

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

cypermethrin file
3-22-89

22 MAR 1989

EXPEDITE

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: EXPEDITED REVIEW OF CYPERMETHRIN CONTAMINATION OF
BIFENTHRIN - HUMAN NON-DIETARY EXPOSURE CONCERNS

FROM: Michael P. Firestone, Ph.D., Chief
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TO: George LaRocca, Product Manager 15
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I. INTRODUCTION

FMC Corporation has inadvertently contaminated a bifenthrin formulation (Talstar 10 WP) with cypermethrin, both of which are synthetic pyrethroid insecticides. FMC is proposing to reduce the content of cypermethrin in Talstar to no more than 1000 ppm (<0.1%).

Anne Lindsay, RD Director, has requested in a March 8, 1989 memorandum to William Burnam, Acting HED Director, that DEB and TB expedite their review of the situation. According to the RD Data Review Record received by HED on March 17, 1989 and forwarded to NDEB, "this action was inadvertently submitted to DEB... ."

In any case, NDEB will evaluate whether any human non-dietary concerns exist with respect to the contamination incident.

II. DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

Toxicology Branch I (TB-IRS) has evaluated the contamination issue in its March 15, 1989 memorandum. While both synthetic pyrethroids have been classified as "C" (possible human) carcinogens, only bifenthrin has been recommended for quantitative risk assessment. Thus, TB-IRS has concluded that the presence of <0.1% cypermethrin does not affect the bifenthrin product with respect to oncogenic considerations. Additionally, TB-IRS has concluded that there are no indications that the low level contamination will substantially affect any of the other toxicological characteristics of the product. (Note: TB-IRS has deferred to DEB to determine the need for additional cypermethrin crop tolerances to cover the potential for contamination).

In as much as TB-IRS has concluded that it has "no objection to the packaging and selling of Talstar 10 contaminated with cypermethrin at levels of 0.1% or less, based on toxicological considerations only, NDEB has no concerns with respect to this contamination incident related to human non-dietary exposure to cypermethrin.

cc: Sue Rathman
TB-IRS
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