

Segawa--The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) of the California EPA has an ongoing program to evaluate and mitigate the health risk from pesticides in air. As part of this program, DPR tracks and reduces volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from pesticides in several problematic ozone nonattainment areas (NAAs) in central and southern California. Current regulations require low-emission fumigation methods in NAAs. Reported use of registered soil fumigants methyl bromide, 1,3-D, chloropicrin, and metam was discussed for the period 1990 – 2010. Of these four fumigants, methyl bromide is the only one to trend under the 5 million lbs/yr mark in 2010. Fumigant exposure issues were addressed in the form of township caps, illness investigations, and numerous permitting conditions. Methyl iodide was highlighted for its strict mitigation measures on label imposed by DPR relative to the rest of the country. The civil rights complaint made to EPA over the registration renewal of methyl bromide was discussed. As a response to the complaint, a statewide study of schools found Latino schoolchildren were 78% more likely to be exposed to unintentional adverse impact of methyl bromide air concentrations in excess of 1.3 ppb. EPA and DPR have resolved the complaint by negotiating a voluntary legal agreement effective August, 2011.