

2,4-D studies expected complete by mid-year

Results of two studies on the herbicide 2,4-D should be available by mid-year.

With previous studies unable to establish a connection between 2,4-D and cancer, the Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data authorized \$460,000 in funding for the new studies by independent researchers.

A recent report by the Harvard School of Public Health said the link between 2,4-D and cancer is "far from established."

It stated that animal research provides little reason to expect 2,4-D causes cancer in people and that studies of people occupationally exposed to the herbicide, while

suggesting a possible link, do not establish a cause-and-effect relationship.

National Cancer Institute studies in Kansas and Nebraska relied solely on the memories of herbicide users or their next of kin to estimate exposures.

The NCI has acknowledged that this calls its findings into question and has asked for further research to establish the validity of its studies.

The Task Force II-supported research, which is being performed at the University of Minnesota and the Canadian Centre for Toxicology, follows recommendations made in the Harvard report.

Dr. Jack Mandel of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health's is exploring how well people can remember exposures to pesticides over an extended period of time.

Dr. Ian Munro, director of the Canadian Centre for Toxicology, will document 2,4-D handling and spraying practices in Kansas, Nebraska and Saskatchewan.

The data will be gathered in five-year increments through use of spray manuals and other records.

Munro will then call together internationally recognized specialists in epidemiology and farm extension work to re-analyze recent

epidemiological studies.

Task Force II is composed of six companies supporting reregistration of 2,4-D.

Industry officials feel part of the controversy surrounding 2,4-D is that it is often "mistakenly" caught up in the discussion over Agent Orange.

2,4-D was one of the constituents of Agent Orange but not the controversial one, which is 2,4,5-T.

Plaintiffs in the Agent Orange case specifically excluded 2,4-D from litigation.

They focused on an impurity known as 2,3,7,8-TCDD (dioxin), which was commonly found at trace levels in 2,4,5-T.

Hawaii asks developer for \$15 million 'impact fee'

The state of Hawaii is seeking \$15 million in "impact" fees from the developer of the luxurious Minami golf course on Windward Oahu, producing a howl of "Foul."

Minami attorney Ivan Lui Kwan said the impact fee assessment "flies in the face of the notion of fair play" because the state is "changing the rules" in mid-stream on the developer.

The Minami project, if completed, is expected to cost more than \$100 million.

Minami Group USA estimates it will take another 14 months to complete the course and massive clubhouse.

The state Board of Land and Natural Resources recently granted Minami its third extension on a construction permit first granted in March 1987.

The developer had until Jan. 11 to work out ways to offset claimed negative effects of the golf course, originally scheduled for completion by June 1989.

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