

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

066501

6

SHAUGHNESSEY NO.

REVIEW NO.

EEB BRANCH REVIEW

DATE: IN 6/12/81 OUT 7/7/81

FILE OR REG. NO. 40285-1

PETITION OR EXP. PERMIT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF SUBMISSION 5/1/81

DATE RECEIVED BY HED 6/11/81

RD REQUESTED COMPLETION DATE 8/21/81

EEB ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

RD ACTION CODE/TYPE OF REVIEW 311/Amendment -- Added "Me-Too"

TYPE PRODUCT(S): I, D, H, F, N, R, S Rodenticide

DATA ACCESSION NO(S). \_\_\_\_\_

PRODUCT MANAGER NO. W. Miller (16)

PRODUCT NAME(S) Degesch Phostoxin New Coated Tablets

COMPANY NAME Degesch America, Inc.

SUBMISSION PURPOSE Request for waiver of certain EEB  
required studies

SHAUGHNESSEY NO. CHEMICAL, & FORMULATION Z A.I.

066501 Aluminum Phosphide 57%

## ALUMINUM PHOSPHIDE

### 100 Pesticide Label Information

#### 100.1 Pesticide Use

The label states that this product is for the control of moles and of burrowing rodents: Marmot sp. (woodchucks and yellow-belly marmot (rockchucks), prairie dogs (except Utah Prairie Dogs), norway and roof rats, ground squirrels, voles, house mice, gophers, and chipmunks.

#### 100.2 Formulation Information

Active Ingredient--Aluminum Phosphide.....57%  
Inert Ingredients.....43%

#### 100.3 Application Methods, Directions, and Rates

"Add from 2 to 4 Degesch Phostoxin Tablets to the rodent burrow. Seal tightly by shoveling soil over the entrance after first packing the opening with crumpled newspaper. This will prevent soil from covering the Phostoxin Tablets and slowing down their action. Use lower rates in smaller burrows under moist soil conditions and higher rates in larger burrows when soil moisture is very low. Treat reopened burrows a second time 1 to 2 days after the initial treatment. For use in crop and non-crop areas.

##### Outdoor Use Only

Do not use within 15 feet (5 meters) of inhabited structures. Do not apply to burrows which may open under or into occupied buildings.

Please consult Local, State, and Federal Game Authorities to ensure that endangered species do not inhabit the area proposed for treatment."

#### 100.4 Target Organisms

Marmot sp. (woodchucks and rockchucks), prairie dogs (except Utah prairie dogs), norway and roof rats, ground squirrels, moles, voles, house mice, gophers and chipmunks

#### 100.5 Precautionary Statement

The environmental hazard section appears to be for the grain storage treatment only and not for this outdoor use product. We address what this section of the label should say in our conclusion section.

101-103 see Previous Review Farringer 2/13/81

104 Hazard Assessment

104.1 Discussion

The Registrant states in the letter of April 7, 1981:

"We request a waiver of the requirement for studies of toxicity to birds. All available data indicate that birds and other non-target species are at least as susceptible to hydrogen phosphide as burrowing rodents and moles (O. R. Klimmer, 1968--submitted previously. World Health Organization Data Sheet No. 46--enclosed herein). Therefore, there is a high probability that these non-target animals inhabiting the burrow will be destroyed. As stated on the label, use of Degesch Phostoxin® against burrowing pests requires caution to minimize risks to other species in the area."

104.2 Likelihood of Adverse Effects to Non-target Organisms

Since only scant toxicity data exists on phosphine gas and this data indicates that it is highly toxic to all forms of animal life, we agree with the Registrant that any animal life in the burrow system will be destroyed. This product could directly destroy numerous non-target mammalian, avian, and reptilian species that prey on prairie dogs or are utilizing prairie dog burrows at the time of application. However, the use of other toxicants and repeat applications could remove the prey base for these same non-target animals causing the same results. We will suggest some labeling in the conclusions that will help to reduce direct non-target exposure to this product.

104.3 Endangered Species Considerations

The following six species were determined to be in jeopardy through the use of this product\*;

1. Black-footed Ferret (Mustela Nigripes)
2. Eastern indigo snake (Drymarchon corais couperi)
3. San Joaquin kit fox (Vulpes macrotis mutica)
4. Utah prairie dogs. (Cynomys parvidens)
5. Blunt-nosed leopard lizard (Gamelia [= Crotaphytus])
6. Desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii)

\*These species were determined through formal Section 7 consultation with the Office of Endangered Species, USFWS. Appropriate label statements are given in Sec. 107 (below).

ConclusionsEnvironmental Hazard Labeling

The Environmental Hazards section on the revised label (4/9/81) lacks sufficient outdoor use cautions. The label still reads as if the product is used indoors. We are suggesting the following statements to correct this section of the label:


"This product is highly toxic to wildlife and fish. All burrows should be checked for signs of nontarget animals and if they are present that burrow should not be treated. Keep out of any body of water."

In the Precautionary Statement section of the label the following statements should appear under the heading "Endangered species considerations."

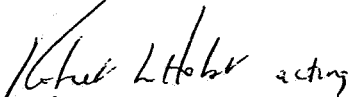
- "1) Black-footed Ferret - Do not use this product in the range of the Black-footed Ferret. Contact the nearest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office (Endangered Species Specialist) before the product is used. They will arrange for a ferret survey of the proposed use site."
- "2) Utah prairie dog" - [This is adequately covered in the target animal section. The statement "except Utah prairie dogs", following the target animals (i.e. prairie dogs), will suffice at this time.]
- "3) San Joaquin Kit Fox - This pesticide should not be used within 1 mile of active dens of the San Joaquin Kit Fox in the following California counties: Kern, Kings, Fresno, San Lois Obispo, Merced, Monterey, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Tulare, and San Benito. Prior to use, contact the California Department of Fish and Game for recommendations."
- "4) Blunt-nosed leopard lizard - this pesticide should not be used in the range of the blunt-nosed leopard lizard in the following California Counties: Kern, Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Tulane. Prior to use, contact the California Department of Fish and Game for recommendations."
- "5) Eastern Indigo Snake - Do not use this product in the range of the eastern indigo snake in the following states: Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida."
- "6) Desert Tortoise - This pesticide should not be used in the Critical Habitat of the Beaver Dam slope population of the desert tortoise in Utah. This comprises an area extending from the southwest facing slope of the Beaver Dam Mountains, across Highway 91, west along the Arizona border 10 miles to the Nevada border."

107.2 Recommendations

EEB has reviewed the waiver that was submitted with this application, and will concur with the Registration of aluminum phosphide when the Registrant submits a written statement agreeing to the endangered species consideration and a final label reflecting the proposed changes as outlined in Section 107.1. Until such time as EEB receives this requested material we will recommend against any further or additional Registration Actions.

  
Russel T. Farringer, III  
Wildlife Biologist  
Ecological Effects Branch/HED

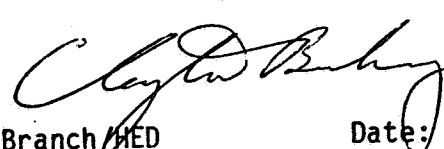
Date: 7/8/81

  
Raymond Matheny  
Head, Review Section 1  
Ecological Effects Branch/HED

8/3/81

Date:

Clayton Bushong  
Branch Chief  
Ecological Effects Branch/HED

 8/3/81

Date:

Note to PM: In order for the agency not to be in violation of a Section 7 Consultation we have to submit a written copy of the final actions the agency took in regards to this product to OES. EEB, therefore is required to ask for a copy of the letter that is sent to the Registrant informing him of the endangered species considerations.

Thank you



Russ Farringer