California & Federal EPA working in concert

The Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) have begun more closely coordinating federal and state pesticide programs, particularly in the area of registering pesticides.

EPA and DPR have worked closely for years. The new initiative formalizes that relationship and calls for increased communication along with development of projects to resolve differences between the two.

The agencies have agreed to more closely harmonize state and federal registration processes to minimize potential for conflicting regulations; simplify procedures for registering reduced-risk pesticides and for revoking the registration of high-risk pesticides; and exchange EPA and DPR work products such as the reregistration of old pesticides in order to reduce duplicating efforts and use resources more effectively.

Several projects designed to meet these objectives are already underway. EPA will provide DPR with all EPA data reviews and risk assessments of new active ingredients. DPR will provide EPA with acute data reviews for products containing active ingredients subject to federal reregistration. This effort will assist EPA in expediting the reregistration process.

EPA and DPR will also compare respective risk assessments, both for an old pesticide and for a series of new active ingredients. The agencies will identify differences in the way studies are selected for review and conclusions are drawn from data.

EPA has proposed adding 170 new pesticides that must be reported by manufacturers when released into water or air.

Under the 1986 Emergency Planning and Right-to-Know Act, EPA could add 317 chemicals to its annual toxic release report. There are already 320 chemicals, including 24 pesticides, on the list.

Pesticide manufacturers and processors could be affected.

Charles Clarke has been named regional administrator with the EPA's Region 10, representing Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Clarke has 17 years experience in the public sector, most recently as agency secretary for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. He worked for the state of Washington from 1976 to 1992 with the Department of Ecology and Department of Community Development.

Clarke is a resident of both Washington and Vermont. He earned a masters degree in business administration and a bachelors degree in biology from Pacific Lutheran University.

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