

## BRIEFS

**SAN JOSE, Calif.** — A federal judge ordered a halt to construction of Silver Creek Golf Course here, ruling federal officials failed to ensure that endangered species would not be harmed.

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**LAS VEGAS** — Las Vegas' Southern Highlands Golf Club opened for play recently. The father-and-son team of Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Robert Trent Jones Jr. collaborated on the 7,381-yard layout, located 10 minutes south of the Las Vegas strip. The golf club is the centerpiece of a 2,300-acre master-planned community currently under development.

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**JAMAICA** — The Ritz-Carlton has unveiled its new Club and Golf Division. It will operate its first course, The White Witch at The Ritz-Carlton Rose Hall, Jamaica, when the resort opens this month.

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**CHARLESTON, S.C.** — The National Golf Course Owners Association has launched its web site at <http://www.getlinkedplaygolf.com>, where it provides information on the courses participating in its player development program.

## EPA close to reassessments on three turf chemicals

By ANDREW OVERBECK

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is reviewing the registration of organophosphates under the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA), is close to rendering reassessments on three turf-related chemicals.

On April 28, EPA released a revised risk assessment for trichlorfon, Bayer Corp.'s Dylox turf insecticide. On June 8, the EPA is scheduled to hold a technical briefing and announce the revised risk assessment on chlorpyrifos, Dow AgroSciences' Dursban insecticide. Bayer and the agency are also working on possible mitigation measures for fenamiphos, the popular turf nematocide, known as Nematicur.

**DYLOX**

While many in the industry are afraid that FQPA will lead to use restrictions, turf uses for Dylox appear to be in the clear.

"Most risks to loaders and applicators are not of concern," said the EPA in its revised risk assessment. "The registrant, Bayer Corp., has recently submitted generic and chemical-specific data pertaining to post-application exposure. The agency review of these data could impact the residential and occupational risk assessment for trichlorfon."

"The EPA has said in its evaluation, as it relates to golf courses, that there is no concern for workers who mix or apply the product, no concern for workers who perform activities on the golf course and no concern for golfers," said Dr. Monty Eberhart, product safety manager for Bayer.

While Bayer and the EPA are still working on other potential use restrictions, Eberhart said they are pretty close to being in full agreement.

**DURSBAN**

The outlook for turf uses of chlorpyrifos also appears to be favorable.

"The EPA is focusing its concerns on residential uses of chlorpyrifos and that is being driven by what the EPA has categorized as exposures to children," said Tim Maniscalco, manager of government and public affairs for Dow AgroSciences. "There may be some proposed mitigation measures on use in and around homes."

Once the technical briefing is held in June, Dow and the EPA will go to work on the mitigation measures — a process that even now is in a state of flux.

"It is entirely possible that the registrant [Dow] may do something between

now and then [the revised risk assessment]. If they felt there was some particular use or another that was especially problematic and they agreed to cancel that use, it would change our own assessment," said EPA spokesman Mike Scott.

While Maniscalco doesn't discount working out a compromise with the agency, he said Dow still has a number of scientific problems with the risk data generated by the EPA.

"We still have some serious discrepancies with the agency on science policies and until those are resolved, we won't agree to anything," he said.

**NEMACUR**

While Bayer is having good luck with Dylox at the moment, things are not looking good for Nematicur. The reassessment is now in stage five, risk management and mitigation measures.

"We are having some critical discussion with EPA and they seem to have concerns and we think those concerns are not well-founded," said Eberhart. "The EPA is looking to restrict use in golf [and has] worker exposure and runoff concerns. We are trying to convince EPA that those restrictions are not justified."



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