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EPA withdrew formal hearings on the cancellation of certain uses of 2,4,5-T. They found that data does not yet exist to assess the potential hazards associated with the use of the herbicide. Formal hearings were scheduled to begin in August. Lack of data on health effects of 2,4,5-T applies both to the compound itself and to a common contaminant tetrachloro-dibenzo-para-dioxin (TCDD). Last year, hearings were postponed until August, 1974, so that samples of human milk and fat, beef, rice and wildlife could be analyzed for TCDD residues.

Irrigation Industries, Inc., Concord, Calif., was purchased assets, goodwill and name by the Automatic Rain Co., Menlo Park, Calif. Hopefully, the new acquisition will strengthen Automatic Rain's service throughout northern California.

Washington State Department of Agriculture has been awarded a one-year \$50,000 pesticides demonstration grant. The EPA grant is designed for: development of a model strategy for protecting the health of farmworkers, applicators and others occupationally exposed to fields treated with pesticides; and to enable state personnel to inspect pesticide producing plants and take samples that will support Federal enforcement actions related to violations of the Federal pesticides law. Another \$50,000 pesticide demonstration grant was awarded to Hawaii January, 1974.

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers was granted "emergency exemption" under the 1972 Federal pesticides law to use 12,000 pounds of 2,4-D to control water hyacinth on 3,000 acres of the St. Johns River near Jacksonville, Fla.

EPA has told the states that no funds are available to subsidize state pesticide applicator certification programs. Many states replied that they are in no position to educate, test, certify, administer or enforce the FIFRA-required certification. The states suggest the money come from congress.

Respirator certification hearings were postponed until September 30. NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) is doing the certification work for OSHA. Rumor has it that NIOSH expects further delays.

OSHA's Compliance Operations Manual has been replaced by an updated version reflecting changes in compliance policy. The loose-leaf booklet contains four new chapters and will be available as Volume V of OSHA's subscription service. Subscribers can receive the basic manual and any subsequent changes for \$8.00, prepaid. It may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. It is expected to be available in December.

Former Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman has warned that "the availability of arable land is nearing its limit. In many parts of the world there is actually less agricultural land available every year because of erosion, industrial development, residential and transportation requirements, and other factors," he said.