Developer Beware:

Some agreements lead to spending big money on foolish tests, and for years to come

By Stuart Cohen

Bruce Cadenelli, certified golf course superintendent at Cave Valley Club in Maryland, estimates his club has spent $367,000 in five years for ground water and pond monitoring, and three years of stream monitoring.

In less than 2 1/2 years, Guam International Country Club was required to spend $1.7 million for water monitoring for many ground-water monitoring studies. Developers are agreeing to perform analyses for “pesticides.”

Time and again, golf course developers are agreeing to perform water monitoring for many pesticides that need not be monitored at all, and at extraordinary costs.

A protocol has to be written and approved, monitoring wells and/or stream monitoring stations have to be installed, a lab has to be found that can analyze the pesticides used, and a study director will be hired to manage the study and interpret the results.

Ron Meyer, New Jersey DEP in Trenton, estimates a minimum cost of $23,000 per year for lab analyses for a ground-water study, with the following conservative assumptions: four monitoring wells, $150 per pesticide method (cheap!), and analyzing two-thirds or stream monitoring stations have

$150 to $200 per sample. This analysis is easy and typically costs $150 to $200 per sample.

But superintendents are two to three generations past these chemicals. The new pesticides have complex structures with a wide variety of structural classes. This means that 25 pesticides applied to a modern course may require five to nine different analytical methods, at $150 to $400 per method per sample. This translates to approximately $20,000 to $90,000 per year for quarterly analysis, depending on the number of sampling points. Add to this the cost for sampling, etc.

How can these costs be reduced? Try this:

• Develop an integrated golf course management plan, coupled with an environmental risk assessment. This can be a strong argument against doing any monitoring.

• Offer examples such as this to help demonstrate the generally low hazard potential of golf courses.

• Make a case to regulators that you only need to analyze for the pesticides with the highest mobility, persistence and toxicity.

• Pray.

What was tested at the 13 sites

Pesticides and Metabolites Monitored at One or More Golf Courses:

HERBICIDES

Achlor, aldicarb, a.sulfonite, a.sulfonite, atrazine, bentazon, bromacil, 2,4-D, 1,3-D, (cis & trans), 2,4-D, 2,4-DB, dicamba, dichlorprop, dinoseb, diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, linuron, MCPA, MCPB, metribuzin & metabolites (DA, DK, DADK), norflurazon, oryzalin, picloram, prometryn, pronamide, simazine, 2,4,5-T, 2,4,5-TP.

INSECTICIDES

acephate, gamma-BHC (linden), bendiocarb, carbaryl, carbofuran & metabolite (3-OH carbofuran), chlordane, chlordrin, hydrocarbon insecticides, chlothodrin, diazanon & metabolites (chlorpyrifos oxon, 3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinol), DBCP, diazinon, disulfoton, EDB, ethion, ethoprop.

Also, ethyl parathion, fenamiphos & metabolites (f. sulfone, ETHYL PARATHION, ETP sulfone), heptachlor & metabolite (heptachlor epoxide), isazofos, mevinphos, MIPC, monocrotophos, pyrofos, propoxur, terbufos.

FUNGICIDES

anilazine, benomyl, chloropicrin, chlorothalonil, fenamiphos, iprodione, metamix, thiram, triadimefon

GOLF COURSE NEWS

With All The Abuse Your Turf Takes, Who Needs Root Pruning?

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New Low-Dust Formulation CHIPCO RONSTAR® G

Brand Herbicide

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