

# National Organic Standards Board

## Policy Development Committee

February 23, 2009

### RECOMMENDATION:

The following recommendation for addition to the NOSB Policy and Procedures Manual is designed as a guideline to assist committee chairs with prioritization of petition review to add or remove substances to or from the National List.

### Priority of Petitions Guideline

#### Prioritization

National List materials petitions received and deemed sufficient by the NOP / NOSB will be prioritized by the Materials Committee Chair for consideration as follows:

#### 1. Petitions to Remove a Material From the National List:

- a. A petition to **remove** a material presently on the National list that raises serious health, environmental, or regulatory concerns, including petitions to reconsider previous decisions, will be given the highest priority - **Priority 1**, above all other petitions in the queue of the reviewing committee (Crops, Handling, or Livestock).
- b. A petition to **remove** a material presently on the National list not based on serious health, environmental, or regulatory concerns, would be assigned a **Priority 2**, behind Priority 1 petitions, but above any petitions to list materials that are in the queue of the reviewing committee (Crops, Handling, or Livestock). This priority assignment would include any removal petitions requesting reconsideration of previous board decisions.

#### 2. Petitions to Add a Material to the National List:

- a. A petition to **add** a material to the National List will be considered by the reviewing committee (Crops, Handling, or Livestock) in the chronological order it is received, and will be designated as **Priority 3**.

#### 3. Petitions to Reconsider a Material for Addition to the National List:

- a. A petition to **reconsider** adding a material that had previously been rejected by a board vote would be given the lowest priority - **Priority 4**, and would go to the bottom of the committee (Crops, Handling, or Livestock) queue of petitioned materials.

*This prioritization guideline is only that, a guideline. When situations occur beyond the control of the reviewing committee, such as, but not limited to, a delay in the delivery of a Technical Review for a petitioned substance, the committee chair must exercise his or her judgment in the possible reassignment of priorities and workload to make best use of resources to advance petition recommendations.*

Committee Vote:

Moved: Steve DeMuri    Second: Barry Flamm

Yes: 4    No: 0    Absent: 1    Abstain: 0