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MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
Between the
U.S.GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
and the
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF PESTICIDE PROGRAMS

I. Purpose

The purpose of the memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is to provide the terms and conditions under which the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will cooperate to more effectively carry out the goals and attain the objectives of the National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program. The goals of the program are to define the status and trends of water quality in a large representative part of the Nation's ground water and surface water, and to identify the principal human and natural factors affecting those observed conditions. The program is currently in a multi-year transition to full implementation in fiscal Year (1995). In fiscal year 1991, assessment activities began in 20 key areas located throughout the United States. The first topics for National-level synthesis are: (1) pesticides, and (2) nutrient and sediment concerns. This MOA pertains to topic (1); pesticides.

II. Background

The mission of the USGS includes assessment of the quantity and the quality of the ground-water and surface-water resources of the Nation. The NAWQA Program of the USGS contributes to meeting that mission and is designed to provide water-quality information that will assist resource managers and policymakers at the Federal, State, and local levels in making sound resource decisions.

The mission of the EPA is to protect human and environmental health, and enhance the quality of the environment through waste minimization and pollution prevention efforts. As part of this mission the Office of Pesticide Programs regulates the use of pesticides under FIFRA.

III. Scope of Work

Where it is mutually agreed upon, EPA-OPP involvement in a fully implemented NAWQA Program would include:

- Assistance in preparing regional and national syntheses of pesticide-related water-quality information and reports;

- Participation on advisory committee(s) that will be convened as needed to make recommendations to the USGS on:

(1) emerging regional and/or national pesticide-related water-quality issues, policies, and regulatory efforts that may influence the technical direction, scope and priorities of the NAWQA Program. Priority issues of concern are related specifically to the occurrence and distribution of pesticides and nutrients in the Nation's ground and surface water;

(2) issues about the design of the program that emerge with time; and

(3) methods development activities that should be pursued.

Participants on the advisory committee(s) will consist of representatives from other Federal and State agencies, academia, and private industry appropriate to the issue(s) of concern.

IV. Agreements

A. Both parties agree to:

- Cooperate in the joint development and preparation of an annual work plan that will outline the scope, magnitude, timing, costs, and prioritization of activities covered under this agreement. An annual national work plan will be completed by July 1 to allow either agency time for contingency planning.

- Meet at least semi-annually to review the progress of our collaborative efforts and to discuss the scope and financing of activities in the next planning cycle.

B. EPA agrees to:

- Make available to USGS, as possible, early-alerts, information on new chemicals and special review issues, and schedules for the review of new chemicals on either a twice yearly or quarterly basis; thereby giving USGS lead-time for design and implementation of new methodologies needed to analyze and sample for these constituents.

- For the National Synthesis efforts, make available state and other monitoring databases of which EPA has access rights.

- Share with USGS analytical methods and techniques used by EPA for specific constituents that are included in the national target constituent list for the NAWQA Program.

- Make certain that USGS is kept aware of the possible policy and regulatory significance of results from NAWQA in two ways

(1) Requesting USGS participation on relevant regulatory workgroups, and

(2) arranging (if possible) for a detail or other type of term appointment of an EPA representative to work closely on the National Synthesis Team on pesticides. The feasibility and costs for this endeavor would be worked out by representative of the NAWQA program and OPP. Personnel exchange policies and procedures (e.g., job description, supervision, performance standards, and position location) will be described in a subsequent exchange of memoranda between the EPA-OPP and USGS.

- Keep USGS informed of Regional (EPA) contacts in order to make certain that the correct and interested parties are involved from EPA in the NAWQA effort.

- Provide USGS with available pesticide-use information.

- Assist USGS in "Outreach" efforts including collaboration on the preparation of public announcements or reports for a general audience on ground-water and surface-water issues and findings from NAWQA related to pesticide occurrence and fate.

C. USGS agrees to:

- Seek input to NAWQA programs and initiatives from EPA Headquarters, Regional and State Water and Pesticide Lead Agency contacts

- Participate as USGS deems necessary in EPA sponsored meetings attended by EPA Headquarters and Regions or State Regulatory Officials, to explain NAWQA and obtain input on NAWQA issues from meeting participants.

- Seek specific ways, as resources allow, to make information available to the states to help them assess ground water vulnerability as part of State Management Plan development under the Pesticides in Ground Water Strategy.

- Share monitoring data as agency policy allows after thorough QA/QC checks. EPA personnel on detail to USGS during a given period would have access to this monitoring information.

- Provide EPA access to findings from the Delmarva Pilot project that will improve an understanding of the occurrence of agricultural chemicals in ground water and their relation to various landscape and shallow subsurface features.

- At the discretion of EPA Regional Administrators, assist EPA by having USGS Personnel at Headquarters, Regional and District levels review and comment on State Management Plans submitted to EPA in response to the OPP's Pesticide in Ground Water Strategy.

- Provide EPA, as possible within the policies of USGS, early notification of statements to be released to the public relating to results pertaining to pesticides.

V. Renewal

This agreement will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary.

VI. Termination

Either agency may terminate this agreement by providing written explanation and at least 90 days notice of termination to the other agency.

VII. Publications

Publications documenting cooperative efforts may be prepared by either agency, or jointly, provided that both agencies have an opportunity to review manuscripts prior to publication. To the extent possible, decisions involving authorship and review of reports will be addressed during the preparation of work plans. Should differences of viewpoint occur, an effort will be made to reconcile them. However, this shall not prohibit either agency from publishing the data, providing it assumes sole responsibility and gives appropriate credit to the other agency.

VIII. Authorized Representatives

USGS: Chief Hydrologist
U.S. Geological Survey
Water Resources Division
409 National Center
Reston, VA 22092

US EPA: Deputy Director,
Office of Pesticide Programs (H7501C)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20460

IX. Financial

There is no financial component to this MOA.

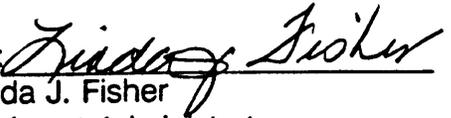
X. Approval

Approved and Accepted
for USGS:

By: 
Dallas L. Peck
Director

Date: Nov. 25, 1991

Approved and Accepted
for US EPA:

By: 
Linda J. Fisher
Assistant Administrator

Date: 8/23/91