

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Office of Internal Audit & Investigation
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April 10, 2019

Mr. Thomas P. DiNapoli
Comptroller
New York State Office of the State Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, New York 12236

Dear Mr. DiNapoli,

Thank you for the opportunity to advise you on the steps DEC is taking to implement the recommendations in your November 29, 2018 Oversight of the Pesticide Reporting Law. There were two key recommendations in the final report.

1. *Work collaboratively with OITS to ensure changes are made to the PRL database reporting system, including, but not limited to, increasing efficiencies for identifying and correcting errors to improve the timeliness of the data reported to the website.*

Steps DEC is taking to implement this recommendation: DEC is planning to incorporate the Pesticide Reporting Law (PRL) database into the New York State Pesticide Administration Database (NYSPAD), DEC's in-house pesticide data management system. The current PRL database is maintained by Cornell's Pesticides Sales and Use Reporting (PSUR) unit under contract with DEC. DEC has begun the process to expand NYSPAD and incorporate the PRL database, by submitting a proposal for this transition in January of 2019. Once the proposed project is approved internally and with OITS, a vendor and/or OITS resources will be sought to design, develop and implement it. The new system design will incorporate electronic reporting capabilities along with data input quality controls which will enable DEC to summarize the pesticide sales and use information and make the data publicly available on DEC's website in a timely manner. In the meantime, maintaining and improving the quality of the existing data is one of our primary goals and an ongoing process. Cornell has made enhancements to address some security issues identified during the OSC audit and is working on automating corrections to sales and use address information where those errors are found.

2. *Collaborate with OITS during the PRL migration to develop and implement an effective process to ensure that all reports received from registered applicators and sellers are entered into the Department's pesticide systems.*

Steps DEC is taking to implement this recommendation: DEC will work with OITS throughout the entire process of migrating the pesticide reporting system into NYSPAD to ensure that we will be able to readily verify that data from all reports is entered into the new database. DEC worked very closely with OITS on the development of the first phases of NYSPAD and will continue that relationship as the next phases unfold.

Sincerely,


Ann Lapinski
Director
Internal Audit and Investigation

ecc: Stephen Goss, OSC
Heather Pratt, OSC

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