



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

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Date: October 29, 2003

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Final Reports of the Atrazine Ecological and Monitoring Subgroups

FROM: Nelson Thurman, Senior Chemist
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Stephanie Irene, Senior Advisor
Environmental Fate and Effects Division (7507C)

THRU: Steven Bradbury, Director
Environmental Fate and Effects Division (7507C)

TO: Eric Olson, Chemical Review Manager
Robert McNally, Branch Chief
Special Review Branch
Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508C)

The attached documents reflect the work of the atrazine ecological subgroup and the atrazine ecological monitoring program subgroup. These two subgroups included representatives from the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), the Office of Research and Development (ORD), the Office of Water (OW), Syngenta, and Waterborne (a contractor to Syngenta). The analyses and outputs from the workgroups reflect a coordinated and consistent approach to the issues for OW and OPP.

In the ecological subgroup report, a methodology is described for deriving an atrazine level of concern that is based on significant aquatic community effects consistent with those described in the OPP ecological risk assessment of 2002 and the draft OW atrazine aquatic life criterion, which will be released to the public on or about October 31, 2003. Aqueous atrazine concentrations obtained from monitoring studies can be interpreted with the LOC to determine if a water body is likely to be significantly affected.

In the second report, the atrazine ecological monitoring program subgroup identified 40 vulnerable watersheds that are to be monitored for atrazine surface water loading from use on corn and sorghum. These 40 HUC-10/11 watersheds give a statistical representation of a larger pool of 1172 such watersheds predicted to be potentially vulnerable to atrazine surface water loading from use on corn and sorghum. Two years of monitoring data from these watersheds will be evaluated using the LOC described above to determine to what extent further monitoring and mitigation may be required, in a manner consistent with techniques and approaches supported by OW's total maximum daily load program. A third report, concerning the potential effects of atrazine on amphibian gonadal development, has been reviewed by the Office of General Counsel and will be sent to you separately.

If you have any questions concerning these reports, do not hesitate to contact either Nelson Thurman at 703-308-0465, Doug Urban at 703-305-5746, or Stephanie Irene at 703-305-5024.

Attachments

cc: B. Shackleford
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