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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Review of Detailed Site Characterization for Minnesota
Prospective Ground-Water Monitoring Study for Metolachlor

DP Barcode: 225164

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TO: Jane Mitchell
Reregistration Division

The detailed site characterization data in this submission describes a site that appears to be well-suited for a "worst-case" prospective ground-water monitoring study. I recommend that CIBA proceed as quickly as possible with site instrumentation, and they prepare to begin the experimental phase of the monitoring study this year.

The characterization data collected from this Sherburne County, Minnesota site is consistent with draft study guidelines presented by EPA in March, 1995, with few exceptions. The compositing of soil samples between cores was contrary to the guidelines, but the apparent homogeneity of the subsurface sand and gravel at this site alleviates this concern to a great extent. The topographical slope of the site is slightly steeper on average than the recommended 2%. However, CIBA notes that the high infiltration rates of this coarse-textured soil, and the orientation of corn rows with respect to the slope, should make runoff much less likely.

CIBA reports that additional slug tests and guelph permeameter tests will be performed, and the data provided to complete the site characterization. In addition, CIBA's field personnel from Summit Envirosolutions should be sure to provide detailed well logs and a revised site map after site instrumentation. Unless the data from these activities significantly alter CIBA's conceptual model of the subsurface characteristics of this site, these data can be included in an appendix of the study's first quarterly report.