Reagan proposes $600 million cut in EPA

The Reagan administration in across-the-board cuts has proposed to cut the 1982 Carter operating budget of $1.43 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency to $1.39 billion. Personnel levels have been cut from 10,621 to 10,387 in fiscal 1981 and are proposed for additional cuts in fiscal 1982.

Specifically in 1982, water pollution control will be cut $96 million; research and development related to environmental effects of energy development will be cut $34.8 million; plans for controlling solid wastes and reusing materials will be cut $12 million; the noise pollution program, $2.3 million, will be completely eliminated; and pesticide programs will be cut $7.6 million. Superfund money for hazardous waste dumps will be increased by $200 million in 1982 after an increase of $68 million this year.

Most of the pesticide program money would have been spent on efforts to establish registration standards and for integrated pest management, the latter being transferred to the Department of Agriculture. Additions include $1.9 million for RPAR contracts for risk-benefit assessments. Personnel levels will be reduced from 885 this year to 718 in 1982.

EPA decision clears registration of Sevin

The Environmental Protection Agency has decided not to issue a rebuttal presumption against registration (RPAR) for carbaryl (Sevin), a broad-spectrum pesticide used as an insecticide/acaricide and plant growth regulator.

After four years of study, the agency concluded that carbaryl should be returned to the registration process. However, the agency will require additional data from registrants to support existing registrations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended, and will negotiate appropriate label changes, outside the RPAR process, to ensure that exposure to carbaryl is held to reasonable levels.

The pesticide is registered by the EPA for control of more than 545 different pests on 100 uses, including home and garden, fruit and forage, forest and rangeland, field and vegetable crops. The active ingredient, Sevin carbaryl insecticide, is manufactured by Union Carbide and is formulated by nearly 300 U.S. firms for use in 1,500 federally registered products.

Insects' covering may control life cycle

Scientists in Kansas and North Dakota will study ways to curtail the formation of insects' tough outer covering as a possible new biochemical method of insect control. Both studies involve chitin, the major component of insects' outer coverings, which is synthesized, maintained, and degraded to precise levels at specific times during an insect's life cycle. It is hoped that the research in the 20-month project will aid in developing new kinds of chemicals that interfere with chitin synthesis, according to entomologist Edwin Marks at the Metabolism and Radiation Research Laboratory, Fargo, ND.

The work will occur at North Dakota State University, Fargo, and Kansas State University, Manhattan, under cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Science and Education Administration.

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