as we spoke
7 before, you know, how much product has been put out
8 and such, but it also shows where exactly the
9 application was made. What are the lines? What is
10 the path that was followed in the field? So where
11 the machine -- where the application was applied and
12 where it was not applied. Very important
13 information.

14 And as it relates to steering and guidance
15 control, as I mentioned, on the aerial side, almost
16 everything has GPS. On the ground side, most
17 everything has GPS, too. It's a very -- it's a
18 technology that's been around for quite some time
19 that's been tested and tried. So these equipment
20 have these types of technologies. And so you can
21 look at the implementation of agronomic
22 prescriptions, site-specific applications, where you
23 have a crop consultant that may go out and scout the
24 field and then provide very detailed field data
25 analysis for what is needed in that field and where.

1 So some examples have to do with
2 autosteer. You know, it's all tied into the GPS,
3 and really something called RTK GPS, which makes it
4 even more accurate, is plus or minus like an inch
5 each way. So autosteer allows for very precise
6 paths to be taken in a field. Like on the aerial
7 side, they have the same type of thing in a light
8 bar that allows them to know exactly where they need
9 to go, left or right, you know, a foot this way, a
10 foot that way. It's pretty amazing at 150 miles an
11 hour you can do that. But they're professionals and
12 they do a very good job with it, using this
13 technology.

14 And then there's also boundary mapping,
15 both internal and external boundary mapping in a
16 field. So you can have management zones -- so you
17 can have the field boundary as a whole, but then
18 even within that field, you can have management
19 zones where one part of the field may get one rate,
20 another part of the field may get another rate based
21 on what the needs are for that area. And then you
22 have sensors that are on the machines that collect
23 data and they're linked to a specific location in
24 that field. So lots of data that's coming in that
25 we can make good use for.

1 All right. Next slide, please.

2 So another part of this is section
3 control. We talked a little bit about it on the
4 aerial side. How they can turn one boom off or the
5 other, depending on what the need is in a field.
6 For ground rigs, they can do that. It's section
7 control. And even on the aerial side, some of that
8 technology is coming along now as well where you can
9 turn off individual nozzles as it's needed on
10 different parts of the boom to get the right rate or
11 to mitigate drift if you're on the downwind edge of
12 a field.

13 Rate control is another technology that's
14 on both ground and aerial, and it really just allows
15 you to measure the amount of material that's flowing
16 through the system, and it can compare that to what
17 is desired, and then it can regulate that flow based
18 on what the need is and make sure that the proper
19 rate is being applied in the field.

20 So some of the examples for this new
21 technology is something called pulse width
22 modulation. It's just an electronic solenoid valve
23 that opens and closes as needed to allow the right
24 amount of material to be put out at the right place.
25 And the nice thing about that is it operates at a

1 consistent pressure. It's not changing the pressure
2 to change the flow rate. It just opens or closes
3 more or less to get the flow rate that you need. So
4 what it does is it ensures a consistent pressure.
5 And droplet size is all about pressure on the
6 system. So if you can maintain pressure, you can
7 maintain your target droplet size.

8 And then you can have positive shut off
9 and shut on -- you know, turn on and shut off of
10 nozzles as needed through the field as well.

11 And then boom height control, you can
12 control the height of the boom as you're going
13 through the field based on where you are in the
14 field. And so you want to -- you don't want the
15 arms of the boom, you know, bouncing from three feet
16 up down to six inches off the ground. It changes
17 the pattern and everything else. So being able to
18 control that boom height is really important, and it
19 can help reduce off-target movement, it can improve
20 coverage and the efficacy of those products that are
21 being put out.

22 Next, please.

23 Another part of it was this case study
24 that I was talking about. So the case study that we
25 really wanted to look at for these last few months

1 or so is that of targeted application, really
2 looking at putting a product exactly in the field
3 where it's needed in the amounts that are needed.
4 And for a lot of the work that I do with the spray
5 drones, it may be just an individual weed that may
6 be herbicide resistant, and it's a complementary
7 technology, too, to where you could have a manned
8 aerial applicator come in and spray the whole 200
9 acres, but then you come back a week, week and a
10 half later, and you identify where some of the
11 herbicide resistant weeds are in a field and then
12 you map that out using aerial imagery, and then you
13 can take a spray drone in and spray just those
14 individual weeds.

15 So it may be that only an ounce of product
16 is put out per weed at a certain location. Well,
17 that has implications on the label. You know, the
18 label a lot of times will say, please, you know, put
19 out at a minimum of two gallons per acre with no
20 more than this amount put out for the whole season.
21 Well, if we're putting out one ounce per weed and we
22 may only have 100 weeds in the acre, that's only 100
23 ounces of material. It's very targeted and very
24 limited, and just as needed within the field.

25 So we wanted to look at these targeted

1 application technologies both on the aerial side and
2 the ground side, and see how that actually affects
3 the label language that is on there and what the
4 implications are for that.

5 And then we have the whole issue of
6 artificial intelligence. Some of the aerial imagery
7 that I was telling you about to identify the weeds
8 uses artificial intelligence to identify farmer
9 amaranth from, you know, amaranth hindi, or
10 something else that it may be in the field. So each
11 of those weeds has a signature, a spectral
12 signature, and artificial intelligence can be very
13 useful for helping us identify where those target
14 weeds are that we want to target.

15 And then there's all types of lighting
16 that you can be used to identify, you know, weeds as
17 the ground rigs are going through the field, and
18 then we have cameras of all sorts, not only the red,
19 green and blue cameras, but you have mirror
20 infrared, you have some of thermal cameras for you
21 know, detecting drought, and hyperspectral cameras.
22 There's a lot of data that we can gather from these
23 fields that we want to treat.

24 Next, please.

25 So as far as the accessibility of these

1 technologies, there's actually a couple of different
2 ways. One, we talked about retrofitting earlier,
3 but then you also have contract services. There are
4 several companies already on the spray drone side
5 that are offering their services around the country
6 to growers that would like to use this emerging
7 technology, perhaps even to complement some of the
8 existing conventional technology as we were talking
9 about a little bit before.

10 So what this does is it helps avoid the
11 cost of entry. Some of these units range anywhere
12 from 30- to 50,000. That's quite a chunk. But it's
13 not only that, it's also the licenses and
14 certifications that you have to have as an
15 applicator to be able to use this technology. You
16 have to get authorizations from the FAA and your
17 State Departments of Agriculture to be able to use
18 this. So there's special licenses that have to be
19 part of that.

20 So there's different costs of entry. One
21 is just equipment. But then there's also the
22 certifications that have to be part of that. And
23 then it also -- this is an emerging technology and
24 so there's -- you have to be technically-minded for
25 the most part to really understand how to use this

1 technology. So there's a learning curve that's
2 associated with this technology. And by contracting
3 out some of these services, a contractor can come in
4 and quickly make the applications and do a really
5 good job without the farmer having to spend months
6 really learning how to do these applications
7 properly.

8 And then there's grant opportunities to
9 acquire some of these emerging technologies,
10 multiple sources of grants and other tools that are
11 available to support access to these emerging
12 technologies.

13 So in conclusion, the Emerging
14 Technologies Workgroup believes that many of these
15 emerging technologies that are driving towards
16 precision and digital agriculture have the potential
17 to be accessed by prospective user communities in
18 the United States. And this is a good thing.

19 Next, please.

20 So what we have from EPA is continued
21 engagement. I know Amy's been invited to the RPAS
22 -- the Remotely Piloted Aerial Application Systems
23 Workshop that I help coordinate every year, and we
24 greatly appreciate EPA's support of that. She
25 always provides us updates with, you know, how this

1 industry fits into the labels and what's coming down
2 the road.

3 And then there's other groups that EPA is
4 involved in, as well, working very closely with
5 them. And, you know, we're extremely grateful for
6 their support in that, and we want them to continue
7 that.

8 But, you know, I work for USDA. It's a
9 large federal agency, and I've been working for them
10 for almost 20 years now, and I know that change is
11 very difficult for an agency like this. It takes a
12 lot of time and resources, it takes finances to be
13 able to incorporate change, you know, to actually go
14 through the process of looking at the things that
15 are working well, and also evaluating the obstacles
16 that might get in the way of us actually moving
17 forward.

18 These are incredibly useful emerging
19 technologies that are on the market nowadays, and
20 they could have a huge environmental benefit to the
21 way we put out protection products -- plant
22 protection products.

23 So the recommendation from our Emerging
24 Technologies Workgroup is really that EPA look at a
25 LEAN analysis to provide focus, resources, and to

1 update the assessments. So changes are needed of
2 EPA OPP exposure and risk assessment practices and
3 assumptions to reflect current practices in
4 agriculture, vector control, and emerging
5 technologies.

6 I know that NAAA, National Ag Aviation
7 Association, has been working with EPA for a long
8 time trying to get some of these risk assessments
9 modified to incorporate their use of GPS equipment,
10 plus some of these boom controls and other
11 technologies that make them do a much better job and
12 lower the risk. But it's been very difficult to do
13 that. And so by going through this process of the
14 LEAN analysis, it can help kind of formalize the
15 process of, you know, what is actually working well
16 and what we need some improvements still.

17 So the Workgroup recommends that EPA
18 conduct a LEAN analysis to develop improved methods
19 for adapting all environmental and ecological
20 assessments, especially those for manned or the
21 remotely piloted aerial application systems and for
22 targeted application, including the ground
23 application side of things.

24 Next, please.

25 So EPA -- we must account for targeted

1 applications because it can help encourage the
2 adoption of this technology, and then it formally
3 recognizes the potential benefits and/or risks. The
4 data is still coming in. From what I've seen, it
5 actually looks really good. I'll be presenting some
6 of that. Jane Taing (phonetic) worked with me on a
7 drift study that we did with the spray drones a
8 couple of years ago, and we finalized all that. And
9 the data actually looks really good.

10 So I think there are some really good
11 benefits to using this technology, but there needs
12 to be a mechanism in there for encouraging users to
13 adopt this technology. It's expensive. There's a
14 learning curve. But if an assessment can be done to
15 encourage the industry to use these emerging
16 technologies, it could be very good for everybody
17 all the way around.

18 We also encourage the development of label
19 language that appropriately describes targeted
20 applications. So as a group, we went through the
21 labels and just a representative label, line by line
22 by line, section by section, and looked at how these
23 emerging technologies, specifically like targeted
24 application, would be impacted by the label. And so
25 we need labels that communicate that exposure may be

1 reduced proportionally with targeted application.

2 We need to know that it recognizes that target
3 applications can help protect endangered species.

4 Like I said, if we know where the application is
5 being made and we know the specifics of that field,
6 what's around it and the soil texture, what the
7 runoff is going to be, those types of things, it can
8 actually help our endangered species.

9 And we need mitigations, like some no-
10 spray buffer zones that may actually be decreased
11 when targeted applications are deployed.

12 I just have to tell you there's a lot of
13 interest here at Texas A&M in the Weed Science
14 Department working with me on the spray drone
15 technology and specifically targeted applications
16 because they can reduce the amounts that are used by
17 90 to 95 percent. And then these applications,
18 since we want to make sure that that spray goes
19 exactly on that particular site, like a weed, right,
20 we can't have that moving offsite by even 12 inches.

21 So typically, what I do is I actually use
22 a nozzle -- a single nozzle that has a very coarse
23 spray so that those droplets go down and impact that
24 target and are not displaced away from that, so that
25 coarser droplet spectrum is going to help reduce the

1 drip profile as well. So these types of things are
2 the things we need to think about as we're
3 reevaluating the label language that goes on many of
4 these products.

5 Next, please.

6 So in many cases, it helps to know what
7 targeted application really is, right? So we sat
8 down as a group and we came up with a definition
9 that we thought might be appropriate for this. So
10 let me just go through it with you real quick. We
11 said it's an application method that's linked to a
12 prescription, scouting, and/or sensing result,
13 including real-time, like on the go, on the fly,
14 while the application is in progress, which improves
15 delivery of the pesticides to target the intended
16 pest, whether it be a weed or insect or disease, in
17 small or irregular areas within a larger-use area,
18 you know, a section of a field, fairways at a golf
19 course, those types of things, smaller areas within
20 a much larger area.

21 Targeted application technologies often
22 are designed to directly target a pest or a section
23 of the intended application area where the pest is
24 located, further outlining the need to assess such
25 technologies independently of traditional

1 application equipment. So we're not putting a
2 broadcast rate over the whole field. It's just a
3 certain amount at a very certain location.

4 Next, please.

5 We also need to look forward to the
6 digital infrastructure and try to develop this
7 digital infrastructure because the paper-based
8 approach is just no longer suitable, especially when
9 you're looking at site-specific applications, as we
10 mentioned earlier. There may be certain conditions
11 of the field soil texture, soil slope, what's around
12 -- what's adjacent to that field that could impact
13 that application, and you can only get there if you
14 convert over to a digital infrastructure. So this
15 enables direct communication and/or implementation
16 of use instructions to digital devices, such as
17 smartphones, computers, and autonomous application
18 machines, like a spray drone or smart tractor
19 application system.

20 It also enables site-specific approaches
21 to the risk assessment and specific use instructions
22 for that site. And we can use case studies or
23 pilots to develop and implement this digital
24 infrastructure.

25 Next, please.

1 The Emerging Technologies Workgroup urges
2 EPA to work to build a digital mindset for its
3 program by establishing projects and more pilots
4 that work towards building a digital infrastructure
5 that would allow pest management application
6 recommendations and implementable actions.

7 The development and adoption of digital
8 labels, use instructions, label and labeling
9 requirements that can be read, directly delivered to
10 the digital devices, that is a notebook, tablet,
11 smartphone, whatever it might be, and/or delivered
12 to and acted upon by the autonomous machine,
13 including robots. Okay, a drone is just an aerial
14 robot that flies, right? So it's an autonomous
15 machine. It's not just needed for the future, but
16 the need is now. The digital infrastructure needs
17 to go now, because these emerging technologies are
18 there now.

19 I worked with a UAV manufacturer just
20 yesterday, and they're selling many, many units to
21 growers. They're very interested in these types of
22 emerging technologies. So we need to work to try to
23 bring this digital infrastructure into the present.

24 Next, please.

25 So part of this, we need resources to

1 update these assessments. So the first is we need
2 to develop and implement site-specific exposure and
3 risk assessment methodologies. So our
4 recommendation is that EPA and OPP initiate a case
5 study that leverages existing tools to develop
6 localized or site-specific estimates using a
7 population of established crop, farm sites or vector
8 management use sites. And examples of these would
9 be the tools and approaches that are included with
10 the appendices of the report.

11 Next, please.

12 We need to adjust the exposure estimates
13 and risk assessments to identify and overcome the
14 barriers to updating exposure and risk assessment
15 assumptions and approaches. The Emerging
16 Technologies Workgroup recommends that EPA and OPP
17 conduct a LEAN analysis to work towards improved
18 methods for adapting to assure that represented use
19 conditions and assumptions are included in all
20 environmental and ecological assessments, especially
21 those for the manned or unmanned RPAS targeted
22 applications, as defined in this report.

23 Next, please.

24 So in conclusion, the emerging
25 technologies will continue to arise during this

1 dynamic and important time in agriculture, and I
2 think we really need to see this as a positive
3 rather than some kind of negative, right? They
4 offer us -- they will offer us huge opportunities.
5 They are an central element to solving one of
6 society's most pressing issues, and that is feeding
7 a growing population while minimizing the farmer's
8 impact on the environment and human health.

9 Sustainable and climate-smart production
10 will require this to be achieved by managing the
11 economics, as well as factors such as soil health
12 erosion, water use, and prudent use of agricultural
13 inputs.

14 Emerging technologies will play an
15 increasingly important role in the non-agricultural
16 sector, namely vector control, and enabling access
17 to dangerous terrain thereby increasing worker
18 safety. So this is incredibly important for the
19 aerial application side with wind turbines and
20 towers and power lines and all kinds of obstacles
21 being put up around fields. It's incredibly
22 important to have something autonomous that can go
23 in and treat these dangerous areas.

24 As with the adoption of any new
25 technology, it will only be successful if it brings

1 benefits to farmers and other user groups, the
2 environment and society as a whole.

3 EPA needs to continually review and update
4 the pesticide risk profile to account for any
5 changes to risk due to the adoption of these
6 technologies.

7 Next, please.

8 So our recommendation from the Emerging
9 Technologies Workgroup, so we need to sunset the
10 Emerging Technologies Workgroup and establish a PPDC
11 working group that will support efforts to build the
12 much-needed digital infrastructure, including the
13 development and adoption of digital labels, use
14 instructions, label and labeling requirements that
15 can be read directly, delivered to digital devices
16 and/or delivered to and acted upon by autonomous
17 machines.

18 We need the development and adoption of a
19 site-specific risk assessment approach. We need to
20 initiate a case study that leverages these existing
21 tools to develop localized site-specific estimates.

22 Next, please,

23 All right. So I think that is all that I
24 have, Amy and Daniel. Thank you very much for your
25 attention, and I'm open to any questions that you

1 guys might have.

2 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Dan. And, yeah,
3 I think we're ready to open this up for discussion
4 with the members of the PPDC. So please raise your
5 hand I will call on you in the order you raise your
6 hand.

7 So Marc, I see your hand up first. This
8 is Marc Lame.

9 MARC LAME: Hi. That was a great
10 presentation, and it's -- even for an old guy, it's
11 always really nice to see emerging technology. So
12 it's pretty cool stuff.

13 I have a question about -- being an old
14 guy, I have two questions. One is so we -- this is
15 all kind of drone stuff and new nozzle application
16 stuff. What about charged particles, is that still
17 considered at all, particles that, you know, are
18 going to be -- have more affinity to their target?

19 Then the other question I have has to do
20 about a recommendation to the office to make sure
21 they have someone from another office to deal with
22 response and recovery of drones, because that is
23 going to be way different than what's currently out
24 there with our technology. So those are my two
25 questions.

1 DAN MARTIN: So, Marc, let me answer the
2 first one, and then I'll defer on the second one to
3 EPA.

4 Marc, so I work in electrostatic spray
5 application technology as well, and I think it's
6 going to be a very important technology. It's not
7 really emerging technology. It's just a different
8 platform. We can now put these electrostatic spray
9 application systems on the spray drum platforms to
10 increase deposition of the products to the plant
11 surface to increase efficacy of those products. So
12 I think that is another technology that's extremely
13 important, especially on the spray drone side.

14 And so we're still working on developing
15 some of the systems. There are some that are
16 currently available commercially. And we also have
17 another one that we've been researching on this side
18 that will be released very shortly, and I'll defer
19 to EPA on the second question.

20 Thank you.

21 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you. Thank you,
22 Dan and Marc.

23 Actually, I got ahead of myself. We'll
24 hear from EPA on that second question, and a general
25 response to the report-out from the workgroup.

1 So, Amy, you are recognized to give that
2 response.

3 AMY BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Dan. Yeah,
4 thank you, Marc, for your question. We are thinking
5 about all this emerging technology, making sure --
6 the way it's used, the way it's used on labels to
7 the fullest extent, it can be for compliance, can be
8 usable, readable. So we are working with our
9 partners here in OECA, but also sort of with our
10 state lead agencies, because we have some
11 conversations with them. Those are things that
12 they're sort of thinking about, too, and worried
13 about. So we are sort of all trying to take it all
14 collectively when we think about how this new
15 technology is going to be adopted and used in the
16 field. I'm happy to speak more on that after.

17 I just wanted to take this opportunity to
18 thank Dan for the presentation on behalf of the
19 workgroup, to thank Greg Watson as a co-chair, also
20 Ed Messina, who has been involved in this group, as
21 well as all of the other workgroup members, both
22 from the last year as well as this year, and there
23 are several who are on both years, for their
24 thoughtful and well-written sort of white paper,
25 which you're seeing here in summary form in the

1 slides here.

2 So we thought we would just sort of take
3 this opportunity to give some feedback on the
4 workgroup's recommendation, recognizing that this
5 workgroup's work, their white paper, is coming at a
6 time that is sort of really influential here at the
7 OPP, as we are sort of embarking on several
8 initiatives and several efforts to sort of think
9 about mitigation options, other technologies, and
10 everything as we work to sort of come into
11 compliance with ESA, but also more broadly non-
12 listed environmental species as well and including
13 human health.

14 Can you go to the next slide, please?

15 So I just wanted to just real quickly kind
16 of just summarize the charge questions that the
17 workgroup had before them this year that you just
18 heard about from Dan on their individual responses.

19 So the first one, you know, is there
20 information on availability and affordability of
21 emerging technology for all communities? Second, to
22 account for this emerging technology, how should the
23 EPA and OPP establish a process for determining what
24 information is still needed, updating risk
25 assessments or SOPs, and ultimately updating label

1 language? And, finally, how should EPA OPP continue
2 to establish a digital mindset?

3 Next slide, please.

4 So we just wanted to take this opportunity
5 to sort of provide some responses to some of the
6 recommendations that the workgroup presented on
7 behalf. So the first one is, you know, we saw a
8 good list of the available technologies. Some of
9 the things that we need to consider around it, as we
10 sort of consider it in terms of our mitigation
11 options, but also what we may or may not need to
12 include in a risk assessment.

13 So the workgroup believes that, you know,
14 many of the emerging technologies that are available
15 can be accessed by multiple-user communities in the
16 United States and sort of where we're at with this
17 is that the EPA is currently engaged on a lot of
18 issues surrounding emerging technology. I know Dan
19 mentioned a few of the workgroups or workshops that
20 myself or my other colleagues have been involved in,
21 and we are trying to really understand not only the
22 UAV or the drone systems, as well as the spray
23 systems, but really a more holistic approach to how
24 this technology can be used in the field, both from
25 an agricultural perspective, but also a non-ag

1 perspective.

2 And so we are continuing to have
3 conversations with the industry, and that includes
4 both the pesticide companies themselves, as well as
5 the manufacturers, grower user groups, applicators,
6 the states, other federal partners and NGOs,
7 academics, and just a wide range of stakeholders,
8 both domestic and international.

9 And really as we --

10 DANNY GIDDINGS: Amy, before you go on to
11 the next part of your response, we do have a request
12 from the translator just to slow your speech a
13 little bit.

14 AMY BLANKENSHIP: Slow down? Okay.

15 DANNY GIDDINGS: Yes, sorry. I didn't
16 give that reminder before we launched into this set
17 of presentations.

18 AMY BLANKENSHIP: Okay, not a problem.
19 Thank you for that. I appreciate that feedback.

20 So the areas that we are really continued
21 to be interested in is where this emerging
22 technology -- where it would be used and really
23 thinking about it from like a regional perspective,
24 a use site, not only a use site from maybe a pest
25 perspective, but also, as Dan and the workgroup

1 alluded to, sort of from a targeted application
2 perspective. You know, maybe as we move away from
3 total broadcast application, which this technology
4 really lends itself to a targeted application, when
5 and sort of where, and that sort of gets to the
6 seasonality aspect of it as well, because that will
7 be really important as we think about how
8 environmental impacts may occur, because some listed
9 species may be present at certain times, but maybe
10 not, and so those types of things are really
11 important as we think about this technology.

12 One of the things we really do always want
13 to keep considering, and I expect that we'll get
14 some more information on, is adoption rates or
15 potential challenges to adoption rates. I know that
16 Dan went through some of the things that need to be
17 considered, including costs. Are there some
18 infrastructure systems that need to be put in place
19 and access? And the workgroup gave some examples
20 that there could be some grant possibilities for
21 acquiring this technology or also having contract
22 services do it for them.

23 Now, one of the things we need to consider
24 is the scale of this technology. Some of the larger
25 farms or some of the larger operations may be more

1 readily available or able to incorporate this
2 technology, but need to think across the landscape
3 of both sort of the size of the farms, the size of
4 the use sites, and how this technology availability
5 may be impacted by that, because we do understand
6 that this technology does have the potential to
7 reduce environmental loading. And so we really do
8 want to understand that, both on the field and off
9 the field for use sites.

10 And really, what we also need to know
11 really particularly to fully incorporate into risk
12 assessment is, how much would that reduction be,
13 because we do treat broadcast applications
14 differently from a targeted or a spot treatment. So
15 really understanding the scale that this equipment
16 is used at and how much it reduces environmental
17 loading will be really important.

18 And I just sort of wanted to give an
19 example of where I was just recently at a workshop
20 where we saw a company who was using drone
21 technology to do remote sensing for scouting
22 for pests, and they were using AI for that machine
23 and that software to understand different weeds and
24 different pests. And so they could actually then
25 provide that to the grower, who could then make

1 informed decisions about which pesticide to apply
2 and, maybe more importantly, when to apply it. And
3 so taking some of that technology that's already out
4 there and applying it to this emerging technology or
5 targeted application to then just apply where it's
6 needed. Those are some of the next steps and things
7 that we sort of are interested in seeing.

8 Next slide.

9 But the workgroup also recommended that we
10 should sort of take a digital mindset approach,
11 moving away from paper-based and thinking about
12 digital labels, label and use instructions and
13 things that sort of then can be adopted by
14 autonomous machines. And spoiler alert, you will
15 hear some more about this later on as we're going to
16 have a section that talks about sort of the digital
17 mindset or digital infrastructure. So I'm not going
18 to say too much about that here, other than that we
19 are working on some initiatives to sort of do this
20 digital process or transformation. Some of these
21 are going to be explored under PRIA 5 and some other
22 avenues.

23 But I just wanted to sort of give a nod
24 that, you know, we are hearing this from other
25 stakeholders, as well, and that we are trying to

1 take some steps to think about how to do this.

2 Next slide, please,

3 And sort of this is building a little bit
4 on the first recommendation, on the first slide that
5 I presented, that the working group recommends that
6 we initiate a case study that leverages existing
7 tools as well as conducting a LEAN analysis towards
8 adapting methods that are representative of use
9 conditions, including manned, UAVs, or more broadly
10 targeted applications for both environmental and
11 ecological risk assessments.

12 I just want to mention that this is coming
13 at a time when we are going out for public comment
14 and trying to set up some initiative, not only for
15 listed species that you may see under our EPA ESA
16 Work Plan, some of our new active ingredients that
17 we are proposing are there for public comment, but
18 also under reg review under the interim of
19 ecological measures.

20 So we are actively putting out there some
21 mitigations that we think will reduce exposure, but
22 also trying to get comments and feedback from the
23 public from multiple stakeholders on what mitigation
24 options -- maybe we are not fully considering things
25 that are out there, because at the end of the day we

1 do want to try to, to the extent possible, provide
2 users with site-specific options and flexibility and
3 give them credit where they are using certain
4 mitigation tools or technology to reduce both on and
5 offsite exposure.

6 So we have some of those initiatives that
7 were out for public comment earlier this year.
8 There will be some more that will be coming out as
9 we work through our ESA EPA Work Plan and some of
10 those strategies. So I encourage folks to take a
11 look at those when those are released.

12 And if you have information on certain
13 types of technologies that maybe were not in those
14 reports or in those strategies, it's particularly if
15 you have information on where they'll be used, when
16 they'll be used, but also more importantly, how much
17 they will reduce exposure, that that's the
18 information that we're really going to need to be
19 able to sort of fully incorporate and adopt them
20 into our risk assessments and risk management
21 decisions. So we fully encourage that type of
22 participation when you see those comment periods.

23 I know that Dan did mention the NAAA folks
24 on the manned aerial side. I did just want to note
25 that we are actively working through some of the

1 recommendations that they have presented over risk
2 -- our registration review process and trying to
3 find sort of ways where we can sort of refine our
4 manned aerial modeling efforts, as well as some of
5 the technology that they are currently using.

6 And I sort of just wanted to say that in
7 bundle and sort of in closing, you know, we have
8 lots of these opportunities where we're getting
9 input from the public, from the industry, from the
10 states and other stakeholders, that once we kind of
11 get our hand around some of these things and really
12 kind of understand what might be the leading edge on
13 some of this technology, where it's being used, how
14 effective it is, then I think we all might have a
15 better sense of sort of taking into consideration
16 where we can incorporate it into possibly a risk
17 assessment and determine what type of case study
18 might be needed, and sort of moving forward to that.

19 But I do think that the white paper that
20 the workgroup did present is a really good resource
21 as we sort of move through this process in sort of
22 ultimately reducing environmental loading in the
23 environment.

24 So that is the last slide I had.

25 DANNY GIDDINGS: Great, thank you. And

1 now we can open it up for discussion from all those
2 who were not recognized before.

3 So let's see. We've got Mayra Reiter up
4 next.

5 MAYRA REITER: I have a couple of
6 comments, and thank you very much for the
7 presentation. I have a couple of comments or
8 recommendations for EPA. One of them is that EPA
9 should issue a pesticide registration notice
10 interpreting FIFRA Section 2, Subsection EE3, so
11 that UAV applications are only allowed when the
12 label specifies that the pesticide can be applied by
13 UAV, and also ensure that UAV applications follow at
14 least all the requirements for aerial applications.

15 The second one is that when these
16 technologies are used, large amounts of data will be
17 generated, as was mentioned before, including on
18 which pesticides are being applied, what
19 concentrations and rates and data on application
20 site conditions, among others. This data can help
21 fill some of the gaps left by the lack of pesticide
22 use reporting requirements in much of the country,
23 and it can help EPA as it seeks to determine how
24 best to regulate these technologies and how it
25 regulates specific pesticides in order to protect

1 workers and nearby communities.

2 So it's important for EPA to have a plan
3 regarding how it can have access to the data and how
4 the data will be used to ensure that proper
5 protections are being implemented to protect
6 workers. And we know that the technology has great
7 potential to make workplaces safer, but we need to
8 make sure that the data is being used in a way that
9 EPA can ensure that this enhancement in protection
10 is actually occurring when these technologies are
11 implemented.

12 Thank you.

13 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Mayra.

14 Let's go on to Becca Berkey.

15 BECCA BERKEY: Great, thank you. And as
16 Mayra said, thank you for that presentation. I
17 think there is a lot of potential here for really
18 thinking about the ways that this is going to
19 provide further protections, data collection
20 opportunities, et cetera.

21 One thing that I did want to bring up, but
22 I didn't hear throughout the presentation, was
23 basically, you know -- and this is true in any field
24 what -- or sector of the economy is, you know, what
25 happens to the folks that do this work now that are,

1 you know, exposed to harmful pesticides, et cetera,
2 in the field, so farmworkers in this particular
3 case. And so I would love to see this group
4 consider how farmworkers might have the opportunity
5 to be trained or upscaled to manage these UAVs and a
6 workforce development plan around that, so that we
7 make sure that farmworkers who might be displaced or
8 otherwise assigned by the implementation of some of
9 these technologies are recognized and compensated
10 within higher-scale jobs.

11 Thank you.

12 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Becca.

13 Charlotte, you're recognized.

14 CHARLOTTE SANSON: Are we good? Okay.

15 Yeah, thank you very much. Very impressive
16 presentations.

17 I do have a question for Amy. And this
18 came from one of my members. Does the EPA have or
19 do they plan to incorporate benefits that the new
20 technologies offer? You know, the Spray Drip Task
21 Force generated data many years ago, but ground and
22 aerial applicators are using much better tools today
23 and minimizing offsite applications, you know, and
24 drift. So how are these improvements factored in
25 and credit given especially as we consider potential

1 exposure to endangered species? And thanks for
2 taking my question.

3 AMY BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Charlotte.

4 So, yes, if you sort of see some of the initiatives
5 that we're going out with, either sort of, you know,
6 on the runoff -- some of the sort of, I think, leans
7 towards some of the spray drift sort of applications
8 that you're speaking of. We are trying to really
9 understand how some of that newer technology -- how
10 much it reduces exposure. And so then, if somebody
11 were to use that information and we have a good
12 understanding of it, then in a risk mitigation
13 process if they were using it, then maybe they might
14 have a different sort of buffer size or no buffer,
15 or they may be able to use the product differently
16 than somebody who may not be using that technology.

17 So this is sort of where we're in kind of
18 that information-gathering phase to understand
19 what's out there, who's using it, how they're using
20 it, and to what extent it's reducing the exposure.
21 Therefore, it may result in a different set of
22 mitigation options that they may be -- have to use.

23 CHARLOTTE SANSON: Okay, thank you. And
24 then one other question here had to do with, you
25 know, knowing that the see-and-spray technologies

1 are a really good fit for herbicides and primarily
2 in post-emergence scenarios. So what sort of
3 exploratory work might have been done in terms of
4 insects and diseases and how precision ag would be a
5 fit for those scenarios?

6 AMY BLANKENSHIP: Yeah, I know we've had
7 some conversations with John Deere and those folks,
8 too. I'm not as familiar with exactly that type of
9 research that you're speaking of. But, again, this
10 is sort of why -- during our public comment periods,
11 when we're going out with these strategies that have
12 mitigation, you know, plans and proposals, that's
13 the type of information that we would be interested
14 in learning more about so we understand how that
15 technology applies across chemistries and across
16 these sites or could.

17 CHARLOTTE SANSON: Great, thank you.

18 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you both.

19 Damon Reabe, you are recognized,

20 DAMON REABE: All right, thanks.

21 My comments are probably not as much
22 directed to the EPA as we are in ongoing
23 conversations on this topic, particularly as it
24 relates to endangered species, and so I'll just take
25 a second to thank Ed and Amy and Kevin at EPA for

1 taking the time to consider NAAA's inputs for a
2 Tier 3 risk assessment that accounts for how the
3 industry, as a whole, is making applications. And
4 it's really great to hear that being discussed
5 openly in this committee and those efforts being
6 pursued.

7 But I also want to inform the committee
8 we've actually -- based on the ESA Work Plan request
9 for commentary, the NAAA is in the process of
10 drafting a letter to EPA in regards to further
11 mitigations that are already being utilized in our
12 industry. And I'm going to use actually our
13 aircraft at my company as the example aircraft. So
14 if we use the ag drift model, configure the model in
15 a manner that matches the setup of our aircraft, all
16 11 of them, the result of offsite movement is a
17 reduction of two magnitudes. So we're no longer
18 talking in percentages. We're actually talking in
19 figures of magnitudes of drift reduction from crude
20 aerial application equipment.

21 And I just wanted to take that opportunity
22 to discuss it amongst this committee because these
23 are -- probably to us, in our industry, these don't
24 seem like emerging technologies. These are nozzle
25 selections that we've made, these are nozzle

1 placements relative to the wing or the rotor blades
2 of the aircraft, along with changes in effective
3 boom lengths to achieve these results, but they've
4 been implemented now for the past seven spray
5 seasons. So we've -- and we work across a wide
6 array of crop protection settings.

7 Interestingly enough, the results of these
8 inputs into the ag drift model are an actual one
9 magnitude reduction in drift versus ground
10 application Tier 1 results. So this is
11 extraordinarily encouraging. It's a really exciting
12 time. I've never taken the time to put our aircraft
13 into the model to see what comes out. But I just
14 wanted to share those results. And, of course, the
15 letter is in a near final draft and it will be in
16 the EPA's hands very shortly.

17 I'd also like to just comment on
18 autonomous spray systems. Our company was involved
19 in spongy moth suppression here at the end of April
20 and the month of May. All of those applications
21 were done utilizing the autonomy of the GPS. So the
22 pilots, myself and the other pilots, working on the
23 contract did not actuate the spray valve. That was
24 done autonomously by the onboard GPS and subsequent
25 delivery system. We have had that technology

1 available to us for a long time in that forestry
2 setting. That technology is very appropriate.
3 Buffers are built into the treatment blocks, so that
4 no matter what direction the wind is blowing, any
5 offsite movement is accounted for.

6 We have not seen widespread adoption of
7 this in an agricultural setting, primarily because
8 we want the applicator, the pilot, to account for
9 wind. Given the drift reduction results that we're
10 seeing, I believe that we are dramatically closer to
11 a fully autonomous spray system aboard a crude
12 aircraft than was realized before going through this
13 exercise.

14 So I just wanted to pass this information
15 along to the committee and appreciate the
16 committee's time.

17 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Damon.

18 And before we go to the Joe's comment or
19 question, I want to remind attendees -- that's
20 members of the public, not the members of the PPDC
21 -- to use only the Q&A if they need technical
22 assistance. These aren't for substantive questions.
23 There will be opportunity for public comment at the
24 end of the day, at which point the public will be
25 able to post verbal comments or questions.

1 Okay. So Joe Grzywacz.

2 JOE GRZYWACZ: Great, thanks. Thanks so
3 much for those wonderful presentations.

4 Picking up on Damon's comments, I can
5 totally imagine the magnitude of how drift could be
6 reduced, and that's a really great thing.

7 One of my concerns, though, is following
8 up on Becca and some of the others, is, you know, it
9 will become increasingly difficult with the use of
10 these technologies in being able to post, you know,
11 sort of where are treatment-applied areas. And so
12 my question is as things become more precise, how do
13 farmworkers then become protected when it isn't a
14 whole field or area that's being treated, but rather
15 it's a plant hither and yon that might be treated by
16 entirely different agents in any given field?

17 I'd like to hear, you know, kind of what
18 are some of the deliberate ideas or thoughts that
19 people have had about the benefit of this
20 technology, but then also the Pandora's box that it
21 could create in terms of complexities for protecting
22 workers.

23 DANNY GIDDINGS: Who's going to jump in to
24 address that question?

25 Joe, did you have a specific person that

1 was addressed to?

2 JOE GRZYWACZ: No, I don't have a specific
3 person. I'm just wondering with how the committee
4 has thought about that particular issue. You know,
5 the exclusion zones, the postings for reentry
6 intervals and all that will become even more
7 complicated by targeted application. And so
8 clearly, while that technology offers great promise,
9 it also has the great opportunity to hide dangers
10 from farmworkers because it's very specific and very
11 targeted. So therefore, you know, protections
12 for workers become that much more complicated.

13 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Joe.

14 DAN MARTIN: So, Daniel, I can take a stab
15 at it if you don't mind.

16 DANNY GIDDINGS: Yeah, go ahead.

17 DAN MARTIN: Okay. So, Joe, it's a really
18 good question. And, you know, from our working
19 group standpoint, we didn't get to that fine a
20 detail and level looking at the emerging
21 technologies and how it would impact that level.
22 But what I would think actually is that many of the
23 protections would be similar to a broadcast
24 application, where -- I know if I'm flying the
25 drone, I wouldn't want any workers in the field,

1 even if I'm doing targeted application on a spot-by-
2 spot basis. So that's just my feeling from it, that
3 many of the existing precautions to protect worker
4 safety would remain in place.

5 But that is certainly a good question that
6 EPA and others of us that are looking at these
7 technologies do need to consider. Thank you for
8 your question.

9 JOE GRZYWACZ: Yeah, I really appreciate
10 that comment. And I would just encourage the
11 working group to keep those in mind, you know,
12 largely again, because those reentry intervals and
13 those signs are so important -- are such an
14 important part of the Worker Protection Standard.
15 How to maintain that in more targeted sense is going
16 to be something -- would be something that's very
17 important for its full-scale implementation.

18 AMY BLANKENSHIP: And I just want to sort
19 of add on to that, that we are and have been asking
20 about sort of the benefits of this technology. We
21 can think about maybe somebody not having a backpack
22 of pesticide on their back. There could be some
23 occupational benefits to that.

24 But you are raising good points about sort
25 of, you know, bystander, other folks who maybe

1 aren't actually applying it. So those are all the
2 things that we're sort of trying to sort of make
3 sure we understand, and that's when I was getting to
4 that sort of compliance label language -- type
5 language. So, Joe, you do bring up some good points
6 that, you know, I made sure I captured here.

7 DANNY GIDDINGS: Okay. So I think I see
8 Gretchen's hand up next. Damon had his hand up, but
9 it looks like maybe he put it down.

10 So let's go with Gretchen.

11 GRETCHEN PALUCH: Okay, thank you.
12 Speaking as one of the state lead agencies that
13 works in compliance, I did see mentioned this shift
14 toward a digital mindset, and I also saw a reference
15 related to the digital mindset, as it relates to
16 labels. But, also, I offer, is there something to
17 consider with respect to the enforceability and
18 compliance thereof? And within that, there could be
19 record-keeping components with some of these
20 technologies. And if that's part of the future and
21 having a digital mindset, I did just want to offer
22 that thought.

23 The other -- the real question I had that
24 I was bringing up referred more to some of the
25 discussion on definitions of what technologies were

1 recommended and EPA's response to those definitions.
2 Really when I was looking at the workgroup's
3 response, it referred to targeted applications very
4 much so and much broader. I was curious if the
5 agency is looking at their processes as broad as the
6 workgroup proposed, or if there is mostly a focus on
7 aerial targeted applications versus those that are
8 ground. And that is my question.

9 Thank you.

10 AMY BLANKENSHIP: Thanks, Gretchen.

11 No, I would say a lot of this -- in terms
12 of the case study, some of this was definitely
13 targeted towards aerial. But I would say, in a
14 broad general sense, no. We are interested in sort
15 of this technology as it relates to ground or aerial
16 applications, as it -- in terms of applying
17 pesticides.

18 I do know that there are other emerging
19 technologies out there, such as remote sensing and
20 the scouting and things of that nature, but we're
21 interested in both ground and aerial.

22 DANNY GIDDINGS: All right. Are there any
23 comments or questions -- any further comments or
24 questions for the public portion of the meeting
25 before we move?

1 (No response.)

2 DANNY GIDDINGS: All right. Seeing none,
3 let's take a quick five-minute break. We are
4 running about ten minutes behind, and we'll be
5 closer to 15 to 20 minutes behind by the time we
6 come back. But let's take a short break and come
7 back at -- you know what, let's not take the full
8 five minutes. Let's give people two minutes, so we
9 can start at quarter 'til 3:00.

10 We'll come back -- very short break and
11 come back at quarter 'til 3:00. That's 2:45
12 Eastern. Thank you.

13 (Brief break.)

14 DANNY GIDDINGS: All right. It's 2:45. I
15 hope everyone had a good two-minute breather. And
16 we are back.

17 We'll be discussing over the next couple
18 hours our equity and environmental justice work,
19 including the PRIA 5 implementation. However, there
20 was a comment from the PPDC panel for that last
21 conversation that was going on in the chat, and it
22 provides actually a good segue to the session we're
23 going to next on environmental justice and equity.

24 And so, Mily, I want to recognize you to
25 elaborate on the comment that you made in the

1 private chat.

2 MILEY TREVINO-SAUCEDE: Thank you. Let me
3 see. Thank you, Danny.

4 Yes, and it's basically what we've always
5 been trying to make sure for people to know.
6 Because we have been -- all the time been invisible,
7 for us, this kind of conversation is so important.
8 So my comment and question to the group, the PPDC
9 Committee, is that if we can consider farmworkers as
10 part of the conversations that each time we are
11 preparing ideas -- especially new ideas like this
12 one or presentations as a group, because if we
13 don't, I mean, we're -- several of us are going to
14 come back and question, you know, because this is
15 what we're representing, the people that are doing
16 the laboring and because of so many different issues
17 that we have gone through, and I personally have in
18 my family, et cetera.

19 So it's very important for us to, at all
20 times, look at there are human beings that are doing
21 the labor or could be harmed if we are not careful.
22 So the question is presented, if we can do that,
23 please.

24 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Miley.

25 And with that, I believe that we can turn

1 to what was going to be our 2:30 session, that we're
2 going to start this a little bit behind, on
3 Environmental Justice Including PRIA 5
4 implementation, and this will be led by Mike Goodis,
5 Deputy Director of the Office of Pesticide Programs.

6 Mike?

7 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INCLUDING

8 PRIA 5 IMPLEMENTATION

9 MICHAEL GOODIS: Great. Thanks, Danny. I
10 appreciate it. I'm assuming you can hear me okay.

11 DANNY GIDDINGS: Loud and clear.

12 MICHAEL GOODIS: Excellent. Thank you.

13 Welcome, everyone. It's a pleasure to be
14 with you this afternoon again. Again, my name is
15 Mike Goodis. I'm the Deputy Director for the Office
16 of Pesticide Programs, and I'll be leading some of
17 the discussion on this important topic,
18 Environmental Justice and its considerations in the
19 work that we conduct here within the Office of
20 Pesticide Programs.

21 Next slide, please.

22 Just to briefly go over the agenda, again,
23 the goal of this session was to update the PPDC on
24 some of the EPA's Environmental Justice activities
25 and including implementation of PRIA 5, areas of

1 stakeholder engagement, and also to introduce and
2 discuss a little bit of the Executive Order -- the
3 new Executive Order on Environmental Justice and
4 have some discussions.

5 We've budgeted about 90 minutes total for
6 the presentations that are listed below and then
7 also budgeted an additional 30 minutes for
8 discussion, and recognizing now that we're a little
9 bit late, hopefully, we can make some adjustments as
10 we go along to make sure there is enough time for a
11 discussion.

12 The slide lays out the agenda for today's
13 session. Again, I'm leading some of the
14 introductions here. Jason Todd, who is our new EJ
15 Science Advisor will take a few minutes to introduce
16 himself.

17 I plan to do an overview of environmental
18 justice principles and activities with an EPA and
19 the Office of Pesticide Programs.

20 Next, Michele Knorr, from our Office of
21 General Counsel, will be discussing the new Equity
22 Executive Order, and then I'll be back again for a
23 little bit more discussion about PRIA 5 and, in
24 particular, the farmworker and pesticide charge
25 questions for the NEJAC.

1 And then there will be two additional
2 sessions, one on the bilingual labeling requirements
3 within PRIA 5. That will be led by Linda Arrington
4 in our Pesticide Reevaluation Division. And then
5 information and discussions regarding our worker
6 protection efforts here also led by Carolyn
7 Schroeder of our Pesticide Reevaluation Division.

8 Just up real quickly to before I get into
9 it, these topics we've identified part for
10 background and to provide some information for
11 clarity and for some understanding. A couple of the
12 topics here, we're specifically looking for
13 feedback, in particular, the bilingual labeling area
14 and also in the worker protection area as well.

15 Some of these areas, such as the new Executive Order
16 and the charge questions for NEJAC are already
17 underway, so we're really not looking for feedback
18 at this time for those particular types of topics,
19 but we just wanted to provide some information for
20 understanding at this point.

21 Next slide, please.

22 We've also provided some supporting papers
23 in these areas. So regarding the NEJAC charge
24 questions, we've actually shared with you the actual
25 document we provided to the NEJAC on these

1 questions, which provides additional details and
2 background and context for the areas in which we're
3 requesting feedback and the types of questions that
4 we've been asking.

5 Listed here is a PRIA 5 overview.
6 Initially, we were intending on providing a paper in
7 this area, but, instead, we decided to actually
8 build out Ed's presentation earlier today, and so
9 the information regarding PRIA 5, I think is mostly
10 covered in his presentation. So we're not providing
11 a specific paper for that one just so you
12 understand.

13 We also provided some additional what we
14 call "one-pagers" or "supporting papers," one
15 regarding children's health, regarding the other
16 Advisory Committee on Children's Health, and I think
17 that one talks to some extent about take-home
18 exposures for our kids in farm-working areas.

19 Also, as Ed also talked about in his
20 slides -- and, again, this is just some additional
21 background information -- some of the early
22 mitigation efforts for organophosphate pesticides,
23 we identified where there were occupational risk
24 concerns that we wanted to try to reduce risk and
25 introduce some additional protective measures. Also

1 on the use regarding ethylene oxide, ETO, and
2 sterilization facilities and the potential exposures
3 from those uses as well. And that information is
4 apparently out for public comment. So, again, we
5 wanted to provide some background information for
6 you there.

7 Next slide, please.

8 So I'll just start off with -- oh, sorry
9 before I get there. What am I doing?

10 All right. So this where I turn it over
11 to, I'm sorry, Jason Todd, our EJ Science Advisor.

12 Jason, I'll turn it over to you to say a
13 few words.

14 JASON TODD: Yeah, thanks, Mike. And can
15 you confirm that you can see and hear me okay.

16 MICHAEL GOODIS: Yes.

17 JASON TODD: All right. Thanks, everyone.

18 Again, my name -- thanks, Mike, for the initial
19 introduction. Again, my name is Jason Todd, and I
20 am the new -- official title of Senior Science
21 Adviser within the OCSPP or Office of Chemical
22 Safety and Pollution Prevention, Office for
23 Environmental Justice issues.

24 I am coming mostly from the sister side of
25 this office, of the Office of Pollution Prevention

1 and Toxics, or OPPT. Where I've been with EPA
2 overall, for about the last 12 years, almost 12
3 years this summer, the last six-plus or so of those
4 years have been within OPPT. Within that office, I
5 was primarily working as an exposure assessor with a
6 focus on looking at exposures to the general
7 population, consumer exposures and ecological
8 exposures within that office.

9 My kind of classical school training is
10 one in kind of aquatics or stream and wetland
11 ecology, also looking at things like geospatial
12 analysis. While I was in OPPT, some of my key
13 projects were individual chemical risk evaluations,
14 and kind of most closely related to my new role as
15 the EJ Science Advisor is we were tasked with
16 looking at what were termed "fenceline exposures"
17 from a series of chemicals that we evaluated as part
18 of our directives within OPPT, and fence line
19 exposures, we're looking at kind of the exposures
20 that the general population would be expected to
21 occur of those closest to releasing chemical
22 facilities.

23 And so within the last month or so, I was
24 given the opportunity to take on this role, and my
25 overall kind of goals of this position are initially

1 to look at what is being done across the offices,
2 some of which you'll see here today in the
3 forthcoming presentations on the OPP side, is
4 looking at what kind of environmental justice roles
5 and kind of how that's being evaluated already
6 within these two offices, with the particular focus
7 of my position being on kind of the analytical or
8 scientific side of things. But I anticipate working
9 closely with my colleagues that are looking more at
10 the policy-oriented side of environmental justice
11 issues.

12 As I said, looking at -- starting with
13 looking at how these issues are already being
14 communicated or discussed and then further looking
15 where our opportunities to work together across the
16 offices, both within OCSPP, but also kind of our
17 broader kind of EPA family to look and see what
18 other offices are doing and where are their
19 opportunities to kind of harmonize or work together
20 across those approaches, and what can we learn from
21 some of the other offices.

22 As Mike mentioned, this is a new position
23 within this office, so we're kind of building on a
24 good foundation, but we're building that kind of --
25 our environmental justice principles kind of from

1 the ground up here with the overall goal of trying
2 to improve not only the analysis and the scientific
3 rigor of how we look at environmental justice and
4 environmental justice communities, but also include
5 -- increase the kind of communication of those
6 evaluations within our work products.

7 And so I'll pause there and pass it back
8 over to Mike. And I'm happy to entertain any
9 questions either later on or I'm sure, through Mike,
10 we can coordinate kind of a way to get in touch with
11 me.

12 Thanks, Mike.

13 MICHAEL GOODIS: Great. Thanks, Jason. I
14 really appreciate it.

15 So I'll just touch on a few slides here
16 going forward. I think it's, again, reassuring to
17 see -- you know, leadership is from the top and it's
18 reassuring to see that Administrator Regan has
19 committed the agency to environmental justice in
20 ensuring that every person in the U.S. has the right
21 to clean air, clean water, and a healthier life no
22 matter how much money they have in their pockets,
23 the color of the skin, or the zip code that they
24 reside. So it's again reassuring to see that.

25 Next slide.

1 So I will confess I'm generally not a
2 person who reads the slides. I generally, you know,
3 try to paraphrase, but I had to be honest with --
4 it's hard for me to come up with better language
5 than a lot of what's already written here, so I
6 apologize up-front for probably reading more than I
7 traditionally do. But I wanted to make sure the
8 messages came across effectively.

9 So, you know, the topic of why
10 environmental justice -- what is environmental
11 justice, sorry, and why it's important. Again, EPA
12 defines environmental justice as the fair treatment
13 and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless
14 of race, color, national origin, or income, with
15 respect to the development, implementation, and
16 enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and
17 policies. This in line with earlier Executive
18 Orders regarding environmental justice.

19 You know, understanding that many people
20 of color, especially low-income and indigenous
21 populations, have been, in the past,
22 disproportionately burdened by pollution and denied
23 equal access to a healthy environment, and we're
24 looking to find solutions as our collective
25 obligation.

1 Also, by considering the principles of
2 environmental justice and complying with federal
3 civil rights laws and complying with applicable
4 state environmental justice and civil rights
5 policies and laws, environmental permitting programs
6 can better identify and address discriminatory
7 and/or unfair permitting processes and outcomes.

8 Next slide, please.

9 So this is just a portion of EPA's
10 strategic plan. There are a number of high-level
11 goals and priorities that are laid out for the next
12 five years for the work conducted by EPA. This is
13 to point out that one of the goals that applies
14 across all of EPA work is taking this decisive
15 action to advance environmental justice and civil
16 rights by promoting environmental justice and civil
17 rights at the federal, tribal, state, and local
18 levels, embedding environmental justice and civil
19 rights in all of EPA's programs, policies, and
20 activities, and also by strengthening civil rights
21 enforcement in communities with environmental
22 justice concerns.

23 Next slide, please.

24 EPA's Approach to Environmental Justice.
25 Again, our goal is to provide an environment where

1 all people enjoy the same degree of protection from
2 environmental and health hazards and equal access to
3 the decision-making process to maintain a healthy
4 environment in which we live, learn, and work.

5 And so, again, our approach in this is to
6 consider EJ in all our programmatic operations and
7 outputs and all our partnerships, establishing
8 collaborative and creative approaches for protecting
9 our most vulnerable communities and building
10 holistic solutions, and providing equal access to
11 and fair treatment in the decision-making process.

12 Next slide, please.

13 So specific for the Office of Pesticide
14 Programs, again, our Federal Insecticide Fungicide
15 and Rodenticide Act, FIFRA, which is our primary
16 statute regarding registration for pesticides and
17 for managing risks assessment and protecting human
18 health and the environment. There were a number of
19 principles and policies and efforts in implementing
20 our obligations under FIFRA to help promote and
21 align with environmental justice principles.

22 You know, we do assess human health risks
23 and, also, you know, assessing risks to the
24 environment. In these areas, we evaluate, you know,
25 potentially, you know, exposures to potentially

1 sensitive or susceptible vulnerable populations
2 within the U.S. through dietary assessments and
3 consider additional safety factors where
4 appropriate. We also consider incident information
5 and epidemiological data where available and
6 appropriate to consider in our work, as well, and
7 also screen for literature and looking for
8 information, again, identifying where, again,
9 sensitive populations may be disproportionately
10 exposed.

11 And so we do a lot of that information
12 already. We've been doing that a number of years.
13 And we're always looking for improvements in those
14 areas, but, you know, that's been, again, a regular
15 practice for the program for some number of years.

16 In addition to that, there are a number of
17 measures in protecting workers from potential
18 pesticide exposures and identifying where potential
19 risks -- where there are potential risks, and, you
20 know, implementing certain mitigation measures to
21 try to address those risks as well.

22 There are a number of worker protection
23 programs, which we're going to talk about a little
24 bit more later, Carolyn will specifically, regarding
25 the Worker Protection Standards and Applicator

1 Certification regulations and other activities
2 regarding worker protection.

3 Next slide.

4 So here a list of Executive Orders related
5 to environmental justice and which our agency and
6 other agencies follow in the work that we do. In
7 particular, there's a more recent Executive Order,
8 EO 14096, titled, Revitalizing our Nation's
9 Commitment to Environmental Justice for All.

10 And so at this stage, I'll turn it over to
11 Michele Knorr, again, of our Office of General
12 Counsel, who's going to talk about that specific
13 Executive Order in more detail.

14 MICHELE KNORR: So next slide.

15 And, actually, I will say that I'm
16 actually going to be talking about -- there are a
17 lot of Executive Orders out there. I'm actually
18 talking about the Equity Executive Orders for right
19 now, which is one 13985 and 14091. Mike did mention
20 the 14096, and we're still evaluating that one and
21 we will be talking about that probably at the next
22 PPDC meeting. So I know there's a lot of Executive
23 Orders to talk about.

24 So I wanted to just introduce myself. I
25 am from the Office of General Counsel. I've been

1 working on environmental justice issues for almost
2 25 years, and I am also a member of the Agency's
3 Equity Action Plan Task Force. And I think it's
4 important to note that the Environmental Justice and
5 Equity Plan issues are quite similar.

6 So next slide, please.

7 And like Mike, I do want to speak from
8 this particular slide. This the first Executive
9 Order on advancing racial equity and support for
10 underserved communities that was issued at the
11 beginning of this Administration and, in particular,
12 what it says is that "The Federal Government should
13 pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity
14 for all, including people of color and others who
15 have been historically underserved, marginalized,
16 and adversely affected by persistent poverty and
17 inequality. Affirmatively advancing equity, civil
18 rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity is a
19 responsibility of the whole of our Government."

20 Next slide, please.

21 Also, the definition of equity is
22 important as we talk about how this plays into
23 issues that are in front of the PPDC. So the
24 consistent -- so the Equity Definition in 13985
25 says, "The consistent and systematic, fair, just,

1 and impartial treatment of all individuals,
2 including individuals who belong to underserved
3 communities that have been denied such treatment,
4 such as Black, Latino, Indigenous and Native
5 American persons, Asian Americans, and Pacific
6 Islanders and other persons of color; members of
7 religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual,
8 transgender, and queer persons; persons with
9 disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and
10 persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent
11 poverty or inequality.”

12 And I’m going to focus on the rural part
13 for this conversation.

14 Next slide, please.

15 So with the first Executive Order issued
16 for equity, there was a direction for federal
17 agencies to assess underserved communities and
18 identify systemic barriers in accessing benefits and
19 opportunities, and with that, to then develop an
20 equity action plan to overcome these barriers. And
21 when we were in the process of determining what
22 EPA’s Equity Action Plan would look like, we did
23 reach out to several stakeholders.

24 Some of you may have actually been in
25 focus groups. We had one with farmworker

1 organizations, as well as your members. We had one
2 with some environmental organizations. We also
3 talked to the regulated community. So you may have
4 seen -- you may have been part of that if you were a
5 registrant. And we also invited state and local
6 entities to provide us information on how they saw
7 barriers to access from all the different points of
8 view.

9 So the point of today's discussion is to
10 remind folks of what we did for our first Equity
11 Action Plan and also bring up the same issues that
12 we want to bring forward in our next Equity Action
13 Plan that we are required to do under 14091.

14 Next slide, please.

15 So in our current Equity Action Plan, we
16 have six priority initiatives, and that is shown on
17 the slide here. So one of them is developing a
18 cumulative impacts framework. I'm sure you've heard
19 a lot about cumulative impacts, and that is
20 something that is undergoing right now.

21 Also, building capacity of underserved
22 communities, and this goes towards some of the
23 environmental justice issues that have been brought
24 up as well.

25 Also, the capacity to engage with

1 communities. We want to make sure that we are
2 getting out there to talk to folks and also not
3 burdening folks too much to ask for too much
4 engagement.

5 We're also looking at strengthening, and
6 we are strengthening our external civil rights
7 compliance.

8 We are trying to integrate community
9 science into EPA's research and program
10 implementation.

11 And we're working on making the
12 procurement and contracting more equitable.

13 Next slide, please.

14 So now, we have the second EO on equity
15 that was more recently issued, and this one is like
16 in furtherance of advancing racial equity. And what
17 this trying to accomplish is that next step. So we
18 had our first Equity Action Plan, and now we are
19 working on what will become our annual Equity Action
20 Plans. And in this, we really are looking at
21 promoting equity throughout all of our programs.

22 Next slide, please.

23 So our next annual Equity Action Plan is
24 due in September. At this point, we are working on
25 our areas that we want to see in the next plan. So

1 we want to build on what we were doing before, look
2 at other options that may be helpful, and continue
3 to work on the progress that we made since last
4 year's plan. So you'll see, we want updates. We
5 also want to talk about additional barriers and new
6 strategies, and including revising policies we might
7 already have, and then how the agency intends to
8 meaningfully engage with underserved communities.

9 You know, I would say in this, one of the
10 areas that we are going to focus on is rural
11 communities, and so we thought this was a perfect
12 opportunity to come to the PPDC and reemphasize our
13 goals and reemphasize the need to continue to have
14 this engagement, learn more about barriers, we may
15 have not -- may have not been identified when we
16 were doing the first equity plan, and also look more
17 broadly at issues for rural communities.

18 Next slide, please.

19 And specifically in Section 6 of this
20 Executive Order, there is a focus on rural
21 communities. And so "Agencies shall undertake
22 efforts, to the extent consistent with applicable
23 law, to help rural communities identify and access
24 federal resources in order to create equitable
25 economic opportunity."

1 Next slide, please.

2 And so we are asking for some input. We
3 have these particular questions that are on the
4 screen right now, which we can bring up later as we
5 get into a discussion phase after other people have
6 had their -- have expressed -- have done their
7 presentations in this area. But just to kind of get
8 you thinking, one of the questions we have is what
9 EPA or other federal programs should be considered
10 as we develop this next plan and focus on rural
11 communities.

12 Who should we engage with? We want to
13 make sure that we're reaching the right people. So
14 who should we engage with? Are there public,
15 private, community-based networks that we should
16 know about and make sure that we're engaging?

17 And how can we better provide access to
18 our programs and our activities? Are there gaps?
19 Are there areas in which we could be doing a better
20 job?

21 And then, of course, as always, any other
22 issues that you think EPA should consider.

23 Next slide.

24 And so we can have a discussion at the end
25 if there's time. Also, please note our email

1 addresses that are on the slide deck here and feel
2 free to reach out by email. Please use the subject,
3 "PPDC Equity Discussion" so that your emails don't
4 get lost.

5 And, now, I'm going to turn it back over
6 to Mike. Thank you.

7 MICHAEL GOODIS: Great thanks, Michele,
8 and thank you for the course correction on the
9 Executive Order.

10 MICHELE KNORR: That's okay.

11 MICHAEL GOODIS: I honestly thought my
12 list was up-to-date. Obviously, it wasn't. I was
13 looking at -- I was actually doing searches on the
14 wrong Executive Orders.

15 MICHELE KNORR: That's okay.

16 MICHAEL GOODIS: I apologize for everyone.
17 We'll try and get you up-to-date on that. But thank
18 you. Excellent presentation.

19 I think we're mostly on track right now.
20 We're back on track. So hopefully, we'll have
21 adequate time here to talk about this topic as well.

22 So thanks, Michele.

23 Next slide.

24 So again, I'm going to talk a little bit
25 about PRIA 5. Most of that was discussed actually

1 during Ed's presentation. But then I'm also going
2 to provide a little bit of an overview of the
3 farmworker and pesticide charge questions to the
4 NEJAC. And again, this an area where it -- you
5 know, the NEJAC is already in deliberation of
6 providing feedback to the agency, but we just
7 thought it would be helpful to kind of give an
8 overview, so for context and understanding.

9 So next slide, please.

10 Nothing much new here that you haven't
11 heard in Ed's conversation. Again, PRIA is our one
12 statute regarding registration actions, fees, and
13 timelines for much of our work, and it also lays out
14 some other provisions and requirements for the
15 program. It's usually reauthorized about every five
16 years or so, depending on the legislative process.
17 For PRIA 5, it was, again, enacted at the end of
18 December. So this will take us through the end of
19 2027, hopefully.

20 Next slide, please.

21 So two main provisions -- and, again, Ed,
22 touched on it during his presentation. But, again,
23 we're going to do a deeper dive here in this
24 session. One, in particular, regarding fee set-
25 aside relevant to environmental justice and worker

1 protection. The term "fee set-aside," just for
2 clarity, is so folks understand that it's not
3 necessarily additional money budgeted to the agency.
4 It's really just redirecting funds that's provided
5 to the agency for certain activities. And so
6 you'll see, I think, actually in Carolyn's slide,
7 you know, a certain amount of money per year or a
8 total over, you know, the length of the term for
9 PRIA 5.

10 But, in particular, for worker protection,
11 there's new set-asides for farmworker training and
12 education, also for health care, providing training
13 related to recognition, treatment and management,
14 pesticide-related injuries and illnesses, also for
15 development of information materials for technical
16 assistance and training.

17 There is also additional or continued set-
18 asides for partnership grants and pesticide safety
19 education programs. And there's additional set-
20 asides to support agreements to support our sensor
21 monitoring program and also for increasing state
22 participation.

23 So that's one area that we're going to be
24 talking a little bit more later this afternoon.

25 The second area, as Ed mentioned, too, you

1 know, the requirement in PRIA 5 for registrants to
2 include a Spanish translation language to end use
3 labels -- pesticide product labels rather. One
4 area, in particular, we're looking for feedback from
5 stakeholders -- and, hopefully, we can talk about
6 that some later today -- regarding better ways to
7 make the bilingual labeling accessible to
8 farmworkers. And so Linda Arrington will be leading
9 that discussion.

10 Next slide, please.

11 So the National Environmental Justice
12 Advisory Council, or NEJAC, was originally
13 established in 1993, and is charged with providing
14 advice to the agency and recommendations on
15 integrating environmental justice considerations in
16 our day-to-day work activities. Specifically,
17 there's a NEJAC Farmworker and Pesticide Workgroup
18 charged -- that's been charged with questions
19 regarding how to improve, you know, worker
20 protection. And, again, what we'll talk more about
21 later, specifically bilingual labeling for
22 pesticides products.

23 We also continue to engage on other issues
24 of importance, such as women and children's
25 vulnerability, the Worker Protection Standard, and

1 pesticide risk mitigation.

2 Next slide, please.

3 So specific for the farmworker and
4 pesticide charge questions that were provided to the
5 NEJAC, there were four main areas in which we
6 provided these requests, specifically to provide --
7 for the NEJAC to provide recommendations to the
8 agency on new methods to provide access information
9 on bilingual or Spanish pesticide labels for
10 farmworkers.

11 The second was creating a new farmworker
12 indicator to measure progress in reducing
13 disparities.

14 Third was enhancing its understanding and
15 knowledge of exposure related to legally working
16 children in agriculture.

17 And then the fourth one, training
18 inspectors who conduct Worker Protection Standard
19 inspections. The fourth one, in particular, is
20 actually a lead of our OECA, our Office of
21 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. So we won't
22 be talking too much about that last one here during
23 this session.

24 Next slide, please.

25 So again, the first question regarding

1 bilingual labeling, in particular, we are looking
2 for -- we're looking for the NEJAC to provide
3 information or recommendations on how we can build
4 effective techniques to get labels into the hands of
5 farmworkers and also strategies that we should
6 implement to build access to these bilingual labels.
7 Essentially, how do we make sure that we get Spanish
8 translation to the folks on the ground and what
9 approaches should we consider as we think about
10 technology?

11 The questions also -- to ask the NEJAC to
12 tell us what partners we should be working with to
13 make this work? And, you know -- and working with
14 -- who we should be working with essentially in
15 making these changes to make sure we share this
16 information to our farmworkers in the field. We
17 also -- there are components of the questions for
18 creating an implementation plan and what should we
19 recommend to include in that.

20 Again, this is one we'll talk a little bit
21 more later. Again, Linda will be getting into a
22 little more depth of the requirements for the
23 bilingual labels provision.

24 Next slide, please.

25 So building a new environmental justice

1 indicator specifically for farmworker exposures, so
2 as an indicator for our purpose, combining variables
3 that reflect the status and change of an
4 environmental or health impact. This indicator can
5 help measure variables associated with occupational,
6 social, health, and other perspectives. And so
7 we're looking for insights from the NEJAC on the
8 best way to build an indicator focused on farmworker
9 exposures.

10 We also want to know their thoughts on
11 health and environmental disparities and how could
12 we analyze certain disparities related to, you know,
13 the environmental and health issues. And also we're
14 asking the NEJAC to share data sets that we're
15 missing. You know, is there data out there that we
16 should be considering in coming up with these
17 farmworker indicators?

18 Next slide, please.

19 Regarding EPA's pesticide exposure
20 assessment for legally working children in
21 agriculture, this was -- you know, again, this
22 question was directly for a desire to have the
23 agency to be more protective of children working in
24 the field, and we were looking for feedback from the
25 NEJAC on how to improve -- how the agency analyzes

1 children performing post-application hand labor
2 tests, such as harvesting crops after pesticide
3 applications and evaluating those in our EPA risk
4 assessment process.

5 I think we are also looking for a better
6 understanding of perspectives associated with
7 children legally working in agriculture and we want
8 to know if there was any additional exposure data,
9 you know, the agency should be considering that --
10 again, to help better evaluate these potential
11 exposures. We're also -- and along those lines,
12 too, any biometric data, such as body weights, that
13 should be included in an analysis. So again, we're
14 asking for any guidance or direction in those areas
15 in evaluating these exposures for children.

16 Next slide, please.

17 As I mentioned before, this question was
18 more specific regarding training inspectors on the
19 Worker Protection Standard and is primarily being
20 led by our Office of Enforcement and Compliance
21 Assurance. So, you know, again, we're not going to
22 be leading much discussion on this one here today.

23 I think that ends -- that's the end of my
24 slides. At this point, I think I'll turn it over
25 now to Linda Arrington from our Pesticide

1 Reevaluation Division to discuss the bilingual
2 labels.

3 LINDA ARRINGTON: Thank you, Mike.

4 Can everybody hear me?

5 MICHAEL GOODIS: Yes.

6 LINDA ARRINGTON: Perfect. Thank you.

7 Good afternoon. I'm Linda Arrington and
8 I'm a Branch Chief in the Pesticide Reevaluation
9 Division, and I've been working with EPA for over 34
10 years, 25 years were with the Registration Division
11 and the last nine have been with PRD.

12 One of my many projects since I've been
13 here, when I got into PRD, was to respond to a
14 petition that was requesting Spanish labeling to be
15 placed on agricultural products. As a part of our
16 position and response, we created a Spanish label
17 translation guide to be used to help those who
18 wanted to have some language to put on the label.

19 I see PRIA 5 is a further expression of getting
20 Spanish labeling on the products.

21 So today, I would like to provide you with
22 an overview of the bilingual language requirements
23 in PRIA 5. But, most importantly, I would like for
24 you -- like to solicit from the PPDC, ideas and
25 recommendations on how to make bilingual labels more

1 accessible to farmworkers.

2 Next slide, please.

3 As Mike has mentioned, as well as Ed has
4 mentioned, you know, PRIA 5 was reauthorized in
5 December of '22, and it amended adding -- requiring
6 Spanish labeling to be put in in use for pesticide
7 product labels where the translations were available
8 in the Spanish Translation Guide.

9 The Translation Guide was going to -- is
10 to be used as a guide, as a resource to help
11 pesticide registrants be consistent with the Spanish
12 that they're putting on labels.

13 Also, we are prioritizing the types of
14 products based on high toxicity to complete labels,
15 and it will take several years for those labels to
16 have Spanish labeling on them. Also, the labels
17 must have --- you know, Spanish must appear on
18 the pesticide product or we are also allowing
19 translations to be on searchable -- through
20 searchable technology or other electronic methods
21 readily accessible on a product label.

22 And, finally, again, we are seeking input
23 on how to -- from our stakeholders to create a plan,
24 implement the plan, and make bilingual labels more
25 accessible to farmworkers.

1 Next slide.

2 PRIA 5 provides deadlines for bilingual
3 language. Restricted-use products, which are RUPs,
4 will have three years from the enactment of PRIA 5.
5 So December 2025 is the due date for labeling
6 bilingual language to be on those products

7 For agricultural non-RUP products, it's
8 based on the Acute Toxicity Category. So Category I
9 products are due three years after the enactment, so
10 December 2025; Acute Toxicity II Categories, five
11 years, December 2027; for antimicrobial products and
12 nonagricultural products with an Acute Toxicity
13 Category 1, it's four years in 2026.

14 And I do have a typo for Category II.
15 It's six years, 2028.

16 And then all other products -- all other
17 pesticide products will have eight years from the
18 enactment, December 2030.

19 And then also PRIA 5 gave provisions on
20 timing on that if we update the Translation Guide.
21 So if we update our Translation Guide, agricultural
22 product labels have one year from the date of
23 publication of that update to include -- to include
24 those updates, or when you have your last accepted
25 label, you have a specific date for release

1 shipment, and, also, if you put an amendment after
2 the Translation Guide has been done, then you would
3 have to follow that that due date of your accepted
4 label.

5 For antimicrobial products, they have two
6 years from when we update the Translation Guide.

7 The agency, when we update the Translation
8 Guide, we have ten days to notify all registrants
9 that we have updated the guide, so that they know to
10 go to the newest guide.

11 Next slide, please.

12 So the Translation Guide -- to give you a
13 little background on it -- it was initially
14 developed in 2015, with an in-house group of
15 experts, again, as a response to the petition for
16 asking agricultural products to be in Spanish, and
17 the guide had health and safety portions of the
18 guides being translated, so specifically to keep out
19 of reach for children, restricted-use, signal word,
20 first aid, precautionary statements, personal
21 protective equipment, the PPE sections, the misuse
22 statement, storage, and disposal.

23 And in the guide, we also gave some
24 examples of what a label could look like with the
25 Spanish labeling on it. So we have an example of

1 the agricultural product requirement and
2 precautionary label.

3 So in 2017, we updated so that we can make
4 sure that we had the latest health and safety
5 requirements and, again, updating disposal and --
6 storage and disposal requirements.

7 The guide uses a universal form of Spanish
8 rather than a specific Spanish dialect. It was
9 reviewed by the Multilingual Communication Liaison
10 Officer in the Office of Web Communications, and it
11 consisted with other bilingual agency reach-out
12 materials in our websites.

13 In 2019 -- October 2019, the Translation
14 Guide was posted to our website, and you'll see the
15 website here on the slide. And, also, just as an
16 example of a page from the guide, we have signal
17 words that's in a table form, where we have the
18 English version on one side of the table and Spanish
19 on the other.

20 Next slide.

21 Now, I'd like to talk about the
22 implementation for the requirements. The Spanish
23 label bilingual language is going to go through a
24 process called non-notifications, which I'll talk
25 about a little more in our next slide. And those

1 changes are made without notifying the agency that
2 you're making changes.

3 We will coordinate and consult with our
4 state lead agencies for implementing bilingual
5 language. We also are seeking stakeholder input
6 on ways to make it more accessible. We have 180
7 days after the enactment. So this is due June 2023.
8 We're going to then develop and implement and make
9 publicly our plan for adoption in two years in 2024,
10 and, then, finally, we are going to implement our
11 plan in three years in 2025.

12 Next slide.

13 So the non-notification process, again, is
14 an amendment that can be done to pesticide labels
15 and that are not required prior approval from the
16 agency. 40 CFR 152.46(b) gives examples of specific
17 non-notifications, and bilingual language has been a
18 part of that section of the 40 CFR. And the text
19 can be made at any time as long as it's true and
20 accurate to the English translation.

21 I'd also note that both languages will be
22 required to be on the label and that the language
23 can be part of the label, all of the label, and we
24 don't track -- normally, we do not track non-
25 notifications. However, PRIA 5 is requiring us to

1 track the bilingual language labels. And so we are
2 also trying to solicit some ideas on how to track
3 those labels, since normally we don't see them.
4 They're already just -- they're done.

5 The Translation Guide, we believe, will
6 help with the consistency and accuracy, because
7 we've done some of the work for you in order for you
8 to make a transition of bilingual language.

9 Next slide.

10 So I just like to give you an update on
11 some of the engagement that we've had. As Mike has
12 mentioned, we did meet with the NEJAC in March of
13 2023, and they have charge questions regarding
14 access to farmworkers. We have spoken as SFIREG.
15 We hold quarterly -- in April, we had a quarterly
16 farmworker advocacy call that we had in April, as
17 well as we participated in CLA RISE conference in
18 April. We've done a lot of talking in April. So
19 AAPCO WPS Committee, we've had a call with them, as
20 well as our regional offices and OECA, on their
21 monthly calls, and regional WPS quarterly calls.

22 Today, we're meeting with you and, most
23 importantly, we were having a national webinar to
24 talk about access to -- how we can get some more
25 ideas on how to make Spanish labeling more

1 accessible to the farmworkers. That webinar is
2 going to be on June 15th. And on the slide, we do
3 have an EventBrite. Actually, you're going to be
4 able to do an EventBrite evite in order to come onto
5 that call. So there is our website to be able to go
6 on there.

7 It is live. If you are speaking, if you
8 would like to participate and speak, then you have
9 -- you can register up until June the 9th. If
10 you're just wanting to listen to the webinar, then
11 the EventBrite will be open until the day of the
12 webinar.

13 Next slide, please.

14 There's been a very, very large group of
15 EPA employees that have been working on Spanish
16 labeling. As I mentioned before, we had a petition
17 in about 2009, and so we have been working on some
18 form or fashion of Spanish labeling for quite a few
19 years. And although the membership might change
20 over the years, it has always been an inter-
21 divisional membership. So we also have our General
22 Counsel on there. We have -- and recently, we'll be
23 adding OECA to the group so that they can help us
24 with coming up with the plan.

25 And so, again, I'd just like to let you

1 know that we are working hard and we do have our
2 deadline of June 23rd to get some input. And so,
3 hopefully, at the end of our conversation, we'll be
4 able to have some input from you and ideas of how to
5 make Spanish labeling more accessible to
6 farmworkers.

7 Back to you, Mike.

8 MICHAEL GOODIS: Great, thanks.

9 Appreciate it, Linda.

10 Again, we'll be touching on it, I think,
11 during the discussion session.

12 So next, I'd like to hand it over to
13 Carolyn Schroeder, again, with our Pesticide
14 Reevaluation Division to talk about various worker
15 protection efforts the agency implements.

16 CAROLYN SCHROEDER: Thanks, Mike.

17 I'm in the PRD, as Mike said, in the
18 Certification Worker Protection Branch, and we focus
19 on two regulations that are specific to worker
20 protection and safe use of those products in the
21 field. And we get the opportunity to do quite a bit
22 of outreach and development of materials to help
23 support those implementations. So I'm going to
24 cover some of those, the current things and give you
25 some updates on some of the activities we're working

1 on.

2 Next slide.

3 Here's the outline. We're mostly going to
4 go through those two regulations. That's the
5 Certification of Pesticide Applicators and then also
6 the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard, and a
7 recap of some of the cooperative agreements and
8 related to some of the recommendations and input we
9 have received from stakeholders in recent years that
10 relate to worker protection.

11 Next slide.

12 And this just to make sure everyone who's
13 on the line is familiar with the Certification of
14 Pesticide Applicators. You might hear us call it
15 C&T, that's Certification and Training; CPA, that's
16 the Certification of Pesticide Applicators. But
17 when EPA classifies a pesticide that has a higher
18 hazard profile, they get classified as restricted-
19 use pesticides. That's an RUP. And this is the
20 federal regulation that connects that label to how
21 it's used in the field.

22 All of the restricted-use pesticides have
23 the potential to cause unreasonable adverse effects,
24 and they can only be used by someone who is
25 certified or under the supervision of someone who is

1 certified to be a pesticide applicator and use those
2 products.

3 The applicators are certified by the state
4 lead agencies, the tribes and federal agencies that
5 have the certification programs, and all of those
6 certification programs need to be approved by EPA.
7 In addition, those state lead agencies and tribes
8 and federal agencies, they have an education
9 component to it and, in particular, the state lead
10 agencies work closely with their Pesticide Safety
11 Education Programs, which are the Land Grant
12 Universities that have extension services that help
13 create and support the education and training of
14 RUPs by applicators.

15 Next slide.

16 So EPA, we set the minimum competency
17 standards for those pesticide applicators with the
18 Certification of Pesticides Applicator Rule, and
19 then we approve those plans. We certify the
20 applicators in areas of Indian country without an
21 EPA approved plan, and then we support the
22 certifying authorities and those Pesticide Safety
23 Education Programs and some other organizations to
24 help implement the certification and training
25 programs.

1 That includes funding -- some funding that
2 -- through the cooperative agreements that either
3 support directly the state programs or the tribal
4 programs, as well as some of the more competitive
5 grants that we have out there that develop materials
6 that can be used either regionally or nationally,
7 for training and education. And we also provide
8 technical assistance and that often involves -- it
9 is inclusive of the regional staff as well.

10 Next slide.

11 So where are we now? In 2017, I think
12 many of you are aware we did a pretty big update and
13 raised that bar of what it means to be a competent
14 applicator, and some other changes as well, added a
15 minimum age and such. So there were some really
16 good changes in the 2017 rule. All plans,
17 therefore, were going to need some revisions in
18 order to comply with those updated standards. Back
19 in 2020, we received all of -- all of the programs
20 submitted their state plans, tribal plans, federal
21 plans for EPA's review and approval, and we've been
22 working on that all together ever since then.

23 As of November 4th of this year, there is
24 a deadline -- a hard deadline for EPA, and all of
25 the states, tribes and federal agencies that have

1 programs to have their plans approved. We did do an
2 extension of about 18 months from the original date
3 of March 2020 and that was to allow a little bit
4 more time, considering all of the complexity with
5 these plans, as well as the impacts of COVID that
6 has taken a toll on the programs and the capacity in
7 both the federal and program levels in order to make
8 the revisions. We do not anticipate any additional
9 extensions.

10 There are some links throughout this
11 presentation if you're interested in going to review
12 the actual docket and extensions.

13 Next slide.

14 So there are 68 plans total, and this
15 includes the 62 state lead agency -- is what we call
16 it -- that's Tribal -- excuse me, that's states and
17 territory plans, and then six tribal plans and six
18 federal agency plans.

19 The status is that 29 of these plans are
20 now approved. We are making really good progress.
21 I can actually tell you that this slide is already
22 quite outdated from when I -- when we put this
23 together. So under the 56 state lead agency plans,
24 there are 24 approved. That is -- that's accurate.
25 But there are eight of the plans that are still

1 being, you know, revised or under some type of
2 review within the state itself, the state or
3 territory. And then there's 24 of those plans that
4 are actually with EPA for what we are calling the
5 secondary review.

6 I think it was this morning that Ed
7 mentioned that, you know, all of these plans have
8 been thoroughly reviewed by EPA and have gone
9 through revisions. So when we say they're back with
10 the state or the tribe right now, we really are
11 meaning that we've seen them, and we've been in
12 communication, working really collaboratively with
13 everyone to get the revisions, and then there might
14 be something that's being worked out, a particular
15 issue that needs extra attention or needs extra time
16 to get into place.

17 So these aren't the first times we're
18 seeing them when they do get resubmitted to us.
19 But the more that we have and the closer that we get
20 to the approval, it's a good indication that we're
21 making really good progress.

22 Next slide.

23 If you're interested in, you know, keeping
24 up on what's happening, we do have a couple of ways
25 we're communicating this. We do have a webpage, and

1 that is a hyperlink, that we've been updating every
2 two weeks approximately to let you know that
3 information of, you know, how many plans are
4 approved of the state lead agency plans and whether
5 they're with EPA or if they're with the state or
6 territory.

7 We're also releasing Federal Register
8 notice announcements on an approximately quarterly
9 basis. It has been spaced out a bit. But when we
10 have a good handful of plans to announce, we've been
11 announcing them. So we've had two batches thus far
12 and, you know, there have been about a dozen or so
13 in each one of those announcements.

14 And then the plans themselves are being
15 uploaded onto what we call CPARD. That's the system
16 where the states use to put in their state plans and
17 do our annual reporting and such, but there also is
18 a public view. So you're able to see the plans and
19 there are PDFs of the plans in there.

20 Next slide.

21 So when approved, what happens next?
22 Well, actually, implementation of those plans.
23 There is a schedule as part of the plan where
24 there's commitments of what will happen after
25 approved. It may be regulatory, legislative

1 changes, updates to manuals. Some of those things
2 are happening even before, or at least getting
3 started before the plans are approved. Others are
4 getting initiated once the approval takes place. It
5 can be at different paces and different times and
6 things that are changing. It really depends. It's
7 very specific to the plan for many reasons.

8 So the approach might vary, but as long as
9 everything is addressed and it's in compliance,
10 we're working with the states that have a complete
11 plan that matches the 2017 federal minimum.

12 So meanwhile, the existing plans and the
13 relevant parts of their programs can remain in
14 effect. So they might get the minimum age part done
15 this December and then they might then work towards
16 getting some manuals updated, and it might be
17 different categories. Something to keep in mind is
18 this is not just agriculture. This is all settings
19 where restricted-use pesticides are used. So it
20 might be in structural applications, in something
21 with imports or exports, if you're talking
22 fumigations at ports, if you're talking about public
23 health, control of mosquitoes. So it's a lot of
24 different settings that these are taking place in.

25 So it really has a wide reach for a lot of

1 workers, the public. And if you can get people to
2 be able to apply and use these products the way
3 they're intended, you can go a long way to
4 protecting workers, and you know, rural, urban
5 communities and beyond.

6 And then we have cooperative agreements
7 that support this implementation. I mentioned that
8 at the beginning and I will highlight a few of them
9 next.

10 Next slide.

11 So one of them is the Pesticide Education
12 Resource Collaborative. It's actually in a 2.0. UC
13 Davis, in collaboration with Oregon State, are the
14 recipients of this cooperative agreement, and they
15 actually bridge both. They work on Worker
16 Protection Standard type of development of
17 materials, as well as certification and training for
18 pesticide applicators. I highlight them because
19 they have a couple of really good projects in the
20 works that are going to support implementation,
21 including updating soil fumigation manuals, exam
22 banks, working on those on those core competency
23 standards, and have put out some products like an
24 addendum for the core information, as well as some
25 new non-certified applicator training.

1 Next slide.

2 And then this is the part that really kind
3 of gets into the Worker Protection Standard side.
4 It's the same recipients. It's PERC, PERC 2.0. And
5 as part of this current agreement, there's a
6 subaward program as part of it, so \$200,000 is
7 reserved to be distributed to community-based
8 organizations. So a couple of projects per year are
9 being added on that have -- that consider
10 agricultural communities and farmers, farmworkers,
11 and their families.

12 So the first two recipients, I just wanted
13 to make sure you're aware of them, that we have the
14 Campesinas Ain Fronteras and Toxic Free North
15 Carolina as recipients with projects. And then,
16 currently, PERC is reviewing applicants. We'll
17 select up to six projects to be funded by January of
18 2024. So, you know, keep going back to the website
19 to see what updates they have and what projects are
20 underway. This is a program we're really excited
21 about.

22 Next.

23 In addition, we have about six cooperative
24 agreements total in the branch where I -- that we
25 manage related to pesticide safety and/or worker

1 protection. I'm not going to go into details, but
2 we have the National Farmworker Training Program,
3 the National Pesticide Information Center, and then
4 an additional PERC cooperative agreement is on the
5 medical side that works with medical professionals
6 regarding the recognition and management of
7 pesticide poisonings.

8 Next slide.

9 So you may be familiar with this, but
10 there is the PPDC workgroup that had charge
11 questions related to farmworker and clinician
12 training, and this was developed -- it was proposed
13 back in 2020, and came into fruition the start of
14 2021, and by the Fall meeting in 2021, there were
15 recommendations related to two sets that focus on
16 the farmworker training side and also healthcare
17 providers in that recognition and management of
18 pesticide poisoning.

19 There was a large emphasis on the
20 farmworker side of things and it included a really
21 diverse group of representatives from industry,
22 farmworker-serving community-based organizations,
23 community-based organizations that serve Indian
24 tribes, other nonprofits, state regulators,
25 extension service, farm bureaus, and so forth.

1 And so we received these recommendations,
2 and I want to review them slightly, but just more or
3 less -- I won't have time to go into detail, so what
4 I'd really like to do is just provide the link so
5 you can look at them in more detail. And those are
6 on the next slide.

7 We might give it a second to load. There
8 we go. So the farmworker training recommendations,
9 a lot of it focused on the grants, the ones that we
10 just highlighted quickly. You know, what can we do
11 in the next cycles to really address -- make sure
12 that the funds are getting to the community and
13 making impact? So a lot of the discussion was how
14 to involve farmworkers more, farmworker
15 organizations, how to make sure that they're
16 culturally appropriate, considering where they come
17 from -- where the farmworkers come from, what
18 languages they speak, what conditions they might be
19 needing to work on.

20 We might need to -- there we go. Yeah,
21 thank you very much. I didn't realize it was
22 staggered. There we go.

23 And the other areas where is how do we
24 improve the evaluation of, make sure that those
25 materials are effective, and we have a feedback

1 loop, and also ensuring that we have compliance and
2 enforcement of the Worker Protection Standard.

3 The charge questions were really more
4 focused on the programmatic side, but we wanted to
5 highlight, you know, the discussions and what
6 recommendations came out of this -- of those
7 discussions. And we're looking to figure out how to
8 increase that rigor and thoroughness and
9 effectiveness of the training.

10 Next slide. We might have to do the same
11 thing on this one.

12 So the other recommendations were the
13 summary of -- these are the summary of the clinician
14 training recommendations, and there was some focus
15 on the incident reporting, are we aware, do we have
16 a way to collect, can we improve what we know about
17 who is getting exposed, and the impacts of those
18 exposures for pesticides, can we promote awareness
19 of pesticide injury and poisonings and reporting
20 among the clinicians, and how to partner with them.

21 And then we really wanted to consider the
22 targeting of a wide range of healthcare providers,
23 not just talking about the clinicians themselves,
24 but it might be those who work in the clinic or
25 community organizers and such. There's a larger

1 role of who is helping provide in certain rural
2 communities the access to health care and how can
3 that be accomplished and who needs to be trained
4 here.

5 And then there was the investment, you
6 know, investing in some needs assessments. What are
7 the materials and information needed for this to
8 actually take hold and improve? And then how to
9 increase those partnerships and improve the funding
10 opportunities for organizations that are in the
11 front line.

12 Next slide.

13 Now, we don't have time today to go into
14 all of the updates here, but I did want to highlight
15 that those recommendations, we're carrying them with
16 us all the time and thinking about them. They're
17 not the only set of recommendations we got, but they
18 are really important, and there's a lot of overlap
19 and similar themes in what we're hearing from other
20 federal agency -- Federal Advisory Committee
21 recommendations that have come in -- that when we
22 speak to the children's health or when we're
23 speaking to the environmental justice and other
24 federal -- and other FACAs, as we call them --
25 that's the Federal Advisory Committees -- that

1 memberships like yourself that are bringing together
2 groups and have charge questions related to wanting
3 to protect farmworkers.

4 We also are engaging quite a bit in
5 stakeholder groups, you know, meeting with
6 farmworker-serving organizations on a pretty regular
7 basis in order to continue some of these
8 conversations and make sure that we are providing
9 some information, much like we might get to do with
10 states or other industry and other groups. We want
11 to make sure that we are broadening our reach in our
12 conversations.

13 We also have the new PRIA 5 requirements
14 that have been touched upon in a few different parts
15 of this presentation, as well as this morning. I
16 will go into the more specifics about the grants,
17 but you're going to hear a lot of overlap of what
18 was just summarized on those two previous slides
19 from the PPDC Workgroup.

20 And then we really, you know, we were
21 looking to take all of these recommendations and put
22 them to use. So we have new cooperative agreements
23 that are being developed. We will be addressing the
24 PRIA 5 requirements. We will be looking to address
25 as many as we can and as thoroughly as we can the

1 PPDC and other FACA recommendations, stakeholder
2 inputs. And we want to make sure we're staying true
3 to the WPS and certification rule implementation, so
4 making sure it's accurate and it supports the
5 compliance of those rules.

6 Also, some of our current efforts are that
7 -- I mentioned the ongoing stakeholder and
8 coregulator engagements, and that ties in really
9 nicely with what we're doing with the certification
10 plan reviews, as well as specific to some of our --
11 you know, where there's overlap with the Worker
12 Protection Standards.

13 We also have been doing more and providing
14 some educational events and opportunities within our
15 Office of Pesticide Programs and with the regions.
16 And I'm seeing this as something that there's a lot
17 of interest in environmental justice and some of the
18 specific concerns that connect with that, and that
19 includes things like heat stress, maternal health,
20 children's health, children working in the fields.

21 And then there's, you know, something we
22 are required to do, but have been continuing to do
23 is to have that review and approval of training
24 content for the Worker Protection Standard worker-
25 and-handler trainings which are required pesticide

1 safety trainings as part -- that the employers are
2 to provide their workers.

3 Something else that it did come up as a
4 recommendation during the PPDC workgroup and in the
5 PRIA 5 requirements -- so I am pleased to let you
6 know that we do have a new interagency agreement
7 with the CDC NIOSH to focus on collecting better and
8 more timely pesticide injury and illness data.
9 That's the SENSOR Pesticide Program. It is an
10 incident reporting system where we get pretty good
11 information regarding workplace incidents, in
12 particular, agriculturally.

13 And then there's a reconsideration of the
14 Worker Protection Standards Application Exclusion
15 Zone, the AEZ. And I have a few slides on that as
16 well, if I'm not running over. Someone might need
17 to tell me.

18 Next slide.

19 Okay, PRIA 5 set-asides. So this -- the
20 PRIA 5 has a lot of things in it. I'm really just
21 honing in on the new set-asides that are created for
22 cooperative agreements, which it specifies grants
23 for farmworker training and education and the
24 healthcare provider training. If you're familiar
25 with the previous versions of PRIA, PRIA 4, PRIA 3,

1 it was -- the set-asides were for supporting the
2 Worker Protection Standard, were called worker
3 protection activities. It did not specify grants.
4 It was a little bit more vague language.

5 So a big change here is that it increases
6 the funds. That's really good news. It used to be
7 a minimum of one million a year and it covered
8 all those worker protection activities. We were
9 using them to do some work with healthcare provider
10 training, as well as farmworker training, and also
11 certification and training. But now we have -- the
12 total amount here is more close to ten million over
13 the next five years, which works out to, you know,
14 two million per year. So it doubles the money that
15 can go to the farmworker and healthcare provider
16 training if you divide it by five, if you divide it
17 for an annual average.

18 It is written a little differently where
19 it says not more than 7.5 million over five years
20 for farmworker training. Healthcare provider
21 training is not more than 2.5 million over five
22 years. And then something that I didn't include in
23 that math is technical assistance for grants, and
24 this is specific to assisting potential applicants
25 and how to apply -- needing assistance in their

1 application process for federal grants. This is
2 part of that package. It is a little different than
3 the two aforementioned grants related to pesticide
4 safety directly, but it will help support the
5 community-based organizations that may not have the
6 familiarity or capacity to apply for such grants, or
7 at least that's the intention for these funds.

8 So the other piece that I'd like to just
9 mention regarding the farmworker training and
10 education and healthcare provider training,
11 something that's a little different here is that it
12 does get into a little bit more specificity. If you
13 read the PRIA 5 language, it does -- it specifies
14 the type of activities that can be covered, and it
15 really relates specifically to farmworker training,
16 education related to the Worker Protection Standard,
17 farmworker rights and ensuring that the funds are
18 going to community-based organizations and those
19 that are more -- that have experience in providing
20 services to farmworkers.

21 So this will -- this is considered a new
22 grant program for those reasons, that there is some
23 new conditions. And so we're working towards
24 developing new requests for applications, new
25 funding opportunities to put out that meet the new

1 set-asides.

2 And the next slide.

3 One other one I'd like to mention, in
4 addition to it being something that we were
5 interested in doing, it is a mandate in the PRIA 5
6 to support pesticide incident surveillance. So it
7 specifies not more than 500,000 a year to support an
8 interagency agreement with the SENSOR Program. So
9 this is really good news. That means for the next
10 five years we know that we have a funding source to
11 be able to provide for the SENSOR program.

12 The interagency agreement will help
13 support the goal of increasing the number of
14 participating states in the surveillance program,
15 prioritizing the expansion in states with the
16 highest number of agricultural workers and to
17 improve that reporting by that participating state.

18 And just as an extra, I'd like to just --
19 also, PRIA 5 has been providing set-asides -- PRIA 4
20 and before has been providing set-asides for
21 partnership grants and pesticide safety education
22 program grants and those set-asides will continue,
23 and those are ones that I have mentioned on previous
24 slides. That's the National Pesticide Information
25 Center, and as well as the Pesticide Safety

1 Education Program that is supportive of the
2 implementation of the certification program. So I
3 just wanted to give a nod to that as well.

4 Next slide.

5 All right. The Agricultural Worker
6 Protection Standard. I did mention that one of the
7 activities that we are currently focusing on are
8 revisions to the Worker Protection Standard,
9 specifically, the Application Exclusion Zone that we
10 call AEZ. Just as some background, the Worker
11 Protection Standard does have the purpose of
12 preventing and reducing injury from pesticide
13 handlers' and agricultural workers' occupational
14 exposures to pesticides. And it's the agricultural
15 employers who are responsible for providing those
16 protections. So they're the regulated community
17 here in areas where agricultural production is
18 taking place, and that might be farms, nurseries,
19 greenhouses, forests, and so forth.

20 Next slide.

21 Okay. So in 2015, we had done really
22 large changes. It was all components of the Worker
23 Protection Standard were updated. Something new in
24 2015 to add something called the Application
25 Exclusion Zone. It supports the do-not-contact

1 provision. So on labels and through the WPS, no
2 applicator is to spray contact another person with
3 that pesticide.

4 There were some circumstances, some
5 incidents that, you know, definitely reflect that
6 there are some risks that were taking place, that
7 there are some -- there were some times where
8 someone might be in an adjacent field and had been
9 sprayed. So we put in something called the
10 Application Exclusion Zone, which is kind of like a
11 bubble, you know, a circle that goes around
12 application equipment and moves with that
13 application equipment. That no one should be inside
14 of that space in that zone, unless they are that
15 trained handler for that pesticide and participating
16 in that application.

17 In 2020, we made some additional revisions
18 to the Application Exclusion Zone in an attempt to
19 simplify and help with some compliance. Those
20 changes it reduced -- in some applications, it
21 reduced the size of the Application Exclusion Zone
22 for some ground applications that would have been,
23 under the 2015 rule, 100 feet were reduced to 25
24 feet. In addition, it reduced the -- it restricted
25 the AEZ to end at the boundary line, so it could not

1 go off of the agricultural establishment boundary.

2 There was an Executive Order that came
3 out, and considering environmental justice and
4 public health, it was this rule, this 2020 rule was
5 identified as one that should be considered. Around
6 the same time right after this rule in 2020 was
7 published, before it came into effect, there was
8 litigation raised and this rule -- there's a stay on
9 the rule. So it never went into effect.

10 So therefore, we are reconsidering the
11 rule. We have initiated a proposed rule. And I'll
12 get into those details. But one clear message I
13 want you to take away is, until further notice, the
14 2015 worker protection requirements for the
15 Application Exclusion Zone remain in effect. So the
16 2020 rule never went into effect. Everyone should
17 be -- the operative rule is the 2015 rule while
18 we're going through this rule-making.

19 Okay, next slide.

20 So the rule -- the proposed rule was
21 published March 13th. It was open for 60-day
22 comments and has recently closed. We will be
23 posting any kind of updates regarding the AEZ and
24 any of the associated litigation. If something
25 changes regarding that stay, that is available on

1 our website.

2 Next slide.

3 So what was in the proposed rule? I won't
4 go into a lot of detail. The main thing is we
5 proposed to reinstate several provisions from the
6 2015 rule. In particular and importantly, that the
7 AEZ can and does extend beyond the establishment
8 boundaries. So if there's a 25-foot or 100-foot of
9 AEZ, it will extend beyond that that field line of
10 property.

11 Also, there was individuals that were in
12 easements on the property. In the 2020 rule, those
13 were not considered part of the AEZ. Now they are,
14 again, as in the 2015.

15 Another big change was in 2020, we
16 finalized where the criteria for ground -- for the
17 size of the AEZ was based in part on the size of the
18 droplets of a spray. So if it was a finer droplet
19 size, it had a 100-foot AEZ. If it was medium or
20 larger, it was a 25-foot. We removed that in order
21 to simplify the AEZ, but that meant that all ground
22 applications then were 25 feet if they were above 12
23 inches. So there were no 100-foot AEZs for ground
24 applications. We did, however, retain the 100-foot
25 for other application methods that might have the

1 potential for drift, and that included fumigations,
2 for example, and aerial applications, and there were
3 a couple others as well.

4 Next slide.

5 So we also did propose to retain two
6 pieces from the 2020 rule in this new proposal, and
7 that was a clarification that when someone suspended
8 the application due to someone being in the AEZ,
9 that there was a method -- a way to resume it. That
10 was not in the 2015 rule. So we did keep that
11 clarification.

12 And then something that was introduced in
13 2020 was an immediate family exemption that does
14 allow farm owners and their immediate family to
15 remain inside an enclosed structure while the
16 pesticide application was made, and that immediate
17 family exemption is in the new proposal. It does
18 not include any other person. So farmworker
19 housing, other businesses, other homes. They are --
20 if they are in the AEZ, they would have to -- you
21 know, they are considered to be in the AEZ, it has
22 to follow -- the applicator -- the handler would
23 have to make sure that no one is in that AEZ and,
24 therefore, not into that structure.

25 Next slide.

1 So just a summary, we did get 25 comments
2 submitted on the AEZ, and that included a range of
3 of different commenters, everything from state to
4 NGOs, farm bureau, the public. And so we are
5 reviewing those. The next step is for us to start
6 developing the final rule, taking these comments
7 into consideration. And we do anticipate that to be
8 ready in the spring of 2024.

9 I think that might be my last slide. All
10 right.

11 MICHAEL GOODIS: I think it is. Thank
12 you, Carolyn. Appreciate it.

13 CAROLYN SCHROEDER: You're welcome.

14 MICHAEL GOODIS: All right. So we pretty
15 much filled up the whole 90 minutes in our
16 presentations. I wasn't quite sure how close we
17 were going to be on that target. So we have some
18 available time here for some questions and for some
19 feedback. So I like to manage the time the best we
20 can, and so I'll probably start from the beginning
21 on the Executive Orders. Let's see it's 13985 and
22 14091 on EPA's Equity Action Plan. See, I got it
23 right this time.

24 So I'd like to carve out a few minutes for
25 that if there is particular questions or initial

1 feedback. But, again, I'd like to reserve some
2 time, too, for the bilingual labels and also on so
3 me of the information on worker protection that
4 Carolyn just described. So I think we'll open it up
5 at this point.

6 Danny, you'll probably maybe manage this.

7 DANNY GIDDINGS: Yeah, so I will
8 facilitate. So this is -- just despite what you see
9 on the screen, this is not the public comment
10 section. This is -- just to clarify, Michael, this
11 is the feedback on the EJ session that we just did,
12 correct?

13 MICHAEL GOODIS: Right.

14 DANNY GIDDINGS: From the PPDC members.
15 So PPDC members, you know the drill. As in past
16 sessions, raise your hands, and I will recognize you
17 to provide comment or question to our presenters.

18 Mano.

19 MANO BASU: Thank you, Danny. Just a
20 quick question on the Spanish label, where there was
21 the Internal Organization Committee, there was a
22 whole list that the agency presented, names of
23 people from EFED and RD and PRD, AD. I did not see
24 anyone from HED. Is there a specific reason that
25 HED is not involved on that --

1 LINDA ARRINGTON: No, no specific reason.
2 Like I said, that was the current list. This has
3 been going on for almost 10, 11, 12 years now, and
4 so the group has changed. So right now, those are
5 the list of folks that we have right now. But we
6 will be adding -- like OECA is not on that list, but
7 we do know that we will be adding OECA as a part of
8 that group and HED as well. So it's just the
9 current group right now.

10 MANO BASU: Thank you very much, Linda.

11 LINDA ARRINGTON: No problem.

12 DANNY GIDDINGS: Any other comments or
13 questions for the folks who just presented on Equity
14 in Environmental Justice?

15 Mily.

16 MILY TREVINO-SAUCEDA: Yes, I just want to
17 give appreciation in terms of how Carolyn and Linda
18 gave information -- and maybe the whole group, no --
19 the information of how connected you are with what
20 NEJAC is doing. We have some farmworkers that are
21 very adamant in terms of making sure that
22 we are heard in terms of the issues based on the
23 Worker Protection Standards and -- and let me tell
24 you that the farmworkers that have been involved,
25 all of them have been affected in different ways,

1 because they were either working at the time and
2 were poisoned by the pesticides or these workers --
3 all of the females that are participating -- also
4 have had issues with family members and have had
5 children with special needs because of the effects
6 and so forth.

7 But I know that there's a lot of work that
8 needs to be done, but at the same time I just wanted
9 to mention that. In the past, for whatever reason,
10 I wasn't seeing the connection between or within the
11 groups. Maybe it was happening, but I didn't know,
12 and I participated with NEJAC for six years. And I
13 learned about the PPDC at the last year I was with
14 NEJAC, and -- but at the same time, there has been a
15 lot of guidance. And thank you, Carolyn, because
16 that happened during my time -- my first year with
17 PPDC. At the same time, we all know there's a lot
18 more work that needs to be done. So thank you very
19 much.

20 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you for those
21 comments, Mily.

22 Mayra Reiter, you're up next.

23 MAYRA REITER: Thank you. I would like to
24 thank EPA for that presentation. The SENSOR
25 Pesticides Surveillance Program is important as an

1 environmental justice tool because it reveals
2 important information about acute pesticide
3 poisonings affecting farmworkers, and this
4 information is necessary for identifying pesticide
5 risks that have not been well addressed.

6 So my question to EPA is, now that the new
7 interagency agreement is in place, does the agency
8 have a plan at this time for how it will use the
9 limited PRIA 5 funds that were allocated for the
10 expansion and improvement of the SENSOR program, and
11 will it share that plan publicly to get stakeholder
12 inputs as part of its environmental justice
13 activities?

14 CAROLYN SCHROEDER: I'll start, but, Mike,
15 please jump in. I did include it in the slides
16 because I think it really relates well to worker
17 protection, and I had a good status update knowing
18 that there is a new agreement that the PRIA funds
19 have been -- are being added and that they are
20 looking -- the Health Effects Division is the lead
21 part of the Office of Pesticide Programs. So I do
22 apologize I don't have more information to date to
23 share, but I'm sure we can find out more about it
24 and share the comments.

25 I know that they are working to -- the

1 goal is to expand, improve the participation of the
2 states with a focus -- you know, an emphasis on
3 those high agricultural states. But I don't have
4 further details to share this time on that.

5 MICHAEL GOODIS: Yeah, I don't know if
6 Dana is on the line, if she can chime in. I mean, I
7 would just mention, too, as Ed had mentioned,
8 there's over 50 specific actions that came out of
9 PRIA 5 that we're tracking. You know, we have
10 regular like implementation meetings where each one
11 of those provisions have leads and there's teams
12 around them as well. And so, you know, I think
13 we're still in the process of working out what those
14 plans will be and, you know, as far as making it
15 publicly available, we'll take it into
16 consideration. I'm just not in a position right now
17 to kind of commit to something like that yet until
18 that plan, I think, is fairly developed.

19 CAROLYN SCHROEDER: I do --

20 MAYRA REITER: When there's more
21 information to share, that would be helpful. Thank
22 you.

23 MICHAEL GOODIS: Understood.

24 CAROLYN SCHROEDER: Great, and I do think
25 it's a success that we have the interagency

1 agreement already up and running. That is --
2 sometimes that can take quite a while, and I know
3 that was started even before -- it was something
4 that was being prioritized and considered when we
5 were discussing the PPDC Workgroup recommendations.
6 So we were already working that way, which is why we
7 are even this far along right now. PRIA 5, though,
8 does now guarantee some funds for it. We were
9 moving forward with the cooperative agreement
10 without necessarily knowing if and when and how much
11 funds we could put on. So now, we at least have
12 that base funding for 500,000. So I consider that
13 really great news.

14 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you.

15 Nathan, you are up next.

16 NATHAN DONLEY: Great. Well, first, I
17 want to thank EPA for work it's done so far in
18 addressing some of the issues that farmworkers have
19 raised to the agency and helping, you know, get a
20 few good things in PRIA 5, and I also want to fully
21 support what was said by Mily and Mayra representing
22 the farmworker community.

23 But I also want to push back a little on
24 on EPA's view of its environmental justice work
25 here, because, you know, baby steps really aren't

1 enough, and you can translate the statement "fatal
2 if swallowed" into Spanish and pat yourself on the
3 back, but at the end of the day you're approving
4 pesticides, like Paraquat, that are literally
5 killing people every single year in this country.
6 The problem that really needs to be addressed is
7 registration itself.

8 You know, the registration process is not
9 designed to protect the margins. If you're
10 protecting against exposures at the 90th or 95th
11 percentile, which is common, guess who the 5 percent
12 are that you're not protecting? It's farmworkers.
13 It's often communities of color, low-income
14 communities, young kids, the highest exposed people.
15 You know, the environmental justice communities
16 you're talking about helping here with all these
17 efforts are ignored in your registration decisions
18 by design. They're treated as outliers, so to
19 speak.

20 And this statistic just kills me. Over
21 half of apartment units in high-density, low-income
22 housing in New York State, public housing, have
23 pesticides applied once a week. I mean that's 52
24 applications a year inside people's homes. And I've
25 never seen the human health risk assessment model

1 those types of exposures, but it's happening, and
2 it's happening to the communities that are treated
3 as collateral damage here, you know.

4 So I just want to implore the leadership
5 at OPP to rethink what it views as meaningful change
6 in the environmental justice space, because I'm not
7 seeing it here. Every single action discussed today
8 was designed to basically try and clean up the mess
9 from bad registration decisions, you know,
10 monitoring and indicators and worker protections on
11 the back end.

12 Even the mitigations you're implementing
13 for the organophosphates and ethylene oxide as part
14 of registration review are being undertaken because
15 the previous registration decisions were not
16 protective enough and people have been harmed for
17 the entirety of these registrations because of that,
18 because there's been no attempt to tackle the source
19 of the problem here. And no one is willing to face
20 the fact that the pesticide approval process itself,
21 as currently implemented by OPP, is fundamentally
22 unjust, and it's time to -- it's time to tackle
23 that.

24 So thank you. That's all for me.

25 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Nathan.

1 Becca Berkey, you're recognized.

2 BECCA BERKEY: Yes. I mean, I obviously
3 would love to underscore what Nathan just shared, as
4 well as Mily and Mayra. I think one thing that
5 comes up for me is there are a lot of great efforts,
6 I think, contained in what was presented today
7 around -- including farmworker community, centering,
8 farmworker communities.

9 That said, I think that I would be
10 interested in how farmworker communities themselves,
11 and not just the people that represent farmworker
12 communities, are actually involved in setting the
13 standards and also kind of testing or pilot testing
14 what is happening in these different areas, and
15 doing that on a timeline, and with remuneration that
16 is going to honor those contributions. So thinking
17 about, you know, having focus groups, for example,
18 and not just a couple, but, you know, maybe ten --
19 minimum of ten across the country, different parts
20 of the country, farmworkers that represent different
21 backgrounds, and really having a plan for utilizing
22 those suggestions and reporting back out on that.

23 And, again, I think there has been
24 evidenced ability to take feedback and integrate it,
25 and so really expanding the ways that we're thinking

1 about who can contribute and how. And then, also, I
2 think with -- and this was, I think, addressed to a
3 certain extent, but just to punctuate it here --
4 thinking about how information is distributed even
5 once it is created in a way that people can
6 understand it, and actually have the protections to
7 implement it within their workplace, making sure
8 that we're leveraging technology, but not limiting
9 things to technology that might not be accessible to
10 all.

11 So those are the pieces that I just wanted
12 to, I think, underscore that were in what was there
13 today, but just to look at as opportunities for
14 expansion and feedback from the communities
15 themselves that are most impacted by these
16 decisions.

17 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Becca.

18 Damon Reabe, you are recognized.

19 DAMON REABE: Hey, thanks a lot. I just
20 wanted to share how aerial application is used in
21 the protection of farmworkers, and I'm using our
22 specific company as an example. We have vegetable
23 producers that use farmworkers in the production
24 process and also vegetable producers that, based on
25 the crop type and the production process, do not.

1 The farming operation is completely mechanized.

2 In the case of our customers that are
3 using aerial application that also are utilizing
4 farmworkers in their production, they have indicated
5 to me the reason why they're using our service is
6 actually for additional farmworker protection.

7 The workers can be in the field performing
8 their tasks and then, in a very short -- a very,
9 very short time window, we can have the farmworkers
10 leave the entire farm, not the application site, but
11 the actual property altogether. The aircraft come
12 in, do hundreds of acres of applications in a matter
13 of -- a brief matter of time, one to two, sometimes
14 three hours, while the farmworkers are at home, away
15 from the application site. We're then gone, and
16 then the reentry intervals are met, and then the
17 farmworkers are allowed back into the field for
18 subsequent duties.

19 And I just bring it up because it's an
20 important tool that these growers are paying a
21 premium for. They're actually spending more money
22 to hire us than they would to do those same
23 applications by ground, but these producers want
24 their workers to be in a safe environment. They
25 want them away from the pesticide application. And

1 the timing of our service makes that possible.

2 Thanks.

3 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thanks, Damon.

4 Any other comments or questions from PPDC
5 members as we wrap up the Environmental Justice
6 session?

7 I see Walter Alarcon. You are recognized.

8 WALTER ALARCON: Yeah, good afternoon.
9 This is Walter Alarcon. I work with the SENSOR
10 Pesticides Program, and I want to acknowledge and
11 say thank you to the EPA for working with us and for
12 the support you've given (inaudible) pesticide
13 poisonings. We are working very closely with the
14 Health Effects Division and we will provide updates
15 to the EPA as we progress. So that's what I wanted
16 just to say.

17 Thank you.

18 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Walter.

19 Any other comments or questions as we wrap
20 up the business section of today's meeting and
21 prepare to move on to public comment?

22 (No response.)

23 PUBLIC COMMENTS

24 DANNY GIDDINGS: All right. Seeing none,
25 then, as we are nearing the end of the first day,

1 we'll give the members of the public, who have
2 listened in all day, a chance to provide comments.

3 We are fortunate to have had 18 attendees
4 who registered to provide public comments during the
5 meeting. So at this time, if you would please raise
6 your hand if you registered to provide comments and
7 are ready to speak. In the next few minutes, our
8 technical support team behind the scenes will
9 promote each registered commenter to panelists which
10 will allow you to unmute your line and activate your
11 webcam. Please do wait until I call on you, going
12 in order of hands raised, to turn your mic on and
13 your webcam on, and then deliver your remarks slowly
14 and clearly.

15 If you're participating today via
16 telephone, please press *9 to indicate you want to
17 be recognized, and I'll call on you by area code.
18 Please unmute when I call on you by pressing *6 six.

19 When you're making your comment, please
20 state your name and affiliation if you have one, and
21 we ask that you please limit your remarks to three
22 minutes. Another member of our team will be
23 displaying a slide that shows you when your last 30
24 seconds are up. So when you see that slide, you'll
25 know that you're nearing the end of you're allotted

1 time and that you have 30 seconds to wrap up.

2 It's important for me to note that you
3 should ensure that you're not connected to a phone
4 and your computer audio at the same time. We'll get
5 a horrible feedback sound.

6 Again, also, we're asking you to please
7 keep your remarks within the time allowed. If there
8 is additional time and we're going to -- you know,
9 we've got the next 30 minutes or so to do this, but
10 if there is additional time, we will open the floor
11 to commenters who have not registered to speak as
12 part of their event registration. So if you would
13 like to provide comments and you haven't, previous
14 to this moment, registered to provide comment, you
15 can send an email to Michelle Arling. That's
16 Arling.Michelle@EPA.gov, A-R-L-I-N-G.M-I-C-H-E-L-L-
17 E@EPA.gov, saying that you would like to provide
18 comments during the public comment period.

19 So with that, let's get started. Let me
20 navigate back to my Zoom screen.

21 Our first commenter is Muhammad Asif. Has
22 Muhammad been promoted to panelist yet?

23 MICHELLE ARLING: No.

24 DANNY GIDDINGS: Is Muhammad present
25 today?

1 MICHELLE ARLING: Not apparent from the
2 attendee list.

3 DANNY GIDDINGS: Okay. So we'll circle
4 back to Muhammad.

5 Bill Jordan, raise your hand so we can
6 promote you to panelist, so you can provide comment.

7 WILLIAM JORDAN: Thank you. I have been
8 promoted. I'm William Jordan. I speak on behalf of
9 the Environmental Protection Network. EPN is an
10 organization -- a nonprofit organization of over 500
11 volunteers, most of whom, like me, are former EPA
12 employees, and EPN is committed to supporting the
13 agency in its mission for protecting public health
14 and the environment.

15 I want to comment on two issues at this
16 point. The first is to underscore the comment made
17 by Mayra Reiter regarding the emerging technologies
18 and labeling issue. There needs to be a fit between
19 the labeling and the regulation of drone technology.
20 Currently, because of the operation of the FIFRA
21 Section 2EE, paragraph 3, it's okay for anybody
22 anywhere to use a drone to apply a pesticide,
23 regardless of what else may be on the label, unless
24 there is a specific prohibition against doing that.

25 EPA, if it wants to have a handle on the

1 drone technology, needs to look at and address that
2 label issue by prohibiting, at a minimum, drone
3 applications unless there is already an aerial
4 application permitted on the label or maybe even, as
5 Mayra suggested, it needs explicitly to address
6 drone application.

7 The second issue I'd like to address is
8 related to the plans for the certification of
9 pesticide applicators. I was pleased to hear Carolyn
10 Schroeder say that the deadline of November 4th of
11 this year is a hard deadline, and I hope that has
12 already been communicated to the states and tribes
13 with plans that have not yet been approved.

14 But the thing that Carolyn did not address is what
15 happens if, unfortunately, November 4th arrives and
16 some state or tribe, or federal agency does not have
17 an approved plan. What's the status of applicator
18 certifications in those states; what will the EPA
19 do; what will states be able to do, and so forth.

20 And clarifying that, I think, would make
21 -- create incentives for the states to move
22 expeditiously to complete whatever work they need to
23 do and get the plans to EPA for EPA's approval.

24 Thank you very much.

25 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, William.

1 Is Anne Katten with us today?

2 ANNE KATTEN: Yes, I'm here.

3 DANNY GIDDINGS: Hi, Anne.

4 ANNE KATTEN: Thank you very much. Oh,
5 should I go ahead?

6 DANNY GIDDINGS: Oh, yeah, sorry, go
7 ahead. Yes, please go ahead.

8 ANNE KATTEN: Okay. I'm Anne Katten from
9 California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation. Thank
10 you very much for very informative presentations and
11 discussion today.

12 I'd like to reinforce especially the
13 comments of Nathan Donley of the need to use the
14 registration process to better protect farmworkers,
15 and of Becca Berkey of the need for focus groups to
16 get input from farmworkers for environmental justice
17 needs.

18 Also regarding the emerging technologies,
19 I recognize that they have a lot of potential, but
20 I'm very concerned about how exposure inside treated
21 fields and in the Application Exclusion Zones and
22 near fields will be prevented without an applicator
23 or a pilot to see crews who get mistakenly sent into
24 an area, because that does happen and,
25 unfortunately, will continue to happen.

1 Also, regarding the emerging technologies,
2 especially broadcast ones on the ground, there is
3 going to be a real need to limit the number of spray
4 vehicles in an area to prevent drift in California
5 with even applicator-driven vehicles. We've seen
6 incidents where there are multiple sprayers in a
7 field and you get drift, you know, up to a half-mile
8 away. And, you know, this obviously has to be
9 prevented.

10 And then just, finally, in the area of
11 bilingual labels, we need to be mindful that in many
12 rural areas there are gaps in cell coverage. So
13 it's important -- and it's important that the QR
14 codes are accessible in that situation, and I think
15 that workers need to be able to download the code so
16 that they can review the labels later because it's
17 complicated anyway.

18 Thank you very much.

19 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you for your
20 comments, Anne.

21 Next on our list of preregistered
22 commenters is him Kim Ernt Pitcher (phonetic).

23 Kim, if you are with us, please unmute
24 yourself and turn on your webcam.

25 I'll note as she's doing that, that

1 please, all of our commenters, speak slowly so our
2 translators can keep up and provide live translation
3 in multiple languages that we are providing today.

4 I'm seeing that Kim is not with us, so we
5 will switch to Hardy Kern.

6 Hardy, are you there?

7 HARDY KERN: Yes, hi. Are you able to
8 hear me?

9 DANNY GIDDINGS: Loud and clear. Go
10 ahead, Hardy.

11 HARDY KERN: Phenomenal. I apologize. My
12 camera decided to extend its holiday weekend. So I
13 will not be visually joining anyone today.

14 I just wanted to say thank you so much for
15 the -- or I'm Hardy Kern, Director of Government
16 Relations with American Bird Conservancy. I wanted
17 to first thank everyone for the conversations today,
18 especially around environmental justice.

19 We were able to hire our first
20 Conservation and Justice Fellow, Harrison Watson,
21 this year, who specifically looked at the impacts of
22 pesticides on farmworkers. He's actually joining us
23 here on the call and has helped build some really
24 great relationships and, you know, talk about how
25 the better regulation and governance of pesticides

1 is not just an environmental justice concern; it's
2 an environmental concern and sort of, you know, all
3 moving together in the right direction is going to
4 benefit all living things. So we're really grateful
5 for the continued conversations about this.

6 I also wanted to specifically thank EPA
7 for the JAMA analysis on Clothianidin, Thiamethoxam,
8 and Imidacloprid and all the evaluations that have
9 come out of that, that continuing work on
10 neonicotinoids, and just restate, as you've heard
11 from me before and will hear from me again, that we
12 do feel that the use of neonicotinoids as seed
13 coatings is being vastly underrepresented in terms
14 of effects on nontarget species, nontarget wildlife,
15 you name it, in all of EPA's determinations. And we
16 do have a new report coming out in just a couple of
17 weeks here that is going to document a lot of
18 updated research on neonics and their impacts on
19 wildlife. So keep your eyes open for that, and
20 thank you again for all the great work here.

21 DANNY GIDDINGS: Thank you, Hardy.

22 I am seeing from our team that there's no
23 sign of Maria del Pillar Elena, though I do think
24 there could be a few phone attendees. So this a
25 good time for me to remind you that if you are

1 participating on the phone the following commands
2 can be entered via using your phone's dial pad while
3 in the Zoom meeting. It's *6 to unmute and be
4 recognize to unmute. And then -- oh, here we go, *9
5 on the phone to confirm that you still wish to share
6 remarks and then *6 to unmute.

7 So I don't think that Maria is with us, so
8 we will go on down the list. However, for those
9 folks who are participating, please do note --
10 participating via telephone, please do note those
11 participation notes.

12 I saw a note that Anna Crowder (phonetic)
13 and Kim Kelly Tunis (phonetic) are not going to
14 provide a public comment today. So I have Adriana
15 Quintero (phonetic).

16 All right. It seems (inaudible) is not
17 with us. So let's try Bea Patiosha (phonetic) --
18 Chinpati (phonetic). So sorry for, I'm sure,
19 mispronouncing your name.

20 (No response.)

21 DANNY GIDDINGS: Is Ms. or Mr. Chinpati,
22 with us today?

23 (No response.)

24 DANNY GIDDINGS: Okay. I'm seeing a note
25 from our team that there -- that among the folks on

1 this list, no one else is still with us and/or
2 willing to provide public comment. So one last call
3 for anyone on the phone or participating or online
4 as an attendee, if you'd like to make public comment
5 on the presentations that you've seen in Day 1 of
6 the May 2023 PPDC, please raise your hand to be
7 recognized now.

8 All right. So seeing that we have no more
9 public commenters, I will kick it to Ed to close us
10 out. I just want to thank everyone for their
11 participation today, whether you were
12 member of the PPDC, a member of one of the
13 workgroups from EPA or another one of the federal
14 agencies, thank you for being with us today, for
15 taking the time, and we will see you tomorrow.

16 Ed, do you want to provide any closing
17 comments?

18 ED MESSINA: I just want to thank our
19 presenters, all the people that made this happen.

20 Did we want to talk about the agenda for
21 tomorrow, too, Danny? Because we did have a -- I
22 think we did have a change from what was issued. So
23 I don't know what Michelle is still on. We had a
24 presenter who needed to change their time. So we
25 did move some things around.

1 DANNY GIDDINGS: That's right. Yeah.

2 And, Michelle, you're going to have to
3 probably correct me because I'm going to have to go
4 from memory, but I believe the sessions that were on
5 the distributed agenda on either side of lunch
6 switched places. So I believe that was the Emerging
7 Viral Contaminant session switched place with
8 whatever was on the other side of the agenda. Let
9 me check here.

10 EDWIN MESSINA: I think Michelle can help
11 us there.

12 MICHELLE ARLING: This is Michelle. I'm
13 happy to jump in.

14 So what happened is that the session
15 before lunch starting, I think, at 11:35 is now
16 going to be the Label Reform label Workgroup
17 Formation discussion, and then, after lunch, we'll
18 talk about the Emerging Viral Pathogens Workgroup's
19 updates. That's the switch, because the Pathogens
20 update was before lunch on the agenda we sent out.

21 ED MESSINA: Yeah. And, Michelle, did we
22 -- are we sending around an updated agenda to the
23 PPDC members? Have they already received that?

24 MICHELLE ARLING: It's been posted to the
25 PPDC website.

1 ED MESSINA: Okay, great.

2 MICHELLE ARLING: And we can send around a
3 copy.

4 ED MESSINA: Yeah, so we'll do that.

5 So thanks, everyone. I just wanted to
6 make people aware of that schedule change for
7 tomorrow, but, again, another full day.

8 Thank you to our interpreters. And we
9 will see you starting at 11:00 a.m. Looking at
10 Michelle for the head nod. 11:00 a.m. tomorrow
11 sharp. And thanks, everyone, for attending today
12 and for all the presentations, and for your
13 facilitation, Danny, as well.

14 Bye, everyone. Have a great night.

15 DANNY GIDDINGS: See you tomorrow.

16 (Day 1 adjourned.)

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