Current and Planned RESEARCH Activities
in the Area of Pesticide Spray/Dust Drift
for inclusion on www.oecd.org/env/spraydrift

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Title of research project/activity	**Generic Verification Protocol for Testing Pesticide Application Spray Drift Reduction Technologies for Row and Field Crops**
Area of work (predictive models; field or wind tunnel research, etc.)	Evaluation of pesticides spray drift reduction technologies
Summary description of project/work (please write about a 5-10 line summary)	To quantitatively credit DRTs in risk assessments and on product labels, OPP must be assured of their performance in reducing off-target drift. OPP has partnered with stakeholders through the ETV process (http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/std/etv/pubs/600f08012.pdf) to develop a test protocol for DRT verification. The stakeholder process ensures relevancy by involving technology developers, manufacturers, end-users, and regulators, as well as the companies whose chemicals are applied, to help identify technologies for testing and to help develop testing criteria. As a first step in the DRT verification process, EPA, in collaboration with a stakeholder technical panel, has developed a verification test protocol for DRTs. The protocol addresses spray drift reduction from aerial and ground application of pesticides to row and field crops. It also helps establish an independent third-party evaluation process to verify the performance of DRTs. Validation testing of the draft generic verification is complete. The high-speed wind tunnel portion of the protocol simulating aerial spraying was tested on March 30-31, 2009 at USDA-ARS in College Station, Texas. The low-speed wind tunnel portion of the protocol simulating ground-based application was evaluated on May 26-29, 2009 in the EPA's Aerosol Testing Facility (ATF) wind tunnel in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. After a report summarizing the validation tests is completed, the protocol will be revised to include lessons learned during validation testing.

Schedule / Anticipated date for completion or availability of results	Draft test protocol (2007): http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/std/etv/pubs/600etv07021.pdf Test/QA plan for High Speed Wind Tunnel (2009): http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/std/etv/pubs/600etv11008.pdf Test/QA plan for Low Speed Wind Tunnel (2009): http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/std/etv/pubs/600etv11007.pdf Evaluation of the verification protocol for low and high speed wind tunnel testing: September 2011 Revised test protocol: After September 26, 2011
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