



Newsletter

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PESTICIDE NOTES

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Some of the items included in Pesticide Notes are time-sensitive. To ensure that you do not miss an action date for such articles, please consider subscribing to the free listserv for time-sensitive information, Just-In-Time Pesticide Information. Directions for subscribing may be found at: http://www.entmclasses.umd.edu/PeapPubs/pest_note.jsp#

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EPA activities update – The Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) met in Arlington, VA in early May. The PPDC serves as the official advisory committee for EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP). Dr. Amy Brown, the editor of this newsletter, is one of the 43 members of the PPDC. PowerPoint and official minutes from the PPDC meeting will eventually be posted by EPA on its website at <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/ppdc/2007/may2007/may09-agenda.htm>, but in the meantime, highlights below are taken from Dr. Brown’s notes on the meeting.

Spray drift – A PPDC Workgroup gave their final report and recommendations to the PPDC. The big issues were concise, enforceable language; design versus performance standards; and legal definition of harm. The current President of The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA), who is a member of the PPDC, plans to bring elements of the report to TPSA members’ attention to implement some of the recommendations. TPSA represents a wide range of companies, associations, public agencies, institutions, and individuals involved with pesticide stewardship.

Budget update – EPA has changed their budget structure to better reflect their mission. OPP’s mission is stated as “Protect public health and the environment by ensuring pesticides and alternatives are safe and available for a healthy America.” OPP felt their current budget structure, which is divided into the three main categories of registration, reregistration, and field programs, does not adequately reflect the current state of what the Agency does. Therefore, they’ve realigned and renamed budget categories, but in fact they have not changed allocations. The President’s budget is requesting an increase in pesticide fees in the amount of \$66 million, although it is considered unlikely EPA will realize that level of increase.

Diagnostic biomarkers – OPP wants feedback on whether the Agency should become more involved in trying to develop pesticide biomarkers. It is yet unclear as to whether these would be purely biomarkers of exposure (limited use for surveillance) or would be able to be used in diagnosing overexposure (useful for the health care community). EPA is considering hosting an exploratory meeting in the fall of 2007.

Endangered species – EPA is working on priority responses to litigation issues as it further develops the program. It is anticipated that endangered species bulletins, in preparation for many months, should go live within weeks.

Transition plan for azinphosmethyl (Guthion) – USDA and EPA discussed the early work of a new PPDC workgroup that is developing a process by which to guide the transition from azinphos-methyl. It is recognized that other products will lose their registrations as well, and the agencies want to ensure growers have other options (including, but not necessarily limited to, insecticides). The workgroup is early in their discussions. Ohio parsley and Washington apples are being used as platforms to evaluate possible processes to ease the transition.

Cause marketing – There was particularly intense discussion of the issue of cause marketing, i.e., joint efforts between industry and social causes. The case precipitating the discussion is that EPA has registered Clorox with a statement indicating a percentage of proceeds are contributed to the Red Cross for each container of Clorox sold. The label bears a representation of the Red Cross. Dr. Brown presented opposition to cause marketing on pesticide labels. A primary concern is that cause marketing takes the focus off the label as a legal document, may be confusing to the consumer (or other future purchaser – EPA indicated they do not see why cause marketing could be as easily be applied to the Ag market or other commercial products, for instance), and may provide an impression of safety beyond that which is warranted. EPA has no prohibition in rule or law regarding cause marketing, so any decisions are strictly an issue of misbranded, false, or misleading statements. Several commenters felt that cause marketing should not appear on the label but might be acceptable in other materials (labeling) associated with a product.

Worker safety – The Workgroup on Worker Safety reported progress made to date, including during a day-long meeting on May 8. EPA is considering proposing sweeping changes that would affect both certification and training (pesticide applicators) and worker protection (handlers and workers exposed on farms, forests, greenhouses, and nurseries). Issues proposed include: expanding the scope of who needs to be trained; instituting new measures of competency for more categories of applicators and handlers; setting a minimum age for purchase and use of pesticides (whether restricted use or general use has not yet been decided) and for supervision of other applicators; defining “under the supervision;” requiring retraining (annually, biennially, or some other interval) for farmworkers; and other issues. Official responses to the many proposals under consideration are expected from the

American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE) and the Association of American Pest Control Officials (AAPCO) by the June 15 deadline.

[Notes from the Editor's attendance at PPDC 05/2007]

Searchable database for biopesticide and organic pest management solutions – The Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4), headquartered at New Jersey's Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University, has announced the launch of its Biopesticide / Organic database on the IR-4 website. The database, which is searchable by crop, pest, and state, will assist commercial and home growers of specialty crops. Specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, ornamentals and turf, but IR-4 also includes minor pests that are found on major row crops in this database. IR-4 Biopesticide Manager, Dr. Michael Braverman explained, "This project was conceived out of the observation that most growers or homeowners were unaware of the variety of today's biopesticides. There are a few biopesticides that show up on conventional product websites, but there isn't a database for just biopesticides and organics. Creating this database is a tool for helping growers find answers to their pest problems."

Biopesticides are primarily natural products or organisms that are compatible with integrated pest management. They have broad modes of action which avoids resistance problems that may exist with some conventional products. Biopesticides often work best in rotation with conventional products so that optimal pest management can be obtained. However, there are still many pest problems that conventional products do not address. Since biopesticides are, in general, broadly labeled, growers of minor crops with obscure pest problems may find a biopesticide can provide a solution to their needs.

Most biopesticides have no restricted entry interval requirements, whereas conventional products often limit the time growers can return to the fields following a treatment. This can hamper pruning, weeding, irrigation or other cultural practices. Homeowners as well may have difficulty keeping children and pets off treated areas; using biopesticides can alleviate these concerns. Another advantage of biopesticides is reduced time to harvest. If a late season pest is discovered close to harvest or if a field contains a crop with multiple harvests, there may not be a conventional product option.

The database is located at: <http://www.ir4.rutgers.edu/Biopesticides/LabelDatabase/index.cfm/>. Click on the "Find Answers" prompt. Once opened, the database enables growers to input their crop, pest and state and it responds by providing a list of EPA registered product labels that fit their criteria. It also supplies the manufacturer contact information and other pertinent data.

The database was partially funded through a grant from EPA Region 2. Technical assistance was provided by those at EPA headquarters and many Biopesticide Industry Alliance manufacturers. Additionally, many individual companies contributed their information to help create the database. [Press release, IR-4, Rutgers U. 05/22/2007]

New web pages available in Spanish – Pesticide Web pages concerning pesticide safety, pest control, emergency information, illegal pesticide products, and protecting children have been translated into Spanish and posted on EPA's Pesticide Web site. They are:

Protecting Children --
http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/children_sp.htm

Emergency Information --

http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/emergency_sp.htm

Illegal Pesticide Products --

http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/illegalproducts/illegalproducts_sp.htm

Using Pesticides Safely --

http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/safely_sp.htm

Dos and Don'ts of Pest Control --

http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/controlling/doanddont_sp.htm

These Web pages also will be incorporated into the Agency's Spanish Web portal, *EPA en Espanol* at

<http://www.epa.gov/espanol/>. [EPA OPP Update 05/08/2007]

Methyl bromide inventory continues

downward trend – The methyl bromide inventory held by U.S. companies at the end of 2006 continues to shrink, according to data released by EPA. The data show a steady decline in the inventory since 2003, when the Agency began collecting such information.

Methyl bromide is an ozone-depleting chemical that has been used as a general pesticide across a wide range of agricultural sectors for many years. Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Clean Air Act, the United States phased out new production and import of methyl bromide, except for allowable exemptions for users who have no technically and economically feasible alternatives.

The data that EPA is releasing includes, in aggregate form, the inventory held by approximately 35 companies in the United States at the end of 2006. Inventory data show a steady decline – approximately 16,422 metric tons in 2003; 12,994 metric tons in 2004; 9,974 metric tons in 2005; and 7,671 metric tons in 2006. The phase-out of new production and import, and the orderly reduction in the existing inventory, are facilitating a transition to alternatives in a manner consistent with previous phase-outs of ozone-depleting substances, such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons. For more information on the phaseout of methyl bromide, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/mbr> Contact John Millett, (202) 564-4355 / millett.john@epa.gov [EPA OPP Update 05/16/2007]

Opportunities for comment to public agencies

Crop groupings – Minor crop producers and consumers will be the primary beneficiaries of a recent EPA proposal to revise its pesticide tolerance crop grouping regulations, which allow the establishment of tolerances for multiple, related crops based upon data from a representative set of crops. The proposed revision, published in a May 23, 2007, Federal Register notice, would create a new crop group for edible fungi (mushrooms), expand existing crop groups by adding new commodities, establish new crop subgroups, and revise the representative crops in some groups. These

proposed changes reflect the global competition for new or ethnic commodities. EPA expects these revisions to promote greater use of crop groupings for tolerance-setting purposes and, in particular, to assist in retaining or making available pesticides for minor crop uses.

This is the first in a series of regulatory crop group updates. The current proposal is based on a petition submitted to EPA by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Inter-regional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4), along with the governments of Canada and Mexico, working

with over 180 crop, agrichemical, and regulatory experts representing more than 30 countries. The petition and the monographs supporting it have been included in the docket for the proposed rule, which can be found under docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0766 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments are due on or before July 23, 2007. The Federal Register notice announcing the proposal can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/EPA-PEST/2007/May/Day-23/p9595.htm>. [EPA OPP Update 05/30/2007]

4-aminopyridine – EPA has announced availability of its ecological risk assessments and related documents for the pesticide 4-aminopyridine (Avitrol), and opened a public comment period on these documents. The public is encouraged to suggest risk management ideas or proposals to address the risks identified. Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0400, by one of the following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> or mail. Comments must be received on or before July 30, 2007. Contact Katie Hall, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508P), Office of Pesticide Programs, telephone number (703) 308-0166; fax number (703)308-8090; e-mail address hall.katie@epa.gov [EPA OPP Update 06/04/2007]

Diazinon – EPA has issued notice of receipt of a request by the registrant to voluntarily cancel the registration of its sole product containing the organophosphate insecticide diazinon. The request would terminate granular diazinon use on lettuce. The request would also terminate the last granular diazinon product registered for use in the United States. EPA intends to grant this request at the close of the comment period for this announcement unless the Agency receives substantive comments within the comment period that would merit its further review of the request, or unless the registrant withdraws its request within this period. Upon acceptance of

this request, any sale, distribution, or use of products listed in this notice will be permitted only if such sale, distribution, or use is consistent with the terms as described in the final order. Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0909, by one of the following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> or mail. Comments must be received on or before June 15, 2007. Contact Jude Andreasen, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508P), Office of Pesticide Programs, telephone number (703) 308-9342; fax number (703) 308-7070; e-mail address andreasen.jude@epa.gov [EPA OPP Update 05/18/2007]

Inorganic sulfites – The Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) for inorganic sulfites has been made available by EPA, and a public comment period has been opened on this document, related risk assessments, and other support documents. EPA has reviewed the low risk pesticide inorganic sulfites through a modified, streamlined version of the public participation process that the Agency uses to involve the public in developing pesticide reregistration and tolerance reassessment decisions. Through these programs, EPA is ensuring that all pesticides meet current health and safety standards. Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0335, by one of the following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> or mail. Comments must be received on or before July 23, 2007. Contact Mark Perry, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508P), Office of Pesticide Programs, telephone number: (703) 308-8024; fax number: (703) 308-8005; e-mail address: perry.mark@epa.gov [EPA OPP Update 05/25/2007]

Plant-incorporated protectants – EPA has extended the comment period for potential revisions to current production regulations for producers of plant-incorporated protectants

(PIPs. The comment period was extended because EPA received a request from the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), the association representing state pesticide regulatory officials. The 30-day extension will allow state regulators to consider the document at the State-FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) national meeting June 25-26, 2007, and submit comments representing the consensus of their membership. In addition to official comment from AAPCO, other interested individuals and/or groups may submit comments, which must be received on or before July 13, 2007. Contact Stephen Howie, Hazard Assessment Coordination and Policy Division, Office of Science Coordination and Policy, telephone number (202) 564-4146; fax number (202) 564-8502; e-mail address howie.stephen@epa.gov [EPA OPP Update 05/25/2007]

Rotenone – EPA has announced availability of the Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) for the pesticide rotenone, and opened a public comment period on this document. The Agency's risk assessments and other related documents also are available in the rotenone docket. Rotenone is a restricted use pesticide applied directly to water, primarily by Federal and state agencies, to eliminate invasive or unwanted fish species. Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPP- 2005-0494, by one of the

following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> or mail. Comments must be received on or before July 23, 2007 Contact Lance Wormell, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508P), Office of Pesticide Programs, telephone number: (703) 603-0523; fax number: (703) 308-7070; e-mail address: wormell.lance@epa.gov [EPA OPP Update 05/25/2007]

Soil fumigants – As part of EPA's ongoing evaluation of soil fumigant pesticides, the Agency is seeking public comment on risk-reduction options for the soil fumigants: methyl bromide, metam sodium, dazomet, and chloropicrin. Another soil fumigant, 1,3-dichloropropene, is included for comparison purposes, but its reassessment is complete and no regulatory changes are anticipated. Options under consideration include buffer zones, sealing methods, timing of applications, application block limits, respiratory protection, tarp cutting and removal, entry-restricted period, and application method/practice restrictions.

A fact sheet on soil fumigant risk mitigation options and directions on how to comment are available at: http://epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil_fumigants/risk_mitigation.htm. Comments are due to EPA by July 2, 2007. [EPA OPP Update 05/04/2007]

References cited in this volume of Pesticide Notes

- **EPA OPP Update** Update from Office of Pesticide Programs, EPA
- **Pesticide.Net Insider eJournal**

Editor's Notes

How to find documents for comment – To access documents on-line, go to the web site <http://www.regulations.gov>. From the menu just under the banner at the top of the page, click on “Advanced Search” and then “Docket Search.” This will bring up a page on which you can enter the

Docket ID (see above). Once you have entered the Docket ID, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on “Submit.” When the next page comes up on your screen, click on the appropriate Docket ID. This will take you to a list of all the documents within the public docket for that chemical.

Time-sensitive information – Some of the actions described in this newsletter have comment periods designated. Because the turnaround time for comments is often relatively short, *Pesticide Notes* is not always able to publish the opportunity for comment before the comment period closes. If you think you may be interested in commenting on pesticides in the future, please sign up for the free subscription to *Just-In-Time Pesticide Info*. Subscribers to the *Just-In-Time Pesticide Info* service are notified of upcoming pesticide policy-related meetings; requests for comment on proposed actions such as cancellations, restrictions, or changes in registrations; and other time-sensitive pesticide issues. Being on the listserv maximizes the time subscribers have to plan for meetings, learn about possible actions, or prepare comments. *Just-In-Time Pesticide Info* subscribers will also receive more detailed information about how to access documents for comment. To subscribe to this free service, please visit the University of Maryland Pesticide Education and Assessment Program web site at <http://www.pesticide.umd.edu/management/JustInTime.html>.

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