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MAINE BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL POLICY RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ERAC)

Adopted June 25, 1999
Amended September 29, 2000

Background

The Maine BPC recognizes the potential impact of some pesticides on the environment from their federally approved label uses. Evaluation of these products with regard to specific situations and local Maine conditions is critical to reducing potential adverse effects on the environment. The Board needs expert advisors, knowledgeable in the field of environmental toxicology and ecology research, who can add their assessments to the medical, economic and benefit recommendations of others prior to the Board initiating and ruling on pesticide restrictions.

These persons will be established as a volunteer Environmental Risk Advisory Committee (ERAC) to the Board of Pesticides Control.

Membership

The ERAC will be composed of four standing members and two ad hoc members. One standing member will be one of the Board members appointed to represent the public with a demonstrated interest in environmental protection. This member will also chair the committee. The other three standing members will be qualified professionals in related environmental or ecological research disciplines such as an aquatic or terrestrial biologist, aquatic or terrestrial entomologist and environmental toxicologist. In addition, up to six members will be chosen ad hoc with expertise specific to the potential environmental impact in question. The Board will solicit and review resumes for any vacancy on the ERAC. The Board should appoint persons whose disciplines in aggregate are suitable for identifying potential environmental problems and recommending courses of action that would prevent their occurrence.

Term

The standing committee members of the ERAC will be appointed by the Board for three years of service, with terms to be staggered. The ad hoc members will serve for the duration of a specific issue but not longer than a three year term, unless re-appointed.

Meetings

The Committee will meet on an as needed basis at the invitation of the ERAC chairman.

Compensation

The ERAC is voluntary and no compensation for services is available. However, all reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed, subject to the approval of the staff director, in a manner consistent with State Travel Policy.