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HEALTH EFFECTS DIVISION
 UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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FILE

OFFICE OF
 PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
 TOXIC SUBSTANCES

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: ID. No. 080803, Atrazine Articles

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FROM: Melba S. Morrow, D.V.M. *MSM 12/7/97*
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THRU: Ed Zager *EZ*
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CONCLUSIONS: The two articles provided to HED which pertained to atrazine do not require a toxicology review. The study by Safe, et. al., which utilizes MCF-7 human breast cells does not provide new information on the activity of atrazine in the formation of mammary tumors. In his study, atrazine reduced estradiol 2-hydroxylase activity; however, Dr. Safe found no correlation between activity of the enzyme estradiol 2-hydroxylase and the carcinogenic potential of several compounds, including atrazine.

The consensus panel report focused on all of the evidence that was available which served to elucidate a mode of action for atrazine in the formation of mammary tumors. The studies that the panel highlighted were those that we addressed in our weight of the evidence document provided at the cancer SARC on August 12, 1997. Other information contained in the report provided a history of studies that were conducted earlier and several of the hypotheses surrounding the mechanism of action of atrazine that have been dispelled.

It is my opinion that the risk assessment should address the manner in which the cancer risk will be characterized, given the mode of action of atrazine. A report from HED, capturing the decisions of the Cancer SARC should be finalized in the near future.



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