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# Government News

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EPA has begun an inquiry into a possible cancer hazard associated with pronamide, a weed and grass killing pesticide used on lettuce, alfalfa, berries and fine turf, such as golf courses. The Agency is also seeking information on economic and other benefits from the herbicide. The inquiry is known as a "rebuttable presumption against registration." It was initiated because a 1974 study by the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond shows that pronamide caused liver tumors in mice.

EPA has published a 72-page report on the "Susceptibility of Woody Plants to Sulfur Dioxide and Photochemical Oxidants." The report, prepared by Dr. Donald D. Davis of the Center for Air Environmental Studies at Pennsylvania State University, is a detailed review of United States and European literature. For your free copy, write to the Office of Public Affairs, Corvallis Environmental Research Laboratory, 200 S.W. 35th St., Corvallis, OR 97330.

OSHA is considering development of generic standards for classes of chemicals, it was disclosed by Gilbert J. Salter at the Joint Conference of the American Chemical Society and the Chemical Institute of Canada held in Montreal recently. The class standard approach was opposed at the meeting by Dow Chemical's Dr. Etcyl Blair. Blair said he was opposed because of the "peculiarities specific to every single molecule." As an example, he said, vinyl chloride and DDT are both chlorinated hydrocarbons, but that they differ widely in their ability to concentrate in water, as opposed to fatty substances. Blair said he favors a listing of priority items for the establishment of standards.

The delegation of authority in a majority of pesticide misuse cases to the EPA regional offices is expected to take place soon. Delegation of the duties now performed by the Pesticide Misuse Review Committee has been delayed because the headquarters office wanted to wait until the fate of the proposed amendments of Section 12(a)(2)(G) was decided. Since the decision to give FIFRA a simple extension and hold oversight hearings later this summer delayed any changes in the use provision for some months, PTSED is thinking of going ahead with the plan for the regions to handle misuse along with the other civil and criminal sanctions.