

24 Feb 2012 Letter to Dr Chris Geiger

Hi Chris,

I just saw the Draft Minutes of the meeting with the DoE commissioners. There's one bit that needs to be corrected, where it refers to the January 17th meeting which I attended. (I've pasted the relevant section below.)

It gives the impression that "members of the Natural Areas Program" attended and expressed concern. As I recall, the only people for NAP were Lisa Wayne (part of the time) and Ralph Montana (not sure if he's DoE or NAP). The people who expressed concern were members of the public. So perhaps that should be rephrased as "A public hearing was held on January 17, 2012 that was well attended by members of the public who were disturbed by the Natural Areas Program's use of Tier I and II herbicides. They expressed concern about the use of herbicides in controlling invasive species in park lands, in particular Glen Park."

"Dr. Geiger reported that the use of "Garlon" and "Roundup" products to control invasive species in park areas is an area of concern by the public regarding the Natural Areas Program and is being addressed."

Could you also let me know what "list modifications resulted from these discussions" ? Were changes made after Jan 2012? If so, could you email me the changes?

Many thanks,

Rupa

4. *Resolution approving the Department of the Environment's Integrated Pest Management 2012 Reduced Risk Pesticide List. Sponsor: Melanie Nutter, Director; Speaker: Chris Geiger, PhD., Green Purchasing Program Manager (Explanatory Documents: 2012 Reduced Risk Pesticide List, Draft and Approved Resolution File 2012-01-COE) (Discussion and Action)*

Dr. Chris Geiger reported on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Ordinance requirements to hold an annual public hearing to review modifications to the previous year's Reduced Risk Pesticide List, and for the Commission to approve a revised list for the ensuing calendar year. He reported on the work session that was held on November 2, 2011 between the IPM Technical Advisory Committee and City stakeholders to identify the safest product alternatives for use in the management of City properties. A public hearing was held on January 17, 2012 that was well attended by members of the Natural Areas Program who expressed concern about the use of herbicides in controlling invasive species in park lands, in particular Glen Park. The list modifications resulted from these discussions and background screenings on use of products.

Dr. Geiger provided a summary of products that were added, removed and replaced with safer products, the pesticide-hazard tier, use limitation type, and exemptions requested by Departments that were either approved or denied. He explained that the majority of exemptions requested were for golf-course use primarily to improve the aesthetics and playability of the field. Dr. Geiger announced that the tier system for screening pesticides that is used nationally by the United States Green Building Council for selection of products for green buildings is currently being reviewed. LEED credits are issued when IPM practices are added. Information on the program and products can be found at www.sfapproved.org.

Commissioner Tuchow inquired whether there were controversial areas of concern reported. Dr. Geiger reported that the use of "Garlon" and "Roundup" products to control invasive species in park areas is an area of concern by the Natural Areas Program and is being addressed. An Environmental Impact Report for the Natural Areas Program is in the process of being finalized.

