

DIRECTION & MINUTE OF THE DECISION-MAKING COMMITTEE

Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (“HSNO Act”)

Application APP203660: modified reassessment of methyl bromide

Direction & Minute WGT023 of the Decision-making Committee (DMC) – 28 August 2020

Background

1. Between 11 and 17 August 2020, the hearing for the modified reassessment of methyl bromide occurred, in which the DMC heard from the applicant, Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), submitters, and the associated witnesses nominated by those parties.
2. On 17 August 2020, the DMC adjourned the hearing to consider all of the evidence before it including the information provided at the hearing.
3. The DMC considers that there are aspects regarding the dispersion of methyl bromide through the air that it would like additional information on to inform its deliberations.

Further information requested by the DMC

4. The DMC requests additional air dispersion modelling to provide information on or an assessment of the following points.
 - a. The wind speed or conditions in which ventilation should be delayed. In particular the DMC requests that this information address the effects of unstable, no or low wind conditions and their impact on methyl bromide dispersion.
 - b. The buffer zones which would be required to ensure that the 1 hour TEL is met under the dispersion occurring in these scenarios, based on the 99.9th percentiles.
5. The DMC requests that the updated air dispersion modelling be conducted for the following scenarios.
 - a. 30% minimum recapture of methyl bromide on 50%, 75%, 100% of log stacks.
 - b. Then increasing in 10% increments for 100% of stacks – 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 99%.
 - c. Log stacks to be modelled at application of maximum dosage of methyl bromide for exports to India and China, as well as the proposed lower applicaiton rate of 40 g/m³.

- d. Ship holds to be modelled at dosage of methyl bromide for exports to India and to China, as well as the proposed lower application rate of 40 g/m³, with one hold opened every two hours, and methyl bromide recapture levels of 0%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 99%.
 - e. The ventilation of fumigated ship holds and log stacks should be modelled separately and in combination.
6. The DMC requests that modelling should occur using the parameters, model choices, and inputs agreed to in the joint statements reporting on the expert conferencing, and used in the June 2020 SEC modelling, unless superceded by other information in this Direction and Minute.
 7. The DMC requests that isopleths be produced illustrating the figures from the modelling to assist in deriving potential buffer zones for different fumigation scenarios.
 8. The DMC notes that an independent review of the modelling is required to confirm that there are no errors in the set up and performance of the models.
 9. The DMC acknowledges the range of expert modellers that they received evidence from in submissions, through expert conferencing, and in the hearing. The DMC considers that Todoroski Air Sciences (TAS), as the modellers who advised the EPA, would be appropriate to undertake the modelling requested in this direction and minute.

Directions

10. The DMC directs the following.
 - a. Todoroski Air Sciences (TAS) are to provide the DMC with a time frame within which it can prepare the deterministic modelling as set out in paragraphs 4 – 7 above.
 - b. TAS are to undertake the deterministic air dispersion modelling to provide the information requested in paragraphs 4 – 7 above. Unless superceded by any request of the DMC in this Direction and Minute, the modelling should use the parameters, model, and inputs agreed to during expert conferencing.
 - c. An independent expert, to be procured by the EPA, is to provide the DMC with a time frame within which it can review the modelling to be prepared by TAS.
 - d. The independent expert is to review the TAS modelling for the purpose of confirming that the models have been created and performed correctly in line with the expert conference joint statements and this Direction and Minute.

Once this modelling and its review has been provided to the DMC, that all parties to the modified reassessment will have 10 working days to review and comment on that modelling information.
11. The DMC will then consider all evidence provided at that point, and advise on the next steps in the process. This will be communicated further in a Direction and Minute.

For the Decision-making Committee:



28 August 2020

Tipene Wilson
Chairperson

Date