

## Maine Board of Pesticides Control policy for submission of comments and information

- On November 16, 2007, the Board adopted the following policy for submission and distribution of comments and information when conducting routine business (product registration, variances, enforcement actions, etc.):
  - *For regular, non-rulemaking business*, the Board will accept pesticide-related letters, reports, and articles. Reports and articles must be from peer-reviewed journals. E-mail, hard copy, or fax should be sent to the attention of Paul Schlein, Public Information Officer, at the **Board's office**. In order for the Board to receive this information in time for distribution and consideration at its next meeting, all communications must be received by 8:00 AM, three days prior to the Board **meeting date** (e.g., if the meeting is on a Friday, the deadline would be Tuesday at 8:00 AM). Any information received after the deadline will be held over for the next meeting.
- During rulemaking, when proposing new or amending old regulations, the Board is subject to the requirements of the APA (**Administrative Procedure Act**), and comments must be taken according to the rules established by the Legislature.

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Peter Aldridge [mailto:peter@hatchfarm.com]

**Sent:** Monday, September 22, 2008 8:34 AM

**To:** Jennings, Henry

**Subject:** A Question of process

Hi Henry

I think of all the things that struck us about the last meeting of the Board, the most worrying is this. The Staff went to considerable efforts to get public input prior to the meeting on the Aerial Spraying issues. We know there were a fair number of emails, including from myself. So my concern is, how can the Board receive a whole bunch of input, and seemingly just ignore it? If you expect people to contribute there has to be some acknowledgment of their efforts. I feel that there should be brief - public - consideration of all input received during the meeting at the start of the relevant topic. This did happen with respect to the letter about Deborah's appointment, which was raised at the meeting and briefly discussed. But there was no mention at all of the significant number of messages about buffer space, or my own message about windsocks.

It's hard to believe there is a truly public process when input just vanished without trace!

Thanks

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