

Glyphosate Commission Meeting

February 9, 2024



Agenda

1. Call to order and welcome new
Commission members
2. Approval of September 15, 2022
meeting minutes
3. Review / Discussion of Final (Phase
II) Report from ERG
4. Closing ERG contract
5. Other Business



Introductions: New Commission Members

- **Bonnie Heiple**
 - Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)
 - Chair of Glyphosate Commission
- **Ashley Randle**
 - Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
- **Kristopher Callahan**
 - Designee of the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Robert Goldstein, MD

Thank You: Continuing Commission Members

- **JULIE RICHBURG**

- Land Trust Representative, Trustees of Reservations

- **EVE SCHLUTER**

- Designee of Mark Tisa, the Director of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Background of Commission (Created by. c.24 Acts of 2021)

CHARGE

...such commission shall conduct a **scientific review of the potential impacts of glyphosate and its most common alternative herbicides on the environment and public health**, including a review, undertaken in collaboration with the natural heritage and endangered species program, of the potential impacts of glyphosate and most common alternative herbicides on: (i) all species of plants and animals that have been determined to be endangered, threatened, or of special concern ...

MEMBERSHIP

- Chair: Commissioner of MassDEP
- Commissioner of DPH
- Commissioner of DAR
- Director of Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
- Representative of Land Trust



Review and Approval of Minutes

September 15, 2022
Meeting



Progress in Developing Scientific Review

COMMISSION MEETINGS



- Five meetings of the Commission have been held since November 2021.
- ERG, the Commission's consultant was retained to compile the Scientific Review.
- Public Comments were received and reviewed regarding scope and content of Review / Report.

PHASE I: SCIENTIFIC REVIEW/ REPORT

- Phase I Report identified the resources to be consulted for the Scientific Review.
- Public comments were received on the Phase I Report in summer 2022.
- The Phase I Report was accepted by the Commission during the 9/15/22 meeting.

PHASE II: FINAL (DRAFT) REPORT

- ERG has submitted a draft Phase II Report or Scientific Review.
- Agreed: summarize themes raised in public comments on Draft Phase 2 report; and include all comments in Phase 2 report as an appendix.
- The Commission can review and adopt the Report to complete its charge.



Discussion of Final (Phase II) Report

Introduction and Overview

John Wilhelmi, ERG





Highlights of Report: Uses of Glyphosate

Information Sources Considered:

- Followed approach outlined in the approved Phase 1 report.
- Specific information sources:
 - Major scientific assessments.
 - Recent peer-reviewed literature.
 - Interviews.
 - Public input.



Highlights of Report: Uses of Glyphosate

USES and VOLUMES USED:

- Glyphosate is one of the most widely used herbicides in North America.
- It is used in agricultural, commercial, industrial, residential, and many other settings.
- No published estimates are available on the total amount of glyphosate (or glyphosate-based formulations) used in Massachusetts.
- Available information suggests that non-agricultural uses are considerably higher in Mass than agricultural uses.



Highlights of Report: Human Health Impacts

HUMAN HEALTH IMPACTS:

- US EPA's 2017 draft human health assessment found Glyphosate presents "no risks of concern to human health from current uses"; "no indication that children are more sensitive to glyphosate"; "no indication that glyphosate is an endocrine disruptor"; and is "not likely to be carcinogenic to humans."
- Findings from other major assessments, including in the EU, reached similar conclusions.
- Carcinogenic potential and risk: While major scientific assessments differ in scope and purpose (e.g., assessing carcinogenic potential versus cancer risk to humans), most major agency assessments did not classify glyphosate as a carcinogen. Some agencies continue to evaluate this aspect.
- This report reviews recent studies that were not included in major assessment by EPA and the EU. The pending assessment being conducted in the European Union and the ongoing EPA assessment of glyphosate are expected to provide further context.

Highlights of Report: Environmental Impacts

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- EPA's 2015 Preliminary Ecological Risk Assessment and EU's 2021 draft ecological risk assessment conclude:
 - In general, glyphosate is acutely toxic to plants, but not acutely toxic to invertebrates and vertebrates.
 - Certain groups of organisms may be impacted by sub-lethal impacts in certain application and exposure scenarios.
 - Several data gaps and uncertainties in risk assessments were identified.
 - The assessments inform the pesticide regulatory review and registration process in the U.S. and EU.
- The report includes reviews of additional recent studies related to data gaps and uncertainties.

Highlights of Report: Environmental Impacts

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- EPA's 2021 Biological Evaluation for federally listed and endangered species concludes:
 - Glyphosate is "likely to adversely affect" several species through exposure to some combination of direct application, overspray, spray drift, or runoff.
 - This "likely to adversely affect" designation is based on highly conservative analyses to inform assessments of jeopardy and critical habitat by EPA in consultation with other federal agencies.
- More detailed information on potential impacts to listed and endangered species will become available in the forthcoming Biological Opinion.





Highlights of Report: Consideration of Alternatives

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES:

- The Phase 2 report evaluated various alternatives to glyphosate, including chemical, biological, mechanical, and physical methods.
- Many different factors (e.g., effectiveness, environmental impacts, human health impacts, ease of implementation) considered when evaluating alternatives.
- Viable alternatives are available for certain glyphosate uses, but no other systemic, non-selective herbicides with comparable effectiveness are available across all glyphosate applications.

Discussion and Next Steps





Closing ERG contract

Next steps for Commission action

FEBRUARY 9, 2024



Other Business

Thank you for
attending