



Individuals enhancing the health and quality of life through the suppression of mosquitoes, other vectors and pests of public health importance.



A Partner in the EPA's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program

2016-2017 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

- Stanton E. Cope, PhD President
T. Wayne Gale President-Elect
William Walton, PhD Vice-President
Kenneth Linthicum, PhD President 2015
Gary Hatch Treasurer

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

- Larry Smith Industry Director
Ildefonso Fernandez-Salas, PhD International
Dennis Salmen Mid-Atlantic
Paul Capotosto North Atlantic
Mark Breidenbaugh, PhD North Central
Jason Kinley North Pacific
Christopher Lesser South Atlantic
Richard Duhrkopf, PhD South Central
Becky Cline South Pacific
Ary Faraji, PhD West Central

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bill Schankel

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Joseph Conlon

American Mosquito Control Association Statement on NPDES Burden

From the perspective of the agencies charged with suppressing mosquitoes and other vectors of public health consequence, the NPDES burden is directly related to combatting Zika and other exotic diseases.

AMCA has testified numerous times to establish the burden created by this legislation.

The threat to the public health mission of America's mosquito control districts comes in two costly parts:

Ongoing Compliance Costs

Though the activists contend that the NPDES permit has 'modest notification and monitoring requirements' the experience of mosquito control districts is much different.

Initially obtaining and maintaining an NPDES comes at considerable expense. California vector control districts estimate that it has cost them \$3 million to conduct the necessary administration of these permits.

The Gem County Mosquito Abatement District in Idaho has testified that their staff spends three weeks per year tabulating and documenting seasonal pesticide applications associated with permit oversight. Additionally, they have had to invest in a geographic information software program that cost 20% of the district's annual operating budget to maintain this information. That software has no other function that serving the unnecessary NPDES permit.

In Congressman DeFazio's district in Oregon, the local vector control managers have explained the negative impacts the permit was having on their districts. The managers of those districts have met with Rep. DeFazio's staff repeatedly in Washington D.C. over the past several years regarding the burden NPDES is having on mosquito control in Oregon.

The funds to operate districts like those in Oregon, California, Idaho and across the country come from taxpayers for the purpose of mosquito control, but are being diverted into this bureaucratic oversight function.

The fact that the existence of the permit has no additional environmental benefit (since pesticide applications are already governed by FIFRA) makes these taxpayer diversions from vector control unconscionable.

So why would the activist organizations be so adamant that these permits be mandatory for public health pesticide applications...?

Exposure to Activist Litigation

...Because it leaves municipal mosquito control programs vulnerable to CWA citizen lawsuits where finest to mosquito control districts may exceed \$35,000/day.

Under FIFRA, the activists would need to demonstrate that the pesticides caused harm or were misapplied (because our pesticides are specific to mosquitoes and used in low doses by qualified applicators that would be extremely difficult).

However, the CWA 3rd Party Citizen Suit Provision allows for any third party to sue a government entity. Additionally, the CWA does not require actual evidence of a misapplication of a pesticide or harm to the environment, but rather simple paperwork violations or merely allegations of errors in permit oversight.

Gem County Mosquito Abatement District was the subject of one of these activist lawsuits utilizing the 3rd Party Citizen Suit Provision. It took ten years and the grand total of an entire year's annual operating budget (\$450,000) to resolve that litigation against that public health entity.

These ongoing compliance costs and threat of crushing litigation directly refute any activist statements that "Clean Water Act coverage in no way hinders, delays, or prevents the use of approved pesticides for pest control operations."

The existence of this unnecessary requirement for mosquito control activities is directly related to our ability to combat the vectors related to Zika. It diverts precious resources away from finding and suppressing mosquito populations.

The American Mosquito Control Association urges rapid action to address this burden.