



# Newsletter

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## PESTICIDE NOTES

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**Occupational chemicals database available** – EPA and the Office of Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have jointly developed a useful database for the occupational safety and health community. The database compiles information from several government agencies and organizations. Available database reports include: Physical Properties, Exposure Guidelines, NIOSH Pocket Guide, and Emergency Response Information, including the DOT Emergency Response Guide. In addition, an all-in-one report, Full Report, is available. The database is available at <http://www.osha.gov/web/dep/chemicaldata/default.asp#target>. [Email commun., J. Kasai, EPA OPP, via the AAPSE listserv, 07/26/2007]

**Pesticide poisonings decline** – According to a recent article in the journal Clinical Toxicology, pesticide poisonings in the U.S. have declined significantly. Using 25 years of mortality data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics, Dr. Blondell, formerly of EPA, found that serious pesticide poisonings (acute, unintentional poisonings defined by Poison Centers as having a moderate, major, or fatal outcome) declined 42% from 1995 to 2004 and unintentional death rates (not including disinfectants) declined 62% over the same period. Organophosphate insecticides declined 72% and carbamates 67%, the largest for any particular group of pesticides. Other toxic pesticides, such as paraquat and strychnine,

exhibited declines of 79% and 63%, respectively. If 1980-81 is used as baseline instead of 1995, death rates due to unintentional pesticide poisonings (not including disinfectants) declined 86% by the 2001 to 2004 time period, when there were an average of five such deaths per year.

This decline may be considered to be cases prevented through safer use practices by the public, stewardship by the pesticide industry, and regulatory improvements by the US EPA. To find the total number of cases prevented, one can compare the observed numbers with the number of expected exposures, poisonings, and deaths that would have occurred if the baseline rates reported in 1995 for exposures and poisonings and the baseline rates for deaths in 1980-81 were applied to all subsequent years with data available. In 1995 the rate of exposures was 521 and the rate of serious poisonings was 14.97 per million population in the United States. However, as the article cited above explains, the actual rate of serious poisonings requiring medical treatment is likely four times higher because only a quarter of hospital and emergency room poisonings are reported to Poison Control Centers. The rate of deaths in 1980-81 was 0.12278 unintentional pesticide deaths per million US population. Over the ten year period 1996 through 2005 there were an estimated 350,000 exposures and 56,400 serious poisonings prevented. Similarly for deaths, if the rates prevalent in 1980-81 had persisted, there would have been an additional estimated 418 deaths due to accidental pesticide poisoning from 1982 through 2004. [*Clin. Toxicol.*45(5):589-592; email, K. Keaney, EPA OPP, via the PPDC listserv]

### **Toddler dies from improper use of Phostoxin**

– Although pesticide poisonings overall have apparently declined (see above article), serious incidents still do occur, demonstrating the need for increased education of occupational users and consumers alike. In Texas this summer, a family apparently trying to rid their home of

roaches used an industrial-strength pesticide that released toxic fumes, killing a toddler and sickening four adults. The 2-year-old girl died at a hospital a short time after she was taken there along with four adults. Two of the adults were treated and released and two women, 56 and 58, were in satisfactory condition, a University Medical Center spokeswoman said.

The pellets, which are typically for large-scale industrial use such as a grain warehouse, were placed in four locations in the house. The chemical, Phostoxin, releases a toxic gas when it comes into contact with moisture, Lubbock fire spokesman Chris Angerer said. The commercial pesticide is not available over the counter, and it was not clear where and how the family obtained the pellets. Police have identified a person who may have given the commercial pesticide to the family and criminal charges could be pursued. [*Associated Press*, 07/18/2007]

**Efficacy to be required for products controlling public health pests** – EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) has concluded that products being sold to control pests that are known to carry West Nile Virus, Lyme disease, and other vector-borne public health threats must be supported by evidence that they are effective against the target pest. EPA is now looking at options to ensure that minimum risk public health pesticides that are otherwise exempted from regulation are effective.

This finding was made based on an analysis of comments on a petition submitted by the Consumer Specialty Products Association (CSPA) in March 2006. That petition asked EPA to modify the minimum risk pesticide exemption under 40 CFR 152.25(f). It requested that the Agency exclude from the exemption those pesticides that claim to control "pests of significant public health importance" and require an abbreviated registration for minimum risk products that are to be used for the control of public health pests.

EPA notified CSPA of its finding in a letter responding to a recent letter from CSPA, which suggested that EPA engage in expedited rulemaking. CSPA's letter and EPA's reply can be found via links at [http://www.epa.gov/oppbpd1/biopesticides/regtools/25b\\_list.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppbpd1/biopesticides/regtools/25b_list.htm). The petition and comments received during the open comment period have been included in the docket for the proposed rule, which can be found under docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0687 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. [EPA OPP Update 07/20/2007]

**Pesticide benefits categorized** – A 2007 article by authors at The Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich in the UK, presents a discussion of the benefits of pesticides. The authors cite 26 “primary benefits that are...immediate and incontrovertible, and 31 secondary benefits that are longer term, less intuitive, and for which it is harder to establish causality.” The paper presents a matrix of benefit interactions with social, economic, and environmental consequences. The full article is available online at <http://www.sciencedirect.com>. [Email through AAPSE listserv, 07/2007]

### **Opportunities for comment to public agencies**

- *Dichlorvos* – EPA has issued a cancellation order for the termination of certain uses and label amendments, voluntarily requested by the registrant and accepted by the Agency, of products containing the pesticide dichlorvos (DDVP), pursuant of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended. This cancellation order follows a March 23, 2007 and April 13, 2007 Federal Register Notice of Receipt of Request from the DDVP registrant to voluntarily terminate certain uses of its DDVP products and label amendments. The request would terminate DDVP use in dry bait formulations and in impregnated resin cat and dog flea collars. The request would not terminate the last DDVP products registered for use in the United States. In the Notices, EPA indicated that it would issue an order to implement the termination of certain uses, unless the Agency received substantive comments within the 30 day comment period that would merit its further review of these requests, or unless the registrant withdrew their request within this period. The Agency did not receive any comments on the Notices. Further, the registrant did not withdraw their request.

Accordingly, EPA has issued a cancellation order granting the request to terminate the uses described above. Any distribution or sale of the DDVP products subject to this cancellation order is permitted only in accordance with the terms of this order, including any existing stocks provisions. EPA has established a docket for this action under docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPP-2002 -0302. The cancellations are effective June 27, 2007. Contact Susan Bartow, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508P), Office of Pesticide Programs, telephone number (703) 603-0065; fax number (703) 308-8005; e-mail address [bartow.susan@epa.gov](mailto:bartow.susan@epa.gov) [EPA OPP Update 02/29/2007]

- *EBDCs* – EPA has issued a hearing notice regarding the ethylene bisdithiocarbamate (EBDC) pesticides mancozeb, maneb, and metiram – a group of fungicides used to control a broad spectrum of fungal diseases such as blight, rot, mold, or scab in fruit, vegetable, field, and ornamental crops. The EBDC registrants, represented by the EBDC/Ethylenethiourea (ETU) Task Force, have requested that EPA modify the

regulatory decision requiring a 14-day pre-harvest interval (PHI) for the EBDCs on potatoes. The Task Force has requested that the potato PHI be shortened from 14 days to 3 days, due to the recent spread of late blight throughout the United States. A notice of hearing is required under 40 C.F.R. part 164 subpart D when a registrant requests to modify an existing pesticide registration cancellation order.

In 1992, EPA notified registrants of EBDC fungicides that the Agency intended to cancel registrations for use on certain crops. The Notice of Intent to Cancel stated that EPA would cancel the use of EBDCs on potatoes unless the registrants modified their pesticide product labels to reduce dietary risk. The registrants had agreed to amend labels to extend the PHI to 14 days in most states. For states with a higher incidence of late blight, a 3-day PHI was allowed.

In 1996 and again in 2003, the EBDC/ETU Task Force submitted a petition to EPA requesting the reduction of the potato PHI from 14 days to 3 days nationwide to address the spread of late blight disease. Late blight is a fungal disease capable of destroying an entire potato crop in the field and in storage. The Task Force petition includes a New Evidence Submission which provides evidence of the spread of late blight to all potato-producing states. The Agency decided to consider the request after completing the Reregistration Eligibility Decision for the EBDCs and determining that the request to modify the existing cancellation order merits a hearing. Reduction of the PHI to 3 days nationwide is not expected to increase the residues of EBDCs on potatoes, and EPA has determined that the subsequent residue and exposure levels would still meet the existing tolerance and safety standard requirements under the FQPA. The formal adjudicatory

hearing will provide interested parties an opportunity to voice their concerns prior to modification of the existing order.

Further details about the hearing, including instructions on how to participate, are described in the Federal Register Notice published on July 11, 2007 <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2007/July/Day-11/p13471.htm>, and in the public docket under identification number EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0181 <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main>. [EPA OPP Update 07/13/2007]

- *Endocrine disruptor screening* – EPA is seeking public comment on a draft list of 73 pesticide chemicals that was published in a June 2007 Pre-Publication Federal Register Notice. The chemicals selected are the first to be considered for screening under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). The Agency cautions that the list should not be construed as a list of known or likely endocrine disruptors. Nothing in the approach for generating the initial list provides a basis to infer that any of the chemicals selected interfere with or are suspected to interfere with the endocrine systems of humans or other species.

EPA's Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program, mandated under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), will determine whether certain chemicals have an effect on the endocrine system, using validated tests and other scientific information. Under FQPA, all pesticide chemicals will be screened, starting with this draft list. EPA's draft list focuses on those pesticide ingredients -- active and inert -- with relatively high potential for human exposure. The Agency gave priority to pesticide active ingredients where there is the potential for human exposure through food and water, residential exposure to

pesticide products, and high levels of occupational exposure following an application of agricultural pesticides. For pesticide inert ingredients, the priority was on those with high production volumes found in human or ecological tissues, water, and indoor air. After considering comments on the draft list, EPA will issue a second Federal Register notice with the final list of chemicals. More information about the draft list is available at <http://www.epa.gov/endo/index.htm>

Comments are due to EPA 90 days after publication in the Federal Register. Publicly available docket materials are available in the electronic docket at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods: (1) Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments found in the electronic docket at <http://www.regulations.gov>; (2) send email to [oppt.ncic@epa.gov](mailto:oppt.ncic@epa.gov), or (3) send written comments to Document Control Office (7407M), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001. All comments should be identified by docket identification (ID) no. EPA-HQ-OPPT-2004-0109. For further information contact Linda Phillips ([phillips.linda@epa.gov](mailto:phillips.linda@epa.gov) or 202-564-1264). [email from S. Snedeker, Cornell U., via the AAPSE Listserv 06/12/2007; and EPA OPP Update 06/12/-2007]

- *Pesticide-treated food packaging* – EPA is reopening the public comment period for a proposed rule concerning pesticide-treated food packaging published in the Federal Register of April 6, 2007. Written comments were required to be submitted by April 21, 2007. EPA is reopening the comment period

because the Agency received, considered and accepted a petition to extend the public comment period. This document reopens the comment period for an additional 30 days. Follow the detailed instructions provided under ADDRESSES in the proposed rule published in the Federal Register of April 6, 2007. Comments must be received on or before July 6, 2007. Contact Mari L. Duggard, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511P), Office of Pesticide Programs, telephone number (703) 308-0028; fax number (703) 308-7026; e-mail address [duggard.mari@epa.gov](mailto:duggard.mari@epa.gov) [EPA OPP Update 06/08/2007]

- *Soil fumigants* – As part of EPA's ongoing evaluation of soil fumigant pesticides, and based on multiple requests from stakeholders, the agency is extending the public comment period on risk reduction options until September 3, 2007. On May 2, 2007, EPA issued revised human health risk assessments and requested public comment on risk-reduction options for the soil fumigants: methyl bromide, metam sodium, dazomet, and chloropicrin. Another soil fumigant, 1,3-dichloropropene (telone) is included for comparison purposes, but its reassessment is complete and few if any regulatory changes are anticipated. EPA recently hosted public meetings on these soil fumigants in Washington State and in Florida, and participated in a public meeting in California where it obtained comments on possible risk mitigation options directly from stakeholders. More information on soil fumigant risk mitigation options, and how to submit comments is available on EPA's Web site at [http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil\\_fumigants/risk\\_mitigation.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil_fumigants/risk_mitigation.htm). [EPA OPP Update 06/22/2007]

### References cited in this volume of *Pesticide Notes*

- **AAPSE Listserv** – service available with membership in the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators
- **EPA OPP Update** – service available by subscription from Office of Pesticide Programs, EPA
- **Pesticide.Net Insider eJournal** – on-line journal available by subscription at <http://pesticide.net>

### **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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  - 1) URLs published in this newsletter are proofread and provided exactly as listed in the references cited. Due to the possibility of typographical errors in the original articles and to the practice of some sources of changing the links on their web sites without notice, the editor of *Pesticide Notes* cannot guarantee that all links provided in the articles will work.
  - 2) Trade names of pesticides, when provided, are meant as examples of products containing the particular active ingredient mentioned. The listing may not be comprehensive.