

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates February 2008

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** APVMA 01

**Division/Agency:** Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

**Topic:** APVMA Application

**Hansard Page:** 28 (18/02/2008)

**Senator Adams asked:**

**Senator ADAMS**—This person has been given a consultant. It was the only way that he was going to be able to proceed with his application. He was someone who was not going to get anywhere with his application unless he did that. I have not spoken to him for several months, but I am really curious as to how the department would nominate a consultant and where they came from: whether they were people from outside or within the department.

**Dr Bennett-Jenkins**—They are not people within the department. They are independent consultants who set themselves up in their own businesses. Our process is that we do not recommend consultants.

**Senator ADAMS**—This has happened, because he is now dealing with one of your consultants. I really want to know how that process worked and who these special consultants are.

**Dr O'Connell**—Obviously, we are working here with a limited amount of information as to the particular case that you are talking about.

**Senator ADAMS**—I think that Dr Bennett-Jenkins is fully aware of the case I am talking about.

**Dr O'Connell**—I think we would need to look more closely at what precisely happened, in the event that you are saying that we as a department 'recommended a consultant', as opposed to 'recommended that the proponent engage a consultant'. But I would prefer that we took that on notice and gave you a clear answer as to precisely what happened.

**Senator ADAMS**—I would certainly appreciate that. Thank you.

**Answer:**

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) often recommends to applicants who are new to the registration system that they consider engaging the services of a registration consultant to assist them to design and conduct trials to generate data on the chemical quality and stability of the proposed product, its efficacy and safety, and its residues characteristics. A consultant can also assist in compiling all of the data into a data dossier which meets the APVMA's published requirements.

Whilst the APVMA may advise that an applicant may consider engaging a registration consultant, the APVMA does not require this.

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The APVMA has a long-standing policy of neither identifying nor recommending any individual registration consultant.

The APVMA has examined the file relating to the application for registration by the proponent (whose name was subsequently provided by the Committee) and found that while we recommended that the proponent should engage a consultant to assist with compiling the application, we did not recommend a specific consultant.

The proponent subsequently engaged two consultants on two different occasions to help him with the application process. While the verification of the first consultant as an approved person to deal with his application was provided quickly, it took the proponent some time to provide the APVMA with proper authorisation for the second consultant. The APVMA will only discuss confidential details of an application with a person after they have been formally authorised to do so by the applicant.

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**Question:** APVMA 02

**Division/Agency:** Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

**Topic:** APVMA 2004 Recommendations

**Hansard Page:** 29 (18/02/2008)

**Senator Siewert asked:**

**Senator SIEWERT**—Could you supply the committee with a copy of the 2004 recommendations?

**Dr Bennett-Jenkins**—Certainly.

**Answer:**

Attached is a copy of *The Reconsideration of Approvals of the Active Constituent Atrazine, Registration of Products Containing Atrazine, and their Associated Labels – Second Draft Final Review Report*. The detailed recommendations are in Section 6.1 beginning on page 24 of the 2004 atrazine report. The URL for the atrazine 2004 report summary is

[http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/downloads/atrazine\\_draftfinal2.pdf](http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/downloads/atrazine_draftfinal2.pdf).

Additional related information regarding the review of atrazine is also available at <http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/atrazine.shtml>.

**[APVMA 02 attachment]**

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**Question:** APVMA 03

**Division/Agency:** Product Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

**Topic:** APVMA Atrazine

**Hansard Page:** 32 (18/02/2008)

**Senator MILNE asked:**

**Senator MILNE**—..... I just ask, in your adverse impacts committee or whatever, how many complaints have you actually had from people about the use of Atrazine in Tasmania?

**Dr Bennett-Jenkins**—I would have to take that question on notice. I am not aware of any specific complaints. We get those channelled through, and it is through our own intelligence that we hear of the community in Tasmania complaining.

**Senator MILNE**—You said that those channels come from the state government or Forestry Tasmania. Could I ask you to give me on notice the number of admissions or complaints that they have forwarded to you for consideration. I will then match that against the number of complaints that they have paid out on for either appropriate use gone wrong or misuse, depending on which way they want to use it.

**Dr Bennett-Jenkins**—Certainly.

**Answer:**

No formal complaints about the use of atrazine in Tasmania have been received through the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority's (APVMA's) Adverse Experience Reporting Program.

The atrazine interim review report of 1997 (available at [http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/downloads/atrazine\\_prs.pdf](http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/downloads/atrazine_prs.pdf)) contains a summary of some 176 submissions to the review in Attachment 2, including a section (Section B) which dealt with concerns of community groups, many from Tasmania.

Since the implementation of regulatory measures in 1997 the APVMA has received and assessed further water monitoring data including data from the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) water monitoring program (set up in 2005).

The APVMA continues to note any reports (including media) of detections of atrazine. The APVMA is also kept aware of results from regular monitoring of waterways in Tasmania via its Registration Liaison Committee (APVMA's formal mechanism by which it regularly consults with the states and territories) and by direct communication with the Tasmanian DPIW.

The APVMA does not have a record of individual investigations or prosecutions under control-of-use provisions administered by the states and territories.