

Toxic Steering Group (TSG) Meeting

September 16, 2020

In Attendance

Shannon Briggs, Keisha Williams, Jacob Carrick, Sarah Bowman, Aubrey Brewer, Xun Che, Aaron Cooch, Michael Depa, Lisa Fischer, Kay Fritz, Jennifer Gray, Rosa Jaiman, Sesha Kallakuri, Gary Klase, Grace Kuan, Doreen Lehner, Shane Morrison, Mounica Nandula, Geoff Rhodes, Divinia Ries, Joy Morgan Taylor, Al Taylor, Eric Wildfang.

Keisha Williams started the meeting at 1 pm by going over the agenda as follows:

- Introductions / Attendance
- Presentation on current issues in Agriculture Toxicology
- Request for feedback on screening level for toluene diisocyanate
- Discuss next TSG Chair for 2021
- Discuss possibility of TSG-led Earth Day exhibit (if time allows)
- Items to Discuss and Gain Consensus On
- Updates from TSG's Vapor Intrusion Workgroup
- Round Robin: Updates from Toxicology Programs

Agenda Items

Introductions were made and afterward the first presentation was made by Kay Fritz entitled, "Current Issues in Agricultural Toxicology."

Current Issues in Agricultural Toxicology

The presentation consisted of a description of the various divisions in the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and their roles and responsibilities which include: Agricultural Development, Animal Industry, Environmental Stewardship, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division, Food and Dairy, and Laboratory Divisions. Kay also gave an overview of MDARD's Rapid Response Team which includes a toxicologist, epidemiologist, and a food/feed specialist as well as MDARD's PFAS response which identifies and investigates any new contaminated areas with respect to any impacted agricultural entities within one mile.

Action: Kay will make her presentation available to the TSG via the SharePoint.

Presentation on Toluene Diisocyanate (TDI)

Next, Mike Depa presented AQD's concerns over the designation of TDI as a non-carcinogen via the inhalation route of exposure. Mike gave background information regarding the American Chemistry Council's evaluation of TDI. The major contention was that TDI is converted to toluene diamine (TDA) via the oral route of exposure and is thought to be the metabolite responsible for the carcinogenicity of TDI orally. TDI is not converted to TDA in the lung. The only governmental entity that regulates TDI as a carcinogen via inhalation is California. Mike reviewed for the TSG the toxicological information on genotoxicity, toxicokinetics, epidemiology, and carcinogenicity studies. Lastly, Mike reviewed a National TDI Institute Study looking at tumor incidence in mice via the inhalation route. He discussed the incidence of multiple adenomas in the lungs with respect to the historical data.

Action: Mike requested interested members to provide him feedback. He will send out a document summarizing the toxicological data on TDI to get further peer review from the TSG.

Discussion on the Next TSG Chair

Keisha discussed the upcoming vacancy for the TSG Chair. Shane Morrison has tentatively agreed to be a candidate for the position. Keisha brought up the idea of job shadowing for interested candidate to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of the chairman and went over the Policies and Procedures to outline the specific duties. Keisha also mentioned that the chair must be a level 12 (or over) toxicologist. Divinia Ries suggested compiling a list of individuals at a level 12 or over to reach out and determine if there is any interest in being a candidate for the position (given supervisor's consent). The attitude was one of general agreement with one exception. Shannon Briggs asked that her staff not be included on the list due to being short-staffed at this time and the staff is unable to take on added responsibilities.

Action Item: Keisha will produce a list of eligible candidates and determine whether there is additional interest in being the TSG chair (except Shannon's group).

Discuss Possibility of TSG-Led Earth Day Exhibit

Keisha put forth the possibility of the TSG putting together an exhibit for the 2021 Earth Day event. Eric Wildfang mentioned that the next meeting will be a virtual event.

Action Item: For those interested in leading the event, contact Keisha.

Items to Discuss and Gain Consensus On

Keisha went over the survey results from the last TSG meeting. These items including continuation of the Brownbag meetings, evaluation of the All Ages Lead Model (AALM), forming a Subcommittee on Emerging Issues, update or rescind TSG policy and procedures, and 2+ voting process for consensus.

All Ages Lead Model: The general consensus was to form a workgroup to investigate the usefulness of the model. Divinia asked, "What would be the next step after reviewing the model? How would Michigan use the model?" Eric indicated that for now it is just to determine whether the AALM is better than the Integrated Exposure Uptake Biokinetic model. Mike indicated his willingness to be on the committee.

Emerging Issues in Toxicology: There was a consensus regarding a committee that will look into current trends in Toxicology. Brian Hughes explained that there are many entities that find it valuable to be current on trends that affect their business. An example of which is the American Chemistry Council (ACC) that updates their membership into any international, federal, and state toxics initiatives. Some of the ACC updates are agency specific such as WHO, OECD, FIFRA, TSCA, etc. This information is expected to keep toxicologists updated to events in their field. Eric suggested that this could be a part of the TSG Brownbag.

Action: Brian will lead the workgroup. Those who are interested please contact Keisha (pending your supervisors' permission).

TSG Policy and Procedures: Keisha went over the TSG's Policy and Procedures (P&P) that is located on the TSG SharePoint site. She went over the current policies, procedures, and history. The TSG must decide whether to revise the current P&P document or develop/adopt a charter. Keisha reviewed what a charter may look like and the pro and cons for either decision. Eric asked whether Aaron Keatley, EGLE deputy director, supports changes to the current P&P. Al Taylor indicated that his suggestion would be a charter; however, if members wanted changes to the P&P this is an option. Another option might be to have a charter and then allow each department to generate a policy. Kay indicated that MDARD supports the charter approach. Divinia made a motion that the TSG vote and make the decision at the meeting. Keisha opposed the motion indicating that some members were not at the meeting and did not want to exclude them. Furthermore, some of the TSG membership may be hearing this for the first time and needed additional time to process this information and comment. Divinia asked for a vote to determine whether to do another survey and provide feedback versus voting now and making the determination. Keisha again voiced her preference for another survey indicating that in the previous survey one couldn't both answer the question and leave a comment. Another survey would allow those with a strong opinion about the P&P to put it in the comments. A vote was taken during the meeting and the voting results indicated five people were for taking immediate action while 14 voted for an additional survey.

Action: Keisha will conduct another survey regarding revising the current P&P document versus adopting a charter.

Vapor Intrusion Workgroup Update

Shane Morrison shared that he sent the Recommended Interim Action Screening Levels guidance document to management and received comments. He has a management meeting with Aaron to discuss the final draft on Friday. Mike asked how many chemicals were included in the document? Shane indicated that he would need to go back to the document. Keisha indicated that the document was on the TSG SharePoint where one could find the tables with the chemicals, their values, and the basis for their derivation. Mike asked whether a short-term averaging time made a difference in the values. Shane indicated that many times developmental effects drove a more conservative estimate of the risk-based acceptable air concentrations (AAC). Mike also asked if physical/chemical characteristics such as Henry's Law and vapor pressure were parameters for the AAC calculation. Shane replied that such parameters were used to back calculate the concentration of the soil gas but not in developing the AAC.

Actions: None

Updates Were Given from the Following Units

- DHHS
 - Environmental Site Contamination: Rose Jaiman
 - ATSDR Unit: Andrea Keatley
 - Vapor Intrusion Unit: Jake Carrick
 - Drinking Water Unit: Currently, there are no toxicologists within this unit
- MDARD
 - Kay Fritz
- EGLE
 - RRD: Eric Wildfang
 - MMD: Al Taylor

- AQD: Brian Hughes / Joy Taylor Morgan
- WRD: Shannon Briggs / Sarah Bowman

Potential Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Keisha suggested that members of the TSG take turns giving presentations to share expertise among the members.