

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

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News Release

2,4-D COMPLETES EPA REVIEW PROCESS: OCCUPATIONAL AND RESIDENTIAL RISKS “NOT OF CONCERN”

(Washington, DC, August 8, 2005) The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today released its comprehensive assessment of the herbicide, 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D), under the Agency’s reregistration program. EPA’s decision document concluded that 2,4-D does not present risks of concern to human health when users follow 2,4-D product instructions as outlined in EPA’s 2,4-D Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) document.

The Agency’s announcement and release of the RED on 2,4-D completed a 17-year EPA review process. 2,4-D is a phenoxy herbicide discovered sixty years ago and is used worldwide for a wide variety of applications in agricultural, non-crop, residential, and aquatic settings. The Agency concluded that acute and short-term margins of exposure for homeowner applications of 2,4-D to lawns were “not of concern”.

Over the course of 17 years, the Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data developed and submitted to EPA over 300 Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) toxicology, environmental and residue studies which EPA scientists reviewed to assess the herbicide’s safety under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). Task Force members hold technical 2,4-D FIFRA registrations and include Dow AgroSciences (U.S.), Nufarm, Ltd. (Australia), Agro-Gor Corp., a U.S. corporation jointly owned by Atanor, S.A. (Argentina) and PBI Gordon Corp. (U.S.).

“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 Don Page, assistant executive director of the Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data.

“EPA’s comprehensive findings are consistent with decisions of other authorities such as the World Health Organization, Health Canada, European Commission and recent studies by the U.S. National Cancer Institute on 2,4-D”, added Page.

EPA's RED 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). EPA stated, "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."

2,4-D, one of the most widely used herbicides in the U.S. and worldwide, is applied to crops such as wheat, corn, rice, soybeans, potatoes, sugar cane, pome fruits, stone fruits and nuts. It controls invasive species in aquatic areas and federally protected areas and broadleaf weeds in turf grass. An economic evaluation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (NAPIAP Report 1-PA-96) concluded that the loss of 2, 4-D would cost the U.S. economy \$1.7 billion annually in higher food production and weed control expenses.

For more information about 2,4-D visit <http://www.24d.org/> or call 1-800-345-5109.

Highlights of 2,4-D Herbicide's 60-year History

- 1945 – U.S. Patent No 2,390,941 is issued for 2,4-D to plant physiologist Dr. Franklin D. Jones of the American Chemical Paint Company.
- 1947 – 2,4-D is registered for use in the United States on crops and turf grass.
- 1950 – 14 million pounds of 2,4-D produced.
- 1964 – 54 million pounds of 2,4-D produced as farmers and homeowners alike discover the benefits of effective weed control. Studies at the time found that weeds typically destroyed 30 – 35 percent of crop yields.
- 1970 – Plant scientists continue to find new uses for 2,4-D in protecting crops, such as plant growth regulator on potatoes and weed control for blueberries, cranberries, raspberries and strawberries.
- 1980 – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiates assessment for a toxicology review of 2,4-D.
- 1988 – Beginning of reregistration data development by the 2,4-D Task Force and review by EPA.
- 1996 – World Health Organization completes its toxicological review of 2,4-D and determines the compound does not present a risk to human health.
- 2001 – European Commission completes its toxicological and environmental assessment of 2,4-D and states "...that the plant protection products containing 2,4-D will fulfill the safety requirements laid down in the Directive 91/414/EEC."
- 2004 – The Henry Ford organization in Dearborn, Michigan declares 2,4-D one of the 75 most important innovations in the previous 75 years.
- 2005 – EPA releases 2,4-D Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED). EPA's review of human health and environmental data concludes there is no additional evidence that would implicate 2,4-D as a cause of cancer and it does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health when product instructions are followed.

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 (Munro)
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/pubs/dost_papers/5-Dost-24D.pdf