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DPR ISSUES PESTICIDE DATA CALL-IN NOTICES

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Pesticide Regulation is sending out notices Friday (December 17) to approximately 1,000 pesticide registrants, asking them to formalize their plans for generating toxicological data on 339 pesticide active ingredients. Once the data call-in is complete (a process expected to take up to four years), complete up-to-date information on potential chronic health effects will be on file for all pesticides registered in the state.

"These chemicals are those not subject to the original call-in mandated by the Birth Defect Prevention Act," said DPR Director James D. Wells. "That call-in, affecting a list of 200 priority active ingredients, is nearly complete, with about 90 percent of the required studies submitted."

Under the terms of a 1991 law, DPR is calling in data on the remaining pesticides. The process began in 1992 with a notice to all registrants that studies on potential chronic health effects had to be submitted to the Department on 390 active ingredients.

Registrants were required to respond with a commitment to submit the data, or provide reasons why the data should not be required. The registrations of 47 active ingredients found in about 100 products were suspended for failure to respond, although some registrations were later reinstated when manufacturers responded to the notice in compliance with the law. Other pesticides are no longer subject to the data call-in because manufacturers have withdrawn them from the California market. "This isn't surprising, considering the tremendous costs of conducting toxicological studies," said DPR Chief Deputy Elin D. Miller. "Many manufacturers don't want to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on a product that may generate only a few thousand dollars in sales each year."

The next step in the process is for registrants to provide a detailed description of the studies they plan to do and a timetable for their submission, information that will be requested in the December 17 letter. Those that fail to respond adequately will be subject to suspension action.

The majority of the products affected by the data call-in notice have institutional, industrial, or home uses, although some are used in agriculture. They include disinfectants and sanitizers, plant insect dusts, lawn chemicals, repellents, and pet products. Few have widely known brand names.

Up to 10 or 11 studies can be required for each active ingredient, including animal studies on chronic toxicity, oncogenicity, teratogenicity, neurotoxicity, reproductive

toxicity, and mutagenicity.

The timetable for data collection for this group of chemicals was established with the passage in 1991 of legislation written by Assemblyman Tom Hayden. Assembly Bill 1742 amended the 1984 Birth Defect Prevention Act (SB 950) to set up a schedule for collection of data for pesticides not on the priority list. The amendments allow registrants to synchronize data submittal with federal data submission timelines, provided studies are initiated no later than January 1, 1994. From one to four years are allowed to complete each study, depending on the type of test.

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