

<http://www.manitobacooperator.ca/2014/04/09/environmental-groups-challenge-pmra-over-neonicotinoid-approval/>

Environmental groups challenge PMRA over neonicotinoid approval

Conditional registration has been granted despite the objections

Posted Apr. 9, 2014 by Alex Binkley

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Environmental groups say the conditional approval of neonicotinoids doesn't factor in the needs of bees.

photo: Thinkstock

Four environmental organizations have attacked the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) for extending the conditional registration of clothianidin, a neonicotinoid insecticide, as a spray treatment until the end of 2015.

The groups say PMRA didn't properly consider two Notices of Objection to the renewal and the registration extension could keep the product on the market until 2018 despite fears it could be contributing to high levels of bee deaths in Ontario and Quebec.

There is a lack of valid scientific studies on the environmental hazards the neonic pesticides create for bees, says Sierra Club Canada, the David Suzuki Foundation, Wilderness Committee, and Equiterre. They filed a formal objection to the licensing of clothianidin-based products in September 2013 asking for a review panel to be established. Successive ministers of health have rejected that proposal.

Reviewing information

A PMRA spokeswoman said the agency is reviewing the information it has received about the pesticide "and, once the assessment is complete, will communicate the outcome to the objectors." The review likely won't be complete until next year.

Most of the controversy about neonic insecticides has involved their use as a seed treatment in planting corn and soybeans in Ontario and Quebec. The spray treatment is used in some horticulture crops.

Pierre Petelle, vice-president chemistry for CropLife Canada, said products that are granted a conditional registration have already passed the internationally respected regulatory assessment by PMRA that ensures the product is safe for human health and the environment. "These products can be safely used according to label directions," he said.

"It takes about 10 years and costs over \$256 million to bring a new product to market, so our member companies only invest in products that they know are safe and will pass PMRA's stringent regulatory review," he said. "The PMRA grants conditional registrations on products when they would like more information about how tests were completed to evaluate the product or to have the registrant provide additional data or complete a new type of study to confirm previously assessed data."

From the Country Guide website: [Keeping bees](#)

More data needed

However, the environmental groups said more data is needed on how the insecticide behaves in soil, plants and its concentration in nectar and pollen in addition to its long-term or chronic toxicity to bees.

"If PMRA leaves this pesticide on the market and only takes band-aid measures until then, clothianidin will have been on the market 14 years

unsupported by valid scientific information on chronic toxicity," the environmental groups say.

Meanwhile, executive vice-president of the Canadian Horticulture Council, told the Senate agriculture committee studying bee health in Canada that her sector "is an exemplary model of coexistence between farmers, production and a robust pollinator population.

"This coexistence is an absolute must: no bees, no food; conversely, no crop management tools or product, no food. Apples, blueberries and cherries are particularly striking examples of this. We rely on research, innovation and a conducive regulatory environment to bring forward new technologies and chemistries."

She noted that nationally the number of beekeepers has increased by 24 per cent since 2000. While reports have noted declines in honeybee and other pollinator populations, there has been no single factor identified as the main cause, she said, noting an outright ban on any product would be devastating for her industry.

Farmers are working with beekeepers "to find a fair and reasonable solution that meets the needs and protects the interests of all parties affected," she said.

NORAHG RESPONSE

CRISIS ? WHAT CRISIS ?

There is NO bee crisis in Canada. And there is NO bee crisis in Ontario. According to Ontario Premier Wynne — « *Although large bee die-offs have been observed in Ontario apiaries, they are NOT OCCURRING UNIFORMLY*

across all operations or areas of the province — many bee-keeping operations HAVE NOT BEEN AFFECTED and have been able to maintain strong and healthy bee colonies as evidenced by hive strength and honey production ». <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7Mw> There is NO bee crisis in Canada. Only A VERY LIMITED NUMBER of Bee-Keepers report losses, LESS THAN 1 PER CENT. In 2012, a mere 43 Bee-Keepers alleged losses. In 2013, only 82 Bee-Keepers alleged losses. There are 7,000 Bee-Keepers keeping 600,000 colonies of honeybees across Canada. Essentially, a mere 1.0 per cent of all Bee-Keepers are reporting losses. These represent the Anti-Pesticide Lunatic-Bee-Keepers of Canada. Over 99 per cent of all Bee-Keepers are reporting NO losses. 1 per cent of Bee-Keepers appear to HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY ARE DOING, leading some observers to conclude that Bee-Keepers may NOT BE COMPETENT TO RAISE BEES. Bee-Keepers KNOW ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS. Bee-Keepers know full well that VARROA MITES are the primary problem associated with bee mortality, and NOT Neonicotinoid Insecticides. Science and statistics DO NOT SUPPORT demands to PROHIBIT against Neonicotinoid Insecticides in agriculture. If we had less pesticide use in the environment, WE WOULD STILL HAVE Bee Colony Collapse Disorder, because MANY BEE-KEEPERS ARE NOT COMPETENT TO MANAGE THEIR HIVES. For the whole truth regarding BEES, go to The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6WJ>
<http://wp.me/p1jq40-2ba> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6H8>
<http://wp.me/p1jq40-7ty> WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G
<http://pesticidetruths.com/> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr>