

# Registration Review Decision for Pentachlorophenol

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SFIREG JOINT WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

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# Registration Review Decision: Executive Summary

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OPP has proposed cancellation of the wood preservative uses of pentachlorophenol in its March 2021 [Proposed Interim Registration Review Decision](#).

Pentachlorophenol is proposed to be phased-out, with registrations cancelled within 2 years of the finalized decision and 3 years for use of existing stock (5 years total).

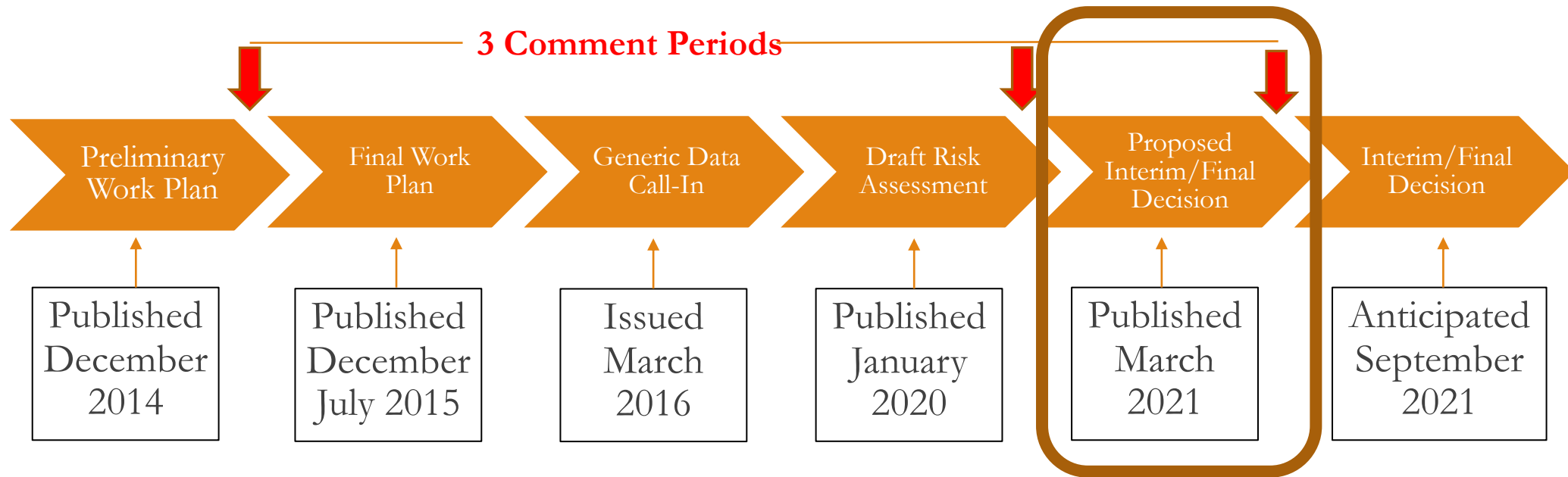
# Pentachlorophenol Pesticide Registrations

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- Restricted-use pesticide
- Formulated as a “heavy-duty” wood preservative
- Used in the pressure or thermal treatment of wood intended for exterior use:
  - Lumber, timber, posts, poles, and other wood members
  - Major preservative in preservation of utility poles and cross arms



# Registration Review of Pentachlorophenol

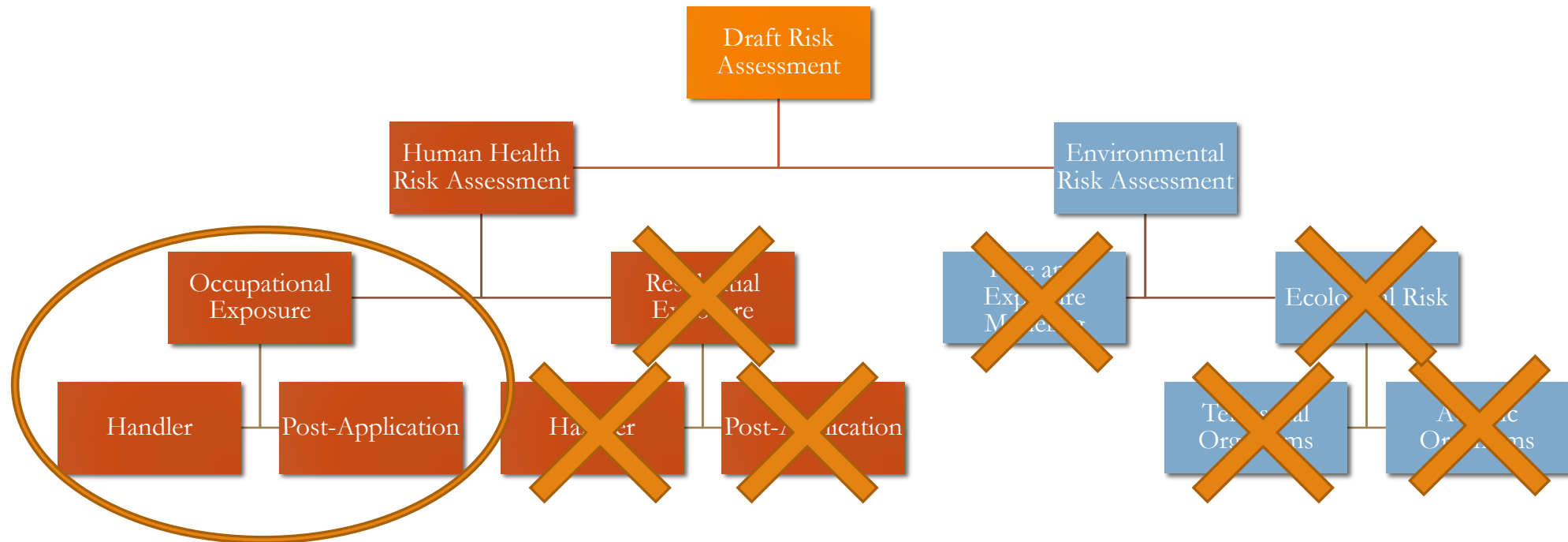


All documents are available in the Federal Register Docket for the Registration Review of Pentachlorophenol, available at [www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0653](http://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0653)

Public comment period on Proposed Interim Decision closes on May 5, 2021.

# Pentachlorophenol Draft Risk Assessment

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# Pentachlorophenol DRA: Occupational Handler Assessment

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- Last assessed in 2008 Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED)
- Post-RED Mitigation included:
  - Automated chamber control processes
  - Engineering controls, mechanical loading/removal
  - Post-treatment ventilation
- Observational occupational exposure study evaluated effectiveness of post-RED mitigation
- DRA identified significant remaining human health cancer and non-cancer risks of concern for occupational handlers (workers) based on long-term dermal and inhalation exposures
  - Cancer risk of 1 in 1,000



# Risks vs. Benefits

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- Assessed in [“A Qualitative Assessment on the Use, Usage, and Benefits of Pentachlorophenol \(PC# 063001\) as a Wood Preservative,”](#) published along with the Proposed Interim Decision in the docket
- Benefits: niche use in preservation of utility poles
- Recent developments of viable, safer alternatives such as:
  - Copper naphthenate
  - 4,5-Dichloro-2-N-Octyl-4-Isothiazolin-3-One (DCOIT)
- Well-established wood preservatives such as:
  - Creosote
  - Chromated arsenicals and dichromic acid (CCA)
- High risks outweigh benefits



# Other considerations

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**2012:** Pentachlorophenol was banned by ~150 countries in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

**July 2020:** Health Canada's Pesticide Management Regulatory Authority proposed cancellation of pentachlorophenol.

**End of 2021:** Sole producer of pentachlorophenol, KMG-Bernuth, is closing its facilities in Mexico and United States that manufacture pentachlorophenol.

No company is purchasing/supporting the pesticide registrations to keep pentachlorophenol on the market.



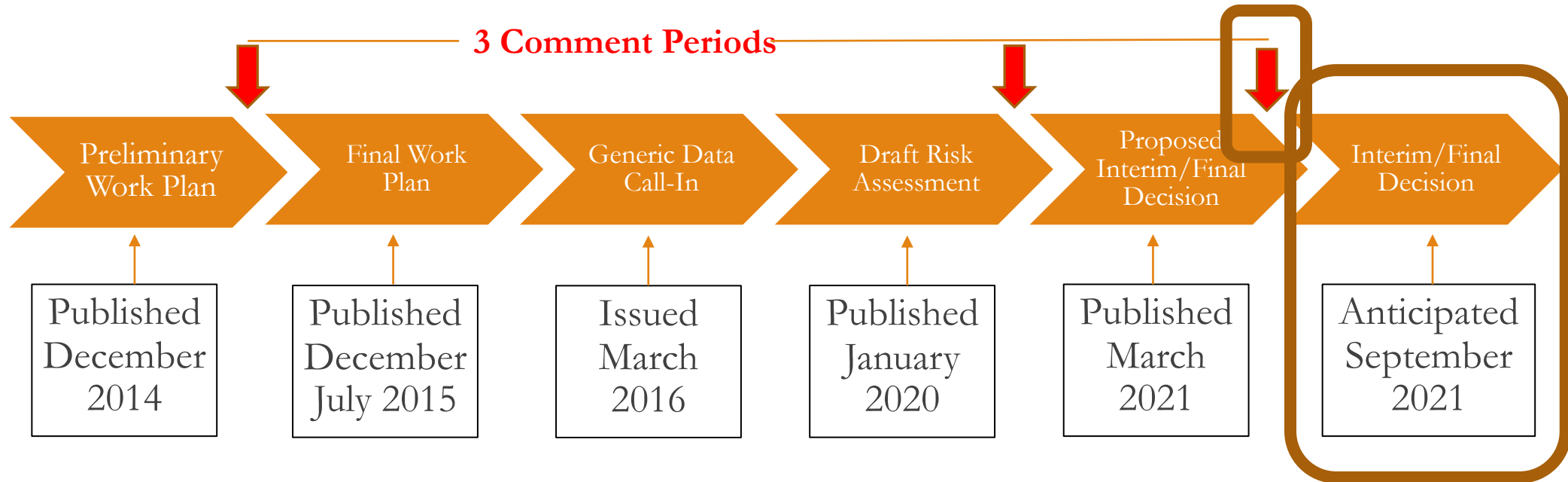
# Proposed Phase-Out of Pentachlorophenol

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- Proposed Interim Decision proposes phase-out over 5 years after the publication of the Interim Decision:
  - 2 years: registrants submit voluntary cancellation request
  - 3 years: allow use of existing stocks
- Proposed Interim Decision does not propose:
  - immediate cancellation of pentachlorophenol
  - replacement of existing poles treated with pentachlorophenol
- Proposal will be finalized in the Interim Decision



# Registration Review Next Steps



Public comment period on pentachlorophenol Proposed Interim Decision is open until May 5, 2021.

Interim Decision is anticipated to be completed in September 2021.

# Questions?

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