

FEDERAL DEVELOPMENTS

Report will impact the turf industry

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold hearings on the Clinton administration's "reduced pesticide use initiative," according to Steve Johnson, EPA director of field operations for the Office of Pesticide Programs. The multi-agency initiative, formulated in response to the National Academy of Science (NAS) report on pesticide residues in the diets of infants and children, is designed to reduce the overall use of pesticides. The EPA will seek input from industry, and will offer a workshop on pesticide use reduction in January, 1994.

Johnson also indicated that the mandated re-registration of older pesticides, which were grandfathered during the initial setup of the EPA, was proceeding. More than 40 active ingredients have been processed to date.

In addition, a guide for the establishment of uniform regulations on lawn care application posting, pre-application notification, and registration of chemically sensitive individuals is in the draft stage. The guide (developed from industry focus groups and advisory councils) will provide a legislative manual for 20-odd states that do not currently have regulations covering these areas.

Additionally, the EPA announced that changes it was instituting in response to the NAS report would likely include:

- INCREASE TESTING for pesticide residues,
- EXPANDED REQUIREMENTS for pesticide use reporting,
- AND INCREASE SCRUTINY of minor use pesticides that are considered high risk materials.

In effect, the Clinton administration is revamping pesticide regulations, while scrapping the Delaney Clause. Under the plan, EPA will replace the absolutely no residue of potential carcinogens provisions of the Delaney Clause with a "minimal risk" standard for pesticide residues in the food supply.

Pesticides that do not meet the new standard will be removed from use more quickly than currently possible, and manufacturers will be required to re-register their pesticides every 15 years. Products that are not submitted for re-registration will be subject to immediate cancellation.

Bill would tax pesticides and fertilizers

A bill introduced in the U.S. Congress would tax pesticides and fertilizer components to provide funding for city water and sewer construction funds. By adding \$24.27 per pound of active ingredient on pesticides and \$.845 per pound of nutrient in fertilizer, HB 2199 would help raise \$4 billion dollars.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

JANUARY ISSUE

Biocontrols

Environmental regulations and related marketplace forces have complicated the use of pesticides. Biocontrols show promise, but are they a viable alternative? How will they fit in with the materials and practices already in use? Dr. Eric Nelson clarifies the scientific issues involved in this exciting new research.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Gary Studds (D-MA). If passed, it would add \$97.08 to the cost of one gallon of a typical 4E or 4S pesticide and \$14.79 to the average 50 lb. bag of 20-5-10 fertilizer. The legislation would, in effect, double the cost of pesticides and fertilizers.

New water pollution act introduced

The Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act of 1993 introduced by Senator Max Baucus (D-MN) would require that all state and federal water quality efforts be coordinated through a Water Quality Monitoring Council. The council would upgrade state regulations and projects for non-point water pollution control. It also would require EPA to identify 20 chemicals that pose the highest potential for toxic pollution and develop preventive strategies.

New wetlands policy proposed

The Clinton administration has proposed a new wetlands policy. Under the new policy previously converted wetlands would be grandfathered and given an exemption to the current re-establishment provisions. State and local governments would have expanded management roles in wetlands, and incentive programs to restore wetlands would be instituted by expanding the wetlands preserve program. Also, the current manual that defines a wetland would be scrapped in favor of the original 1987 definition, which will be superseded by an NAS study that is due in late 1994.

New off-road diesel standard proposed

EPA has proposed new standards for emissions from previously unregulated off-road diesel engines. Nationally, emissions from diesel engines in farm, turf, construction, and marine applications produce 9% of nitrous oxide air pollution. These first-time regulations apply to non-highway engines, and are expected to reduce their emissions by 37% by the year 2025.