

Summary of the draft revised method for conducting national level threatened and endangered (listed) species biological evaluations (BEs) for pesticides:

First, to more accurately represent where and to what extent a pesticide is likely to be applied, EPA is proposing an approach for incorporating pesticide-specific usage data into the listed species consultation process. The pilot BEs relied on use assumptions from pesticide product labels to represent where the pilot chemicals were likely to be applied (*e.g.*, applied to all labelled crops at maximum application rates simultaneously). The revised method proposes to incorporate usage data (*e.g.*, survey data, including actual application rates) in the determination of where a pesticide is likely to be applied.

Second, based on the accuracy of the spatial data utilized and the conservative assumptions related to the action area and potential drift, EPA is interpreting a <1% overlap of listed species' ranges with potential use sites as unreliable and not representative of real exposure potential.

Third, EPA's revised method proposes the use of probabilistic methods to determine the likelihood of a species to be adversely affected by a pesticide. The goal of the probabilistic analysis is to more fully capture and characterize the variability in the range of potential exposures and toxicological effects to listed species and to better inform the biological opinion.

The fourth major area of revision is to apply a weight-of-evidence framework to distinguish those listed species that are likely to be adversely affected (LAA) from those that are not likely to be adversely affected (NLAA), based on criteria (*e.g.*, dietary preferences, migration patterns, extent of range potentially exposed) associated with the likelihood that an individual will be exposed and affected.