

Federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency Announces Review of Active Ingredients in Registered Pest Control Products



By Julie Abouchar, Partner
Certified Environmental Law Specialist
Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP

February 11, 2014

The federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) will reevaluate 23 active ingredients currently found in some 360 pest control products registered for use in Canada. PMRA announced the review of the ingredients on December 30, 2013 following an Application for Judicial Review filed in the Federal Court last August by Ecojustice on behalf of Équiterre and the David Suzuki Foundation. Active ingredients under the microscope include weed killers 2,4-D, bromoxynil and atrazine; insecticides carbaryl, dichlorvos and diazinon; and the wood preservative pentachlorophenol. PMRA will notify registrants of the review, and may ask some for information. If information is requested, registrants must demonstrate to PMRA that the health and environmental risks, as well as the value of the pest control product, are acceptable.

PMRA's proposed approach for the special review is open for [comment](#) until February 14, 2014.

Active Ingredients Under Review			
2,4-D	Chloropicrin	Diphenylamine	Paraquat
Acephate	Chlorthal-dimethyl	Fluazifop-P-butyl	Pentachlorophenol
Aminopyralid	Diazinon	Fluazinam	Quintozene
Atrazine	Dichlobenil	Hexazinone	Simazine
Bromoxynil	Dichlorvos	Imazapyr	Trifluralin
Carbaryl	Difenoconazole	Linuron	

***Pest Control Products Act* Reevaluation Requirement**

Subsection 17(2) of the *Pest Control Products Act* requires the Minister of Health to initiate a reevaluation of a registered pest control product “when a member country of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development prohibits all uses of an active ingredient for health or environmental reasons.” Each of the active ingredients on PMRA's review list has been banned by the European Union, Norway, Switzerland and/or Japan. Some of the ingredients have been banned for more than 10 years in Europe.

Status of Judicial Review

The Federal Court advises that it has not set the hearing dates for the Application for Judicial Review. In addition, the Applicant has not sought to stay the proceeding pending the PMRA review.

Post-Review Process

Once the PMRA completes the science-based evaluation, PMRA will publish its proposed decision for public consultation. However, PMRA may cancel or amend the registration of a registered pest control product containing one or more the active ingredients if it uncovers, at any point during the review, reasonable grounds to believe that the product endangers human health or the environment.

Julie Abouchar is a partner and Certified Environmental Law Specialist at Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP. She can be reached at 416-862-4836 or by e-mail at jabouchar@willmsshier.com.