



EPA's Drift Reduction Technology Project – Status of Process

Jay Ellenberger
EPA / Office of Pesticide Programs

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What is the DRT Project?

EPA's Drift Reduction Technology Program

- ❑ Goal: Encourage development and use of technologies that can significantly reduce spray drift
- ❑ Standard protocol to verify / quantify reduction
- ❑ Encourage use on labels -- credit use in risk assessment / management decisions
- ❑ Program begins this year.

DRT Program: The Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program

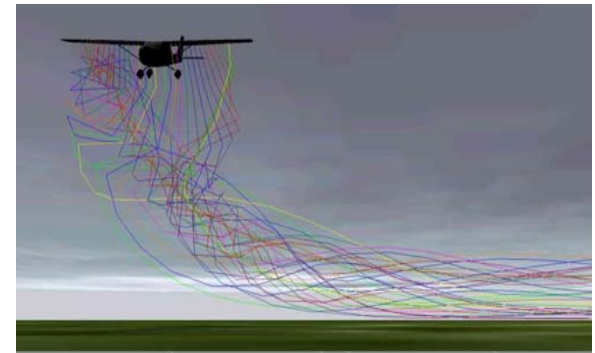


- ETV develops testing protocols and verifies the performance of technologies that have the potential to improve the protection of human health and the environment
- See www.epa.gov/etv for more information.

DRT Project: Verification Methods

Specific drift reducing technologies (such as low-drift nozzles) can be tested using:

- ❑ Low-speed wind tunnels
 - For ground application DRTs
- ❑ High-Speed wind tunnels
 - For aerial application DRTs
- ❑ Field Studies
 - For all DRTs.



DRT Program: Verification Methods

Desired features of a verification method:

- ❑ Results in realistic deposition values
- ❑ Easily available
- ❑ Consistent over time
- ❑ Consistent across different tests
 - Wind tunnel and field studies
- ❑ Internationally recognized.

Accomplishments

Past year—

- ✓ Protocol validation tests in HSWT and LSWT; drafting report of test results
- ✓ EPA Technical Peer Review of test report, identification of issues and suggested revisions to the protocol
- ✓ Review of Quality Assurance Plan and concurrence by EPA/OPP science mgmt.
- ✓ Request of external technical panel to comment on issues and revised protocol
- ✓ Incorporation of DRT Program into proposed spray drift labeling statements issued for public comment.

Major Remaining Steps

April 2010

- ▣ Receipt/review of comments on revised protocol/issues from external technical panel

May

- ▣ Finalize test protocol and post on web

June

- ▣ Design website for posting ratings of tested DRTs

Spring/Summer

- ▣ Resolving remaining implementation issues
- ▣ Communications about initiation of the Program.

Issues

- ❑ Technical issues with test protocol
- ❑ Availability of wind tunnels
- ❑ Cost of tests
- ❑ Reception during review of draft guidance on spray drift label statements
- ❑ Harmonization with other countries.

Approach for EPA Decisions

Risk Assessments

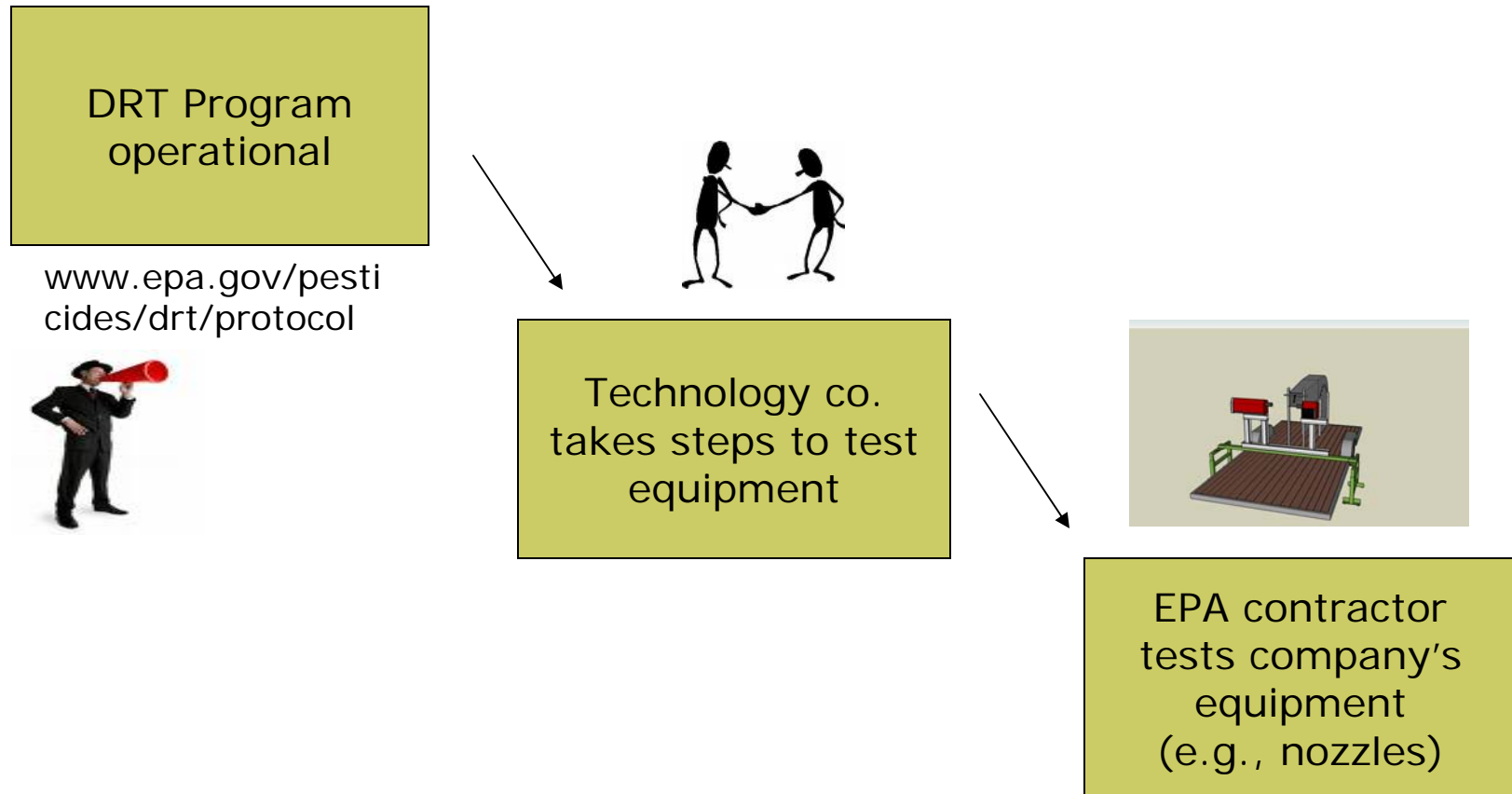
- ❑ OPP will include label claims for DRTs in spray drift estimates
- ❑ For example:
 - “Apply this product with DRT** nozzle”
 - Use droplet size distribution for DRT** nozzle in AgDRIFT or AgDISP model
 - Model will estimate Level of Concern exceedence and buffer zone distance for DRT** vs standard nozzle.

Approach for EPA Decisions (con't)

Risk Management

- Consider conclusion of risk assessment and label claim
 - Is there a risk of concern?
 - Is DRT a requirement or option on the label?
- Are second tier risk management measures needed?
 - With and/or without DRTs?
 - Labeling approach in EPA's proposed spray drift labeling statements (draft PR Notice).

DRT Program Implementation



DRT Program Implementation

EPA contractor
reviews study, QA,
assigns DRT rating



Better Nozzle Co.,
XYZ145: DRT**
rating



www.epa.gov/DRT

Category DRT**

- Better Nozzle Co.,
- nozzle XYZ145

EPA receives
study report,
adds equipment to
approp. DRT rating
category on website

DRT Program Implementation

Pesticide Registrant includes use of DRT category on proposed product label



EPA considers DRT claim in risk assess/mgmt for registration



"Apply with DRT** equipment."



Applicators see DRT claim on label, refer to websites for specific equipm't with the DRT rating



URL Links to EPA's Spray Drift Labeling and DRT Initiatives

- ❑ <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/spraydrift.htm>
- ❑ <http://www.epa.gov/etv/este.html#pdrt>



Thank you!

Questions?

Jay Ellenberger
ellenberger.jay@epa.gov
703.305.7099

Figure 1. Example of a Recirculation Wind Tunnel [Courtesy of Silsoe Research Institute]

