

### **Tougher, more reliable EPA could result under Ruckelshaus**

The Anne Gorsuch Burford reign at the Environmental Protection Agency may have been the most pro-industry in the 12-year life of the agency, but it was also the most attacked. The return of William Ruckelshaus, the original administrator of the agency, will hopefully lend assurance to the chemical industry. Their investments in research data and product development will not be wasted.

The agency has waived from one extreme to another. During the Carter years, the agency was known for environmental extremists as much as the Gorsuch years were known for industry extremists. Posters in the halls of EPA openly urged cancellation of many major chemicals during the Carter years. With such a mood inside the agency, manufacturers had reason to worry about the fate of their products, since each carries millions of dollars of development costs.

During the Burford years, progress was made by chemicals tied up for years in previous administrations. But, costly data was carelessly provided to competitors by EPA staff in a few cases. Progress also came from State Local Needs labels, where manufacturers could direct certain product registrations at key states rather than wait for a Federal label.

But these advances were in jeopardy since the Burford administration was drawing so much fire from environmental groups and the media. Reliability in Burford policies was failing.

Ruckelshaus has the support of both environmental and industry groups. He is knowledgeable about herbicides from his years as vice president of Weyerhaeuser, a major forestry company. He was the first implementer of the laws which created EPA. And, he doesn't play political games, evidenced by his refusal to carry out Nixon's orders during Watergate as assistant attorney general.

Clearly most of his attention will be drawn to the implementation of the Toxic Substances Act, not pesticide programs. The one chemical in jeopardy in this industry is 2,4-D. Ruckelshaus is very familiar with 2,4-D's benefits as well as its risks. Any chance for major changes in pesticide policy is therefore reduced and the ability of chemical companies to plan is increased.

Chemical company plans also depend heavily upon their liability in pesticide disposal. The sooner these policies are clarified, the better chemical companies can plan and function with confidence.

**Bruce Shank**

### **Former EPA head joins watch group**

Douglas Costle, administrator of EPA during the Carter presidency, is part of a group of former Carterites who organized recently to oversee activities of the Reagan administration. Citing a lack of conscience, the group plans to develop studies, testify before Congressional committees, provide daily comment, and serve "as a harbor for whistleblowers." Members of the group served Carter in the Department of Agriculture, OSHA, National Highway Safety Commission, Consumer Products Safety Commission, and the Federal Trade Commission.

clover and spurweed. The herbicide should be applied after October 1 but before winter annual weeds emerge, or in late winter for control of annual summer weeds. Two applications of Princep are permitted a year.

#### CHEMICALS

### **Diclobenil 4G changes name**

Diclobenil 4G, formerly marketed under the trade name Casoron, will now be sold as Dyclomec and Norosac by pbi/Gordon Corp. under the Acme label. The product has not been changed and remains an effective pre-emergence herbicide against a wide spectrum of annual and perennial weeds.

#### HERBICIDE

### **Banvel-720 labeling is revised**

Several tank mixes recently approved by the EPA and a more flexible water dilution range are among revisions in the labeling of Banvel-720 herbicide, a water soluble herbicide used for brush and broadleaf weed control in industrial vegetation management programs.

For control of annual and deep-rooted perennial broadleaf weeds, Banvel-720 may now be mixed at a rate of one gallon in 14 to 400 gallons of water. Previous labeling specified use of one-half to one gallon of Banvel-720 in 100 gallons of spray mixture only.

According to Dr. Hugh Crowley, product development representative from Velsicol Chemical Corporation, the change in the dilution range of Banvel-720 offers user advantages through improved convenience, more favorable economics and in equipment flexibility.

"This change gives applicators much more flexibility according to the job that's being done," Crowley says. "Where you can get good weed control with lower volumes of water, it's more convenient to use less.

"Also, where water availability becomes a critical factor in the cost of performing a job, it's more economical to be able to use lower volumes of water. Where high water volumes are necessary, such as in a handgun application on thick vegetation, the ability to use up to 400 gallons of water is beneficial.

Banvel-720 may now be mixed with Hyvar, Karmex, Krenite, Pramitol, Spike, Velpar, Msma, 2,4-D or paraquat.