dpr Department of Pesticide Regulation

Paul E. Helliker
Director

Gray Davis
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Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tobi Jones, Assistant Director
Ron Oshima, Assistant Director
Doug Okumura, Assistant Director

FROM: Paul Gosselin
Acting Chief Deputy Director
(916) 445-4330

DATE: April 9, 2001

SUBJECT: MANAGING 1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE (TELONE) CHRONIC RISKS

In 1990, based on monitoring data indicating elevated air concentrations of toxicological concern, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) advised the county agricultural commissioners to suspend use of 1,3-Dichloropropene (telone). After extensive interagency review, in 1995, DPR authorized the limited reintroduction of 1,3-Dichloropropene. The reintroduction required the use of a variety of control measures coming in the form of amended pesticide labels, restricted materials permit conditions and registrant controls on distribution and use. Strict county acreage limitations and a mandatory three year rotation of use on fields were key to limiting exposure in light of the oncogenic risk.

Since the original reintroduction, the main regulatory control measure involved limiting the amount of 1,3-Dichloropropene use in a geographic area (township) on an annual basis. The township cap was chosen as a regulatory tool to manage exposure. The unavailability of other fumigants has increased the popularity of 1,3-Dichloropropene as an alternative. In a number of townships, the cap on annual use has or will be reached. This has prompted a number of affected grower groups and the registrant to request relief from the township cap limit. We agreed to develop guidance so the registrant could refine the exposure assessment for specific townships

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish the acceptable risk level for 1,3-Dichloropropene risk in preparation of this guidance. We will set the acceptable oncogenic lifetime (70 year) risk at 1×10^{-5} at the 95th percentile.

For townships facing or potentially facing the cap limit, have staff prepare guidance necessary for the registrant or others to estimate the exposure of the specific townships. Provided that the anticipated annual air levels do not exceed a risk of 1×10^{-5} at the 95th we may authorize the appropriate adjustment of the 1,3-Dichloropropene use for the specific township(s). The decision to adjust the current township cap must be based on written staff review of the exposure assessment submitted by the registrant and recommendations from you.

Setting this acceptable risk level will require a review of the current township cap. For the time being, we will maintain the current township cap as documented in the permit guidance.