Brian R. Leahy
*Director*

Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
*Governor*

May 9, 2016

Ms. Shazia Brown
Monsanto Company
800 North Lindbergh Boulevard, C3NA
St. Louis, Missouri 63167

Dear Ms. Brown:

Thank you for your recent letter in response to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR's) March 21, 2016, "Notice of Alachlor Degradation Product Residue Detections in California Ground Water and Registrant Opportunity to Request a Hearing." Pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) section 13149(b), DPR notified Monsanto Company that it had detected residues of two degradation products of the active ingredient alachlor in ground water and that DPR determined these detections were a result of legal agricultural use. DPR's notice informed Monsanto Company of its determination and intent to cancel all 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 Pesticide Contamination Prevention Act (PCPA) review process set forth in FAC sections 13149 and 13150 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 the attached notice of withdrawal based upon the fact that the federal cancellation of all alachlor products is imminent.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Ms. Ann Hanger in DPR's Pesticide Registration Branch at 916-324-3535 or <ann.hanger@cdpr.ca.gov>.

Sincerely,

Brian Leahy
Director
916-445-4000

Attachment

cc: Ms. Polly Frenkel, DPR Chief Counsel (w/Attachment)
Ms. Ann Prichard, DPR Environmental Program Manager II (w/Attachment)
Ms. Ann Hanger, DPR Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) (w/Attachment)