

INDUSTRY TASK FORCE II ON 2,4-D RESEARCH DATA

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News Release

REVIEWS BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION CONFIRM 2,4-D NOT A HEALTH RISK

OTTAWA, April 25, 2006 – Expert scientific reviews by the European Commission (2001) United States Environmental Protection Agency (1988, 1997, 2004 & 2005) and the World Health Organization (1996, 1997, 1998 & 2003), as well as Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (2005) reinforce the growing body of scientific assessments that conclude the herbicide 2,4-D does not present a health risk to homeowners (including children and pets) farmers and pesticide applicators when product directions are followed.

In its decision released in August 2005 the US EPA concluded that acute and short-term margins of exposure for homeowner applications of 2,4 D to lawns were "not of concern".

EPA's most recent assessment included a review of animal and human data, the latter in the form of epidemiology studies (the study of the incidence of disease in populations). The EPA concluded:

"The Agency has twice recently reviewed epidemiological studies linking cancer to 2,4-D. In the first review, completed January 14, 2004, EPA concluded there is no additional evidence that would implicate 2,4-D as a cause of cancer (EPA, 2004). The second review of available epidemiological studies occurred in response to comments received during the Phase 3 Public Comment Period for the 2,4-D RED. EPA's report, dated December 8, 2004 and authored by EPA Scientist Jerry Blondell, Ph.D., found that none of the more recent epidemiological studies definitively linked human cancer cases to 2,4-D."

"The EPA's assessment of the human and environmental scientific data reinforces a growing number of regulatory decisions and expert reviews that conclude the use of 2,4-D according to product instructions does not present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment", stated Jack Dutra, executive director of the Industry Task Force II on 2,4 D Research Data.

"When expert panels and regulatory authorities around the world examine all the relevant scientific evidence, they consistently reach the same conclusion that 2,4-D does not present health risks of concern", added Dutra.

About GLP Research Studies

The 2,4-D studies that are submitted to regulatory agencies must meet rigorous and ethical standards of research. Good Laboratory Practice standards (GLP) are concerned with the integrity, organisational process and the conditions under which laboratory, field and analytical studies are planned, performed, monitored, recorded, archived and reported. GLP standards in pesticide research are required by law by both US EPA and Health Canada PMRA. These principles have been developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for the protection of human health and the environment. Backgrounder available at:

<http://www.24d.org/background/24D-Backgrounder-GLP.pdf>

About 2,4-D

Since being first registered in Canada in 1946, the herbicide 2,4-D has become one of the most widely used agricultural herbicides in this country and worldwide. It is used on many crops such as wheat, barley, corn, rice, pasture, soybeans, potatoes, sugar cane, pome fruits, stone fruits and nuts. It is also a component of herbicides used to protect turf grass from weeds and environmentally sensitive areas from invasive and noxious weed species.

The original patent on 2,4-D was issued in 1945 to Dr. Franklin D. Jones, a plant physiologist. Dr. Jones was working with the naturally occurring plant auxin, indole acetic acid (IAA). IAA is present in all plant matter and humans consume it daily whenever fruit, vegetables and cereals are consumed. In an effort to work with a more chemically stable, auxin-like compound, Dr. Jones included 2,4-D, an analog of IAA, in his experiments.

In 2004, The Henry Ford organization in Dearborn, Michigan identified 2,4-D as one of the 75 most important innovations in the previous 75 years. Few scientific innovations have done as much to increase food production throughout the world.

About the Task Force

The Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data is organized to provide funding for some 300 Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) research studies required to respond to the PMRA pesticide re-evaluation program. The 2,4-D Task Force is made up of those companies owning the technical registrations on the active ingredient in 2,4-D herbicides. They are Dow AgroSciences (U.S.), Nufarm, Ltd. (Australia) and Agro-Gor Corp., a U.S. corporation jointly owned by Atanor, S.A. (Argentina) and PBI Gordon Corp. (U.S.).

Additional information may be obtained toll-free: 1-800-345-5109, www.24d.org or email: info@24d.org

Summary of Expert Panel Reviews and Regulatory Decisions Pertaining to the Herbicide 2,4-D

As the expert review of 2,4-D prepared for the BC Ministry of Forests states in the first sentence, “**2,4-D is possibly the most extensively researched of all pesticides, and the data have been examined by an unusual number of advisory committees and work groups.**”¹ Listed below are most of these expert reviews – all have concluded that 2,4-D does not present an unacceptable risk when used according to product instructions.

Year	Regulatory Decision/Expert Panel Review
1987	Expert Panel on the Carcinogenicity of 2,4-D Ontario Ministry of the Environment
1990	Harvard University, School of Public Health Weight of the Evidence on the Human Carcinogenicity of 2,4-D (Ibrahim)
1991	Exposure Studies in the use of pesticides in the home garden and for landscape pest control, Ontario Ministry of the Environment (Solomon)
1992	Comprehensive Review of the Herbicide 2,4-D Journal of the American College of Toxicology, vol. II, No. 5 (Munro)
1994	United States Environmental Protection Agency SAB/SAP Special Joint Committee on the Carcinogenicity of 2,4-D
1996	World Health Organization/Food and Agricultural Organization Review of 2,4-D (toxicology)
1996	U.S. Department of Agriculture/NAPIAP Report on 2,4-D University of Minnesota, School of Public Health (Johnson)
1997	IARC sponsored review, Cancer mortality in workers exposed to phenoxy herbicides (Kogevinas)
1997	National Cancer Institute Mortality Study of ChemLawn Employees (Zahm)
1997	United States Environmental Protection Agency Carcinogenicity Peer Review of 2,4-D (4 th review)
2000	Cornell University, Program on Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors in New York State. Critical Evaluation of Cancer Risk from 2,4-D (Gandhi)
2000	New Zealand Pesticides Board Report of the Pesticides Board Expert Panel on 2,4-D
2001	European Commission, Health & Consumer Protection Directorate-General Review Report on 2,4-D
2001	Handbook of Pesticide Toxicology Chapter 72 Phenoxy Herbicides (Kennepohl)
2001	University of Michigan School of Public Health Department of Environmental Health Sciences (Garabrant)
2001	State of Washington, Herbicide Risk Assessment for the Aquatic Plant Management, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: 2,4-D
2003	National Cancer Institute review of Nebraska, Iowa & Minnesota and Kansas farmers (De Roos)
2003	World Health Organization, Drinking Water Guidelines (2,4-D)
2003	National Cancer Institute, Agricultural Health Study Use of Agricultural Pesticides and Prostate Cancer Risk (Alavanja)
2003	BC Ministry of Forests, Forest Protection Branch Evaluation of Risk to Workers using 2,4-D Formulations (Dost)
2004	U.S. EPA Human Health Effects Division review of epidemiology published since 1997 review committee: “... there is no additional evidence that would implicate 2,4-D as a cause of cancer. ”
2005	Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency: “... the use of 2,4-D and its end-use products to treat lawns and turf does not entail an unacceptable risk of harm to human health or the environment . ”
2005	U.S. EPA Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED): “... none of the more recent epidemiological studies definitively linked human cancer cases to 2,4-D. ”

¹ Source: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/publications/00014/5-Dost-24D.pdf>