MEMBERS OF THE ROUND TABLE

Water Industry / Plant Protection Industry and the Raw Water Database Advisory Board

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The brochure **"Plant protection products in a nutshell"** and **this flyer** can also be downloaded from the website of the DVGW-Technologiezentrum Wasser (TZW) (German Water Centre – TZW).

Scan the QR code and download the (40-page) **brochure** or click here.

Scan the QR code and download this **flyer** or click here.

The website also contains all information concerning the Raw Water Database and the work of the Round Table:
https://tzw.de/en/projects/project-details/detail/raw-water-data-base-water-supply-pesticides

PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS
IN A NUTSHELL

Gemeinsam
die Zukunft sichern!

Zusammenarbeit von Wasserversorgung und Pflanzenschutzmittelindustrie in Deutschland

Cooperation to protect drinking water resources:
Viewpoints, experiences, measurement results –solutions and goals for the future

ABSTRACT

The water industry associations (BDEW, DVGW, VKU) and The Plant Care Industries Association (Industrieverband Agrar e. V. - IVA) began collaborating at the Water Industry / Plant Protection Industry Round Table in 2009.

The key elements of the agreement "Gemeinsam die Zukunft sichern" (Securing the future together) were to share information on a regular basis; work together to solve problems and operate a database on the presence of plant protection products (PPP) in raw water resources.

The guiding principle of this cooperation is

"We solve problems as if we were a company that produces both, crop protection products and drinking water of the best quality."

The Raw Water Database Water Supply was established by the DVGW-Technologiezentrum Wasser (German Water Centre – TZW) and has been operated by it in collaboration with BDEW, IVA and VKU since 2012. The database provides a national overview of the current exposure situation in raw water. It includes around 74,000 analyses of plant protection products from over 7,150 raw water abstraction points of 1,150 water companies throughout Germany. The Raw Water Database contains analyses of 296 approved substances, 87 active substances that are no longer approved, and 90 degradation products (metabolites).

In 5,431 (96%) of the total of 5,659 raw water abstraction points investigated in the period from January 2010 to March 2020, the measured concentrations for all PPP active substances and metabolites under investigation were below the limit value for drinking water or the health-related indicator value (HRIV; in German: HRIV = Gesundheitlicher Orientierungswert (GOW)). 228 (4%) abstraction points exhibited exceedances. Exceedances of the limit value for drinking water by individual active substances were in the low parts-per-thousand range at most. In the case of individual non-relevant metabolites, exceedances of the HRIV were in the low single-digit percentage range at most.

The data shows that the problem area revolves around a few active substances and non-relevant metabolites at a comparatively small number of raw water abstraction points. The water industry associations and IVA collaborate on-site with the water companies concerned in order to clarify the findings and to develop action for reducing inputs. During the peak phase in the fourth year of the project (2016), 47 "areas requiring action" of 20 water companies received joint support with regard to eight substances. At the beginning of 2019, eight remaining areas requiring action were still receiving support.

Combined with the actions developed, the Raw Water Database is evolving from a data recording tool to an early warning system to help support the water companies affected, ensuring the quickest possible rehabilitation of contaminated raw water.

Three different kinds of case studies from areas requiring action and the analysis results of the Raw Water Database are described in detail in "Plant protection products in a nutshell". The brochure also highlights aspects of cooperation that are important for the Round Table, as well as future challenges.

Following a reorientation of the work of the Round Table in 2019, these future objectives were set:

1. Identification of criteria characterising sensitive areas with regard to the leaching of PPP active substances.
2. Development of proposals for local restrictions on the use of active substances that become conspicuous in particularly sensitive areas. This would enable farmers in other areas to continue to use these active substances.
3. Review and, where applicable, improvement of the implementation of direction for use NG301 of the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) for non-relevant metabolites (degradation products).
4. Early detection of new problematic active substances and/or areas of use.
5. Continuation of the Raw Water Database, including a survey of water companies on the analytical results of plant protection products every three years.
6. Shortening and simplification of the procedure for clarifying findings.
7. Encouragement of agriculture to provide public drinking water suppliers with data on the use of plant protection products in drinking water catchment areas.
8. Exchange of information on the occurrence of transformation products of active substances in water treatment.