

Compendium of Open Recommendations: Data as of May 31, 2025

September 10, 2025 | Report No. 25-N-0050

EPA Office of Inspector General

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Recommendations Scheduled to Take Three Years or More to Implement The EPA Needs to Improve the Transparency of Its Cancer-Assessment Process for Pesticides

(1 recommendation)

Report number 22-E-0053

Date issued July 20, 2022

Summary of findings

The EPA did not adhere to standard operating procedures and requirements for the 1,3-Dichloropropene, or 1,3-D, pesticide cancer-assessment process, which undermines public confidence in and the transparency of the Agency's scientific approaches to prevent unreasonable impacts on human health. Specifically, the EPA used two scientific approaches, kinetically derived maximum dose and weight-of-evidence, in its cancer-assessment process for 1,3-D, even though it did not have guidance outlining how to use those approaches.

The EPA also did not adhere to docketing and transparency requirements to provide the public and stakeholders with information that may have influenced the EPA's cancer-assessment decision. Further, the EPA did not follow its literature-search procedures and neglected to document its review of all health effects data that may have impacted the results of the 1,3-D draft human health risk assessment, which is informed by the cancer assessment.

The EPA's Cancer Risk Assessment Committee did not adhere to the EPA's Peer Review Handbook and the Office of Management and Budget's guidance on peer review in the areas of composition, independence, and expertise. These deficiencies undermined the scientific credibility of the 1,3-D cancer assessment, which led to questioning by multiple stakeholders. An external peer review would have improved the credibility of the 1,3-D cancer assessment.

Responsible office: Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Recommendation open three years or more

9. Issue specific criteria requiring external peer review of Office of Pesticide Programs' risk assessments that use scientifically or technically novel approaches or that are likely to have precedent-setting influence on future risk assessments, in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review.
Planned completion date

Recommendation 9:

- Upon issuance: June 30, 2024
- Revised: December 31, 2024; January 15, 2025; and December 31, 2025 (more than three years after report issuance)

Report impact statement

Deficiencies and a lack of transparency in the 1,3-D pesticide cancer-assessment process have undermined scientific credibility and public confidence.