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August 17, 2010

Tracey Braun
Director, Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch
Manitoba Conservation
123 Main St., Suite 160,
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5



Dear Tracey,

RE: Pesticide Use Permit (PUP) #2010052

Thank you for your letter of response dated August 6, 2010 regarding the three proposed changes in the aforementioned PUP and for the opportunity to meet on August 10, 2010. At this meeting, we feel we had the opportunity to clarify our position, and come to a mutual understanding of these proposed changes.

1. Reduction in the Size of Buffer Zones

Your letter of response suggests that your understanding is that the City of Winnipeg is applying for a change in the PUP from the current 100 meter buffer zone to a 15 meter buffer zone from an anti-pesticide registrant's (APR) property line. As discussed at the meeting, that is not correct. The City of Winnipeg is not making application for a reduction to a 15 meter buffer zone. Rather, in the City of Winnipeg's letter dated July 28, 2010, we intended to provide a range of buffer zone sizes that may be considered for discussion purposes. The range of buffer zone sizes are from the APR's property line (as suggested by your Minister in his letter dated July 21, 2010) to the current buffer of 100 meters.

Our preliminary testing using the ULV fogging equipment and GPS technology, has shown that a minimum buffer zone of 0 meters (the APR's property line) is not operationally feasible. This testing also allowed us to conclude that a minimum of 15 meters for a buffer zone, from the APR's property line, was required for Malathion 95 ULV not to be directly applied to the APR's property, under ideal conditions. However, an assumption of ideal conditions would not account for any drift of the suspended particles once it has been broken down into 12-20 micron sized particles from the head of the ULV, pointed at 45 degrees in the air from the back of a truck moving at 15 km/hr, with varying wind speeds. As a result, even a 15 meter buffer zone from the APR's property line does not appear adequate in all environmental circumstances to eliminate the possibility that an APR property could be impacted by drifting.

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At the other end of the spectrum, the City of Winnipeg's current practice, as required by the existing PUP, is to observe a 100 meter buffer zone. Preliminarily, an analysis of peer reviewed scientific literature suggests the 100 meter buffer zone could be reduced by 10 meters, to 90 meters, in various environmental conditions.

As you advised us at the August 10, 2010 meeting, the Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch will require evidence that the existing buffer zone could be reduced in size. In an effort to obtain the necessary evidence, the Insect Control Branch is willing to undertake field trials to conclusively determine the effective dispersion, settling and distribution of Malathion 95 ULV in varying environmental conditions. Therefore, the City of Winnipeg is hereby requesting a special use permit to treat a cross section of urban areas within Winnipeg at our discretion, without having to observe the normal requirements for adult mosquito control as prescribed in our current PUP. If this special use permit is approved, please note that we would, however, still respect the current requirement for the registered APR's wherever applicable.


2. Amend the criterion for fogging from three (3) consecutive days to (2) days

As discussed at our meeting, the American Mosquito Control Association's Best Practices has not changed from their recommendation of three (3) consecutive days of greater than 25 adult female nuisance mosquitoes in traps. However, our local experience is that only (2) two days are required to make this determination. As you have asked us to provide evidence to support this recommended change, the City of Winnipeg will continue to research this matter and provide you with a recommendation.

3. Reduce the initial notification period from 48 to 24 hours

The City of Winnipeg appreciates your approval of this minor alteration.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for changes to the City of Winnipeg's Pesticide Use Permit. I await your decision in this regard, and am available to meet at your convenience to discuss the matter further.

Regards,


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cc:
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