Department of Pesticide Regulation

Brian R. Leahy
Director

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Governor

WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICE OF ALACHLOR DEGRADATION PRODUCT RESIDUE DETECTIONS IN CALIFORNIA GROUND WATER AND REGISTRANT OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A HEARING

On March 21, 2016, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) issued a "Notice of Alachlor Degradation Product Residue Detections in California Ground Water and Registrant Opportunity to Request a Hearing" in accordance with the Pesticide Contamination Prevention Act (PCPA) review process set forth in Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) sections 13149 and 13150. Pursuant to FAC section 13149(b), DPR notified Monsanto Company, the sole registrant of alachlor pesticide products in California, that it had detected residues of two degradation products of alachlor, ethanesulfonic acid and oxanilic acid, in California ground water and that DPR determined these detections were a result of legal agricultural use. DPR's March 2016 notice announced this determination and intent to cancel Monsanto Company's two registered alachlor agricultural use products unless Monsanto Company requested a hearing by April 20, 2016. In a letter dated April 15, 2016, Monsanto Company requested a hearing.

DPR was obligated to initiate the PCPA review process solely based on its detections of alachlor degradation products in ground water and the determination that these detections were a result of legal agricultural use. DPR's initiation of the PCPA review process and corresponding notice do not constitute a determination that the detected alachlor degradation products have polluted, or threaten to pollute, ground water or are causing adverse health effects.

Prior to DPR issuing its March 2016 notice, Monsanto Company submitted a request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to voluntarily cancel the registrations of all of its alachlor products, which would terminate the last alachlor products registered for use in the U.S. The receipt of Monsanto Company's request to voluntarily cancel all of its alachlor products was published by U.S. EPA in the Federal Register on January 5, 2016.

Given that U.S. EPA is in the process of issuing its final cancellation order for all alachlor registrations in the U.S., DPR is suspending the PCPA review process at this time and is issuing this notice of withdrawal based upon the fact that the federal cancellation of all alachlor products is imminent.

Any questions regarding this notice should be directed to Ms. Ann Hanger, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) by telephone at 916-324-3535 or by e-mail at <ann.hanger@cdpr.ca.gov>.

Ann Prichard

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5-9-16
Date

cc: Ms. Ann Hanger