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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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OFFICE OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Jack Edmonson

The hazard assessment section is still very rough, but I wanted you to give you some of my thoughts before I left on vacation. What I am looking for is good justification to request an avian acute oral LD50 study to fulfill that data gap which will allow us to evaluate the potential hazards posed by these granules to endangered and non-endangered species. I felt that if we could identify some endangered bird species that may feed in sorghum fields that that would provide the necessity for the testing. I am providing a list of the endangered species in most sorghum growing states. I did not have time to finish all states (New Mexico, Tennessee, and Virginia). Those counties where sorghum is grown is indicated by the yellow magic marker.

The Attwater's prairie chicken in Texas and the Cape Sable are two avian species that I feel do or may utilize sorghum fields for feeding. I don't know one way or other for other seed- and insect-eating species.

I hope that my identification of the species and counties can ease your job as we discussed over the phone a couple of weeks ago.

Bill Rabert

Bill Rabert

Biological Opinion

Telephone Conversation with Jack Edmonson at OES on 10/22/81.

Attwater's prairie chicken is ~~the~~ probably the only endangered bird species in sorghum. Feeding and brood-rearing in sorghum occurs from April through August. Utilization of sorghum fields is high and of special concern is the chicks. An avian acute oral LD50 study is essential to assessment of terbufos impact on this species.

Availability and priorities prevent identification of ^{endangered} aquatic and insect species which may be affected by this highly toxic chemical. Closer analysis should be made when avian testing is available. Request a formal opinion when LD50 data are available.