



PEP-TALK

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OSU Pesticide Education Programs



Included In This Issue...

- I. Source Water Protection Provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendment of 1996
- II. Pesticide Disposal Problems in Urban Areas & Clean Water Act
- III. Homeowner Pesticide Disposal Tips
- IV. Chemical and Label Update
- V. Atrazine and Cyanazine Label Changes
- VI. RED Fact Sheets Issued on Amitrole
- VII. EPA Revisiting Hazard Communication Under WPS
- VIII. EPA Region V Priorities for Environmental Enforcement
- IX. News Notes
- X. Psst...

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Safe Drinking Water Act

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROVISIONS OF THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT AMENDMENT OF 1996

On April 14, the USEPA and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency held a meeting in Columbus to provide information on the Source Water Protection provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. The meeting was also held to collect opinion from potentially affected individuals and organizations to help formulate the final guidance to implement these provisions.

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 require States to develop a Source Water Assessment Program. Under this program, the areas providing water to public water systems must be delineated and the sources of contaminants in the delineated areas must be identified for all public water systems.

USEPA is currently developing guidance that will determine how these source water assessment provisions will be implemented. A draft guidance was provided for discussion at the April 14 meeting. The guidance is scheduled to be finalized by August 6, 1997.

For additional information, please call the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 to request copies of the draft guidance document.

Pesticide Disposal

PESTICIDE DISPOSAL PROBLEMS IN URBAN AREAS & CWA

Pesticides in wastewater effluent and storm water runoff pose an environmental challenge for large cities. Amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA) passed in 1987 require most wastewater treatment plants with capacities greater than 1 million gallons per day to begin monitoring the quality of wastewater effluent using a sensitive biomonitoring technique. For example, between 1989 and 1993 the wastewater treatment facility in Fort Worth, Texas failed 28 out of 34 (82%) 7-day characterization tests using biomonitoring. Over-application and improper pesticide disposal are suspected as the primary causes of contamination.

Pesticide contamination of wastewater effluent is an extremely costly problem. Failure of a city such as Fort Worth to meet CWA requirements could result in fines of up to \$25,000 per day. Estimated costs of upgrading treatment facilities to adequately remove pesticide contamination are approximately \$80 million.

Efforts to educate citizens on safe use and disposal of pesticides so far have met with mixed success. One in three households in Fort Worth apply pesticides at least once a month during the growing season. In Texas, fire ants were, by far, the most important insect pest, followed by fleas and ticks. People questioned identified "effectiveness of the product," "impact on people and pets," "impact on the environment," "ease of use," and "cost" (in order of importance) as "extremely important" factors in their selection of insecticides.

A focus group study, also conducted in 1996, revealed that although labels and bottle directions are read by consumers, overuse of Pesticides is common. Reasons for overuse include wanting to get a faster kill, disappointment with results obtained by following label, and a belief that intuition is sufficient to judge the proper amount to apply.

(Pesticides & Consumer Education: The Fort Worth Experience, Michael Merchant, Texas A&M University, Mary Gugliuzza, City of Fort Worth Water Department, e-mail, April 17, 1997)

Homeowner Pesticide Disposal

HOMEOWNER PESTICIDE DISPOSAL TIPS

As gardening season approaches, homeowners should think carefully about buying pesticides. Never buy more pesticide than you need so that you eliminate the problem of storing and disposing of unwanted pesticides at the end of the season. The following are some guidelines on pesticide disposal.

- Read and follow all label directions regarding disposal. Pesticides should never be burned, buried, poured on the ground, dumped in a body of water or poured down a drain.
- The best disposal option is to use up the product completely according to label directions.
- When a container of liquid pesticide is empty, rinse it three times with water, and use the rinse water in your last tank of spray. Never reuse or recycle pesticide containers.
- If no further use is anticipated for surplus quantities, it is better to give the product to another user than to discard it in the trash. Be sure to keep the pesticide in its original labeled container.
- Observe the following directions when disposing of small amounts of pesticides (less than ½ gallon or 1 pound):

For solids or powders, wrap the pesticide (in its original container) securely in newspaper or other absorbent material. Place it inside two plastic garbage bags or a large, sealed plastic container (such as an ice cream bucket). This package can then be disposed of in your trash.

For liquid pesticides, pack the bottle inside two plastic garbage bags or a sealed plastic container with an equal amount of "kitty litter." This package can then go into your trash.

- For information on disposing of larger quantities of pesticides, banned products or those with no label, contact the Ohio EPA at 10800-686-8930, or the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 1-800-282-1955.

("Consumer Pesticide Safety Guide," Franklin County Extension, 1991)

Other publications available for Consumer Pesticide Safety information include:

- "57 Ways To Protect Your Home Environment (and Yourself)" North Central Region Pub 583
- "Pesticide Safety and Calibration Math for the Homeowner," Purdue Pesticide Programs, Purdue Univ.

Chemical & Label Update

CHEMICAL & LABEL UPDATE

The following information provides registration status of particular pesticides and should not be considered as pesticide recommendations by OSU Extension.

FIELD CROPS

Authority 4F, Authority 75DF, Authority BL, and Authority Broadleaf --FMC Corporation--
EPA approval of applications submitted to conditionally register Sulfentrazone Technical, Authority 4F, Authority 75DF, Authority BL, and Authority Broadleaf containing new active ingredients not included in any previously registered products. (Federal Register, April 16, 1997)

Bacillus Thuringiensis Subspecies Kurstaki CryIA© --
Dekalb Genetics Corp.
EPA established exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of the plant-pesticides CryIA© and the genetic material necessary for its production in all plants when used as plant-pesticides in or on all raw agricultural commodities. (Federal Register, April 11, 1997)

Bravo 720 (chlorothalonil)--ISK biosciences-- This company will not produce any more product under this trade name but it will be changed to Bravo Weather Stik. (Ag. Chem News, April 1997)

Cobra (lactofen)--Valent--The preharvest interval on soybeans has been dropped from 90 days to 45 days. (Ag. Chem News, April 1997)

Hornet (flumetsulam/chlopyralid)--DowElanco--New broadleaf herbicide for use on corn. (DowElanco, Internet press release, March 20, 1997)

Resource (fluriclorac-pentyl)--Valent--The preharvest interval on corn has been changed from 90 days to 60 days. (Ag. Chem News, April 1997)

Roundup--(glyphosate)--Monsanto Co.-- EPA established permanent tolerances for residues of the herbicide glyphosate on field corn grain, fodder and forage; aspirated grain fractions; sorghum grain and fodder; and oats. The residues from the treatment of field corn include residues in or on field corn varieties which have been genetically modified to be tolerant of glyphosate. These regulations became effective April 11, 1997. (Federal Register, April 11, 1997)

Stinger (clopyralid)--DowElanco-- EPA established tolerances for residues of the herbicide clopyralid in or on the raw agricultural commodities corn, field, fodder; corn, field, forage; corn, field, grain; and corn, field, milling fractions. (Federal Register, April 16, 1997)

FRUIT / VEGETABLES

Agri Mek (avermectin)--Merck & Co.--Added to their label the usage on almonds and walnuts. (Ag. Chem News, April 1997)

Bravo 720 (chlorothalonil)--ISK biosciences-- This company will not produce any more product under this trade name but will be changed to Bravo Weather Stik. (Ag. Chem News, April 1997)

Confirm (tebufenozide)--Rohm & Haas--EPA established time limited residue tolerances on leafy vegetables, peppers and turnip tops. Expires February, 28 1998. (Federal Register, March 5, 1997)

Diazinon 14G--Novartis-- Added to their label the usage on rutabagas (Ag. Chem News, April 1997)

Diazinon 50W--Novartis-- Added to their label the usage on blueberries and rutabagas to control aphids and wireworms. (Ag. Chem News, April 1997)

Kaolin --Engelhard Corporation-- Pesticide Tolerance Exemption

This rule established a temporary exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of the insecticide Kaolin, when used on crops (apples, apricots, bananas, beans, cane berries, citrus fruits, corn, cotton, cranberries, cucurbits, grapes, melons, nuts, ornamentals, peaches, peanuts, pears, peppers, plums, potatoes, seed crops, small grains, soybeans, strawberries, sugar beets, and tomatoes) to control certain insect, fungus, and bacterial damage to plants. This regulation expires December 31, 1999. (Federal Register, April 23, 1997)

Lannate (methomyl)--DuPont--Added to their label the aerial application on Chinese cabbage. (Ag. Chem News, April 1997)

Metasystox-R (oxydemeton-methyl)--Gowan--Added to their label the control of thrips on cabbage. (Ag. Chem News, April 1997)

Metolachlor --Section 18 request is pending before EPA. Ohio requested a Section 18 for metolachlor on transplant tomatoes for black nightshade. The 50-day due date is May 10. (P & T Chem News, April 16, 1997)

Nemacur--(fenamiphos)--Bayer--Added to their label the control of phylloxera on grapes. (Ag. Chem News, April 1997)

Oxyfluorfen--Pesticide Tolerance--A tolerance in connection with the FIFRA Section 18 emergency exemptions has been established for residues of the herbicide oxyfluorfen in/on strawberries at 0.05 ppm. (Federal Register, April 25, 1997)

Stinger (clopyralid)--DowElanco-- EPA established time limited residue tolerances for residues in or on the raw agricultural commodity cranberries. The tolerance will expire July 31, 1998. (Federal Register, March 12, 1997)

ORNAMENTALS

Dacthal (DPTC)--ISK Bioscience--The company has decided to discontinue the manufacture of this product. There are current inventories that will last about 18 months. (Ag. Chem News, April 1997)

DZN Diazinon 4E--Novartis--Added to their label the usage on Scotch pine for the control of the European pine sawfly. (Ag. Chem News, April 1997)

Lorsban 4E--(chlorpyrifos)--DowElanco-- Added to their label the control of whitefly on cotton and midges on Douglas fir. (Ag. Chem News, April 1997)

MISCELLANEOUS

Notice of Receipt of Requests to Voluntarily Cancel Certain Pesticide Registrations

Unless a request is withdrawn by October 20, 1997, orders will be issued canceling all of these registrations.

Super Blue Dragon Garden Dust 5% Sevin

Dragon 1-3/4% Sevin Dust

Dragon Fruit Tree Spray Wettable

Dragon Copper Sulfate Granular Crystals

Triple Dragon Dust

Basus Outdoor Flea Treatment

Fenoxycarb MG2E

Gypchek

Cythion Insecticide the Premium Grade Malathion

Malathion ULV Concentrate Insecticide

Spot Weeder Weed Control

2,4-DB Ester Selective Herbicide

Methyl Parathion 6E

Drexel 7 1/2lbs. Methyl Parathion

All Season Crabgrass Preventer Plus 22-3-11 Fertilizer

Starlicide Complete

Lice & Fly Killer-CR

(Federal Register, April 23, 1997)

Label Changes

ATRAZINE AND CYANAZINE LABEL CHANGES

The Environmental Protection Agency is changing its requirement for a 66-foot setback or buffer zone around standpipes in terraced fields by providing farmers alternative methods to protect surface water from herbicide runoff. Instead of the 66-foot setback around standpipes, the Agency is allowing farmers to apply atrazine and cyanazine (Bladex) to the area around standpipes if it is incorporated into the soil after application OR if the area is managed under a no-till system combined with high crop residue management.

In 1992, the Agency prohibited farmers from applying atrazine and cyanazine within 66-foot setback around standpipes in terraced fields in order to reduce herbicide runoff that could contaminate surface water sources.

Standpipes are used to reduce soil erosion by collecting runoff water from terraced fields and directing it to tile outlets that can carry the runoff water to discharge points at streams, rivers or other bodies of water. (Standpipe Setbacks on Tile-Outlet Terraced Fields, EPA Questions and Answers via The Label, April 1997)

Amitrole Fact Sheets

RED FACT SHEETS ISSUED ON AMITROLE

The Office of Pesticide Programs issued a Reregistration Eligibility Decision on all uses of currently registered products containing Amitrole. The EPA rescinded Amitrole's previous Restricted Use classification provided that the registrant agrees to the following: voluntarily cancel its liquid formulation product; provide a cancer warning statement on the label; apply the chemical using a boom sprayer only; maintain use profile as a non-food use pesticide; and provide the agency with handler exposure studies for mixers/loaders of water-soluble packages to confirm the EPA's risk assessment and conclusions.

Amitrole is a terrestrial non-food herbicide used primarily in industrial areas (out-doors), non-agricultural right-of-ways, non-agricultural uncultivated areas and on ornamental trees, shrubs and vines. There are no tolerances for any food crop or other domestic purposes. Amitrole is also classified as a B2-probable human carcinogen. Two-thirds of the EPA's calculated cancer risk is from inhalation exposure. However, the likelihood of inhalation exposure is almost non-existent since Amitrole is packaged in water soluble bags. (Adapted from P & T Chem News, January 1, 1997)

Hazard Communication

EPA REVISITING HAZARD COMMUNICATION UNDER WPS

The EPA will begin to revisit the issue of hazard communication under WPS. The concept of MSDS or pesticide fact sheets was proposed along with the WPS in 1992 and several comments were then received, but the Agency never finalized this amendment to the WPS because of other more pressing priorities. Now with most product labels changed and the Standard under full compliance, and most of the major issues addressed through exceptions and amendments, Farmworker Justice and AFL-CIO have met with EPA to encourage action on the hazard communication proposal. EPA's Assistant Administrator is determined to move this into final amendment by Spring 1998 (new proposal Fall 1997).

All EPA Regions have been asked to survey their respective States to obtain the most recent copies of their Crop Sheets (if used) and information on State Haz Com laws in effect, and usefulness of developed crop sheets. MSDS's have not been entirely ruled out, but states favor some standardized Crop Sheet. The logistics of when and how these will be made available to workers by growers has yet to be determined, as well as the amount of assistance EPA can provide to States in their development.

(Donald Baumgartner, Region V EPA, E-mail, April 15, 1997)

EPA Region V Priorities

EPA REGION V PRIORITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

EPA's Region V, which includes Ohio, outlined their enforcement plans in a Memorandum of Agreement with agency headquarters. Region V will support headquarters' priority of industry sector-based enforcement including petroleum refining, dry cleaning and primary nonferrous metals. Industrial organic chemicals and industrial inorganic chemicals will also become a focus.

In the area of pesticides, "Region V and state pesticide programs will continue to perform comprehensive inspections, respond to tips and complaints, and provide outreach and education as agreed upon in cooperative agreements and in State Implementation Plans." (P & T Chem News, April 16, 1997)

State agencies will continue to monitor for unregistered and ineffective pesticides at producing establishments, distributors, dealers and commercial sites.

Another target of Region V will be misuse of pesticides by pest control operators. Region V will develop a compliance assistance program for the misuses of pesticides and it "will encourage states to 1)perform community based outreach and education programs, 2)intensify identification, inspection and enforcement against pest control operators and applicators who misuse pesticides registered for urban and residential use, or who illegally use agricultural pesticides in residential sites." (P & T Chem News, April 16, 1997)

Region V will request "tighter surveillance of the formulation, distribution, sale and use of pesticides in the structural pest control market" from state agencies. (P & T Chem News, April 16, 1997) "State agencies will also be asked to increase their audits of restricted use pesticide distributors and dealers." (P & T Chem News, April 16, 1997)

News Notes

More Dermal Absorption Information Needed

A FIFRA Science Advisory Panel commented that more information about how people absorb chemicals through the skin is needed for the EPA to determine toxicological endpoints in risk assessments and tolerance settings required for pesticide reregistration. There is a great deal of disagreement about the amount of pesticide that can be absorbed through skin among scientists and others. Therefore, more research is necessary to determine short- and long-term risks.

Coalition Seeks REI Change for Captan

The AFL-CIO and environmental groups have been actively petitioning EPA to reevaluate the four-day REI for strawberries and eventually reinstate the REI requirement for harvesting strawberries treated with the fungicide captan. The groups say that the current 24 hour REI exposes strawberry pickers to levels of captan that pose a significant risk of developing cancer. EPA responded that it would be eager to review any new information that would provide more protection for the workers.

Pesticide Data Program

An industry/state agriculture agency coalition is urging the House Appropriations Committee's agriculture/rural development subcommittee to support USDA's Pesticide Data Program by endorsing the funding of the program at \$10.24 million and continuing to have PDP be shepherded by the Agricultural Marketing Service. The coalition emphasized the necessity of the program by noting that some kind of residue collection program is mandated by the Food Quality Protection Act and the USDA is the best organization to continue doing so.

Mississippi Methyl Parathion

On March 13, a Mississippi man was convicted on 21 counts of knowingly misusing methyl parathion and Ambush in homes and other buildings. He could receive up to 21 years in prison and/or up to \$2.1 million in fines. Another person cited for illegal pesticide use in Mississippi will stand trial later this month.

(Ag. Chem News, April 2, 1997)

Psst...

American Cyanamid has agreed to pay \$7.3 million to settle charges that it fixed prices for herbicides and insecticides. In 1995 American Cyanamid sold more than \$1 billion of the products involved in the settlement (soybean broadleaf herbicides, soybean grass herbicides, corn soil insecticides, and cotton grass insecticides.) The \$7.3 million will be split among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The prosecutors said the company set artificial floor prices, causing many farmers to pay higher prices for chemicals. The company, saying that it thought its promotion programs were legal, agreed to settle to avoid a costly lawsuit. (Chemically Speaking, March 1997)

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