

PRESS RELEASE

Beyond Pesticides/National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides

701 E Street, SE, Washington DC 20003

202-543-5450 (voice), 202-543-4791 (fax)

info@beyondpesticides.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 8, 2000

Contact: Jay Feldman or Kagan Owens

202-543-5450

Environmentalists Urge Homeowners, Applicators and Farmers to Stop Use and Retailers To Stop Sale of Common Pesticide Subject to Partial Ban

EPA's announcement today will stop the sale by December 31, 2001 of most residential uses of the third most commonly used home-use and commercially applied pesticide, chlorpyrifos (Dursban™, Lorsban™), but allows these uses to continue until stocks are depleted. Containerized baits with chlorpyrifos will remain on the market. Most current uses of the chemical will be allowed to continue in agriculture and various noncrop, nonresidential uses, including golf courses and greenhouses and for mosquito control and fire ants. Spot and local treatment for termites (post-construction) will continue until December 31, 2002. New home treatment (pre-treat) will continue until December 31, 2005 while exposure to people in this situation is studied. Export of the product will continue without restriction. Environmentalists are urging that homeowners, applicators and farmers stop their use and retailers stop sale of chlorpyrifos immediately in light of its known neurotoxic properties.

(Washington, D.C., June 8, 2000) While the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a broad agreement with chemical manufacturers to phase-out the home and garden uses for the widely used insecticide chlorpyrifos (Dursban™, Lorsban™), environmentalists urged the public to stop using the chemical immediately. Today's agreement phases-out production of most home and garden uses of chlorpyrifos by the end of the year, permits sales through 2001, and allows existing stocks to be depleted. Uses that will be allowed to continue include all food uses (except tomatoes), golf courses, greenhouses, and mosquito and fire ant control. Spot and local treatment for termites (post-construction) will continue until December 21, 2002. New home treatment (pre-treat) will continue until December 31, 2005, while exposure to people in this situation is studied. Export of the product will continue without restriction.

"When it comes to pesticides, including chlorpyrifos, consumers are in a buyer-beware marketplace, where they need to avoid exposure to pesticides that EPA has identified as hazardous but left in commerce," said Jay Feldman, executive director of Beyond Pesticides/National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP).

New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer said today, "Protecting the public from toxic materials is one of the most important functions of government." "That is why I am asking New York retailers to remove all chlorpyrifos products from their shelves immediately and take the lead in providing non-toxic pest control alternatives to their customers." According to Mr. Spitzer, "EPA has taken an important step in the right direction, but if we are really serious about protecting the public, especially the health of our children, we must do more to prevent exposure to this dangerous chemical."

With over 11 million pounds of the chemical active ingredient chlorpyrifos applied annually in the home and garden, this insecticide ranks third among all pesticides applied by homeowners and commercial applicators. It is used extensively in commercial buildings, schools, daycare centers, hotels, restaurants, hospitals, stores, warehouses, food manufacturing plants, vehicles (i.e. buses, planes, trains), and agriculture. In agriculture, 13 million pounds are applied annually, which ranks chlorpyrifos thirteenth among all agricultural pesticides. EPA released a risk assessment of chlorpyrifos in October, 1999.

Chlorpyrifos is in the family of approximately 40 widely used organophosphate pesticides, known neuro-toxic chemicals that together can cause cumulative adverse effects. Because of its high volume and common uses, chlorpyrifos represents one of the most significant sources of organophosphate exposure in non-occupational settings. Between the years 1993-1996, the most recent reporting years, 17,771 cases of unintentional residential chlorpyrifos exposures were reported to poison control centers. EPA's pesticide program, which disbanded its Pesticide Incident Monitoring System in 1981, does not collect adverse effects reports of pesticide poisoning, except those reported by the chemical industry.

"Nothing short of a ban of all uses of chlorpyrifos will protect the public from the chemical's adverse effects to the nervous system," said Mr. Feldman. "Since less toxic and non-toxic alternatives are available for all chlorpyrifos uses, it is wrong and unnecessary to allow chlorpyrifos uses to continue," said Mr. Feldman. EPA has a history of striking compromises on chemicals like chlorpyrifos. In 1999, despite headlines indicating the banning of two organophosphate pesticides, methyl parathion and azinphos-methyl, EPA's decision left on the market many uses that account for a significant portion of the chemicals' overall poundage.

Beyond Pesticides remains extremely concerned about the continued commercial and agricultural uses, exposure through residues in and on food, farmworker exposure, and direct public exposure from mosquito control, containerized baits used indoors, and termite applications made by pesticide applicators. A decision limited to over-the-counter uses is inadequate to the protection of the public's health, according to Beyond Pesticides. "EPA should be in the business of preventing harm rather than calculating acceptable risk levels that allow people to be hurt, despite the availability of safer alternatives," said Mr. Feldman.

Dow AgroSciences and predecessor chlorpyrifos producers have received thousands of poisoning reports. Victims of chlorpyrifos poisoning want EPA to stop the pesticide poisoning of all people.

PRESS RELEASE

Beyond Pesticides/National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides

701 E Street, SE, Washington DC 20003

202-543-5450 (voice), 202-543-4791 (fax)

info@beyondpesticides.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 7, 2000

Contact: Jay Feldman or Kagan Owens

202-543-5450

Victims of Third Most Commonly Used Home-Use and Commercially Applied Pesticide, Chlorpyrifos (Dursban™), Want It Fully Banned

With EPA's June 8 decision on the future of the third most commonly used home-use and commercially applied pesticide, chlorpyrifos (Dursban™), pending, victims express concern that the agency will not fully stop public exposure and will continue to compromise the public's health.

(Washington, D.C., June 7, 2000) As the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prepares to release its long-awaited decision on new restrictions for the widely used insecticide chlorpyrifos (Dursban™), those who have been poisoned are saying that the agency should stop compromising with the public's health. With 11 million pounds of the chemical active ingredient chlorpyrifos applied annually, this insecticide ranks third among all pesticides applied by homeowners and commercial applicators. It is used extensively in commercial buildings, schools, daycare centers, hotels, restaurants, hospitals, stores, warehouses, food manufacturing plants, vehicles (i.e. buses, planes, trains), and agriculture. In agriculture, 13 million pounds are applied annually, which ranks chlorpyrifos thirteenth among all agricultural pesticides. EPA released a risk assessment of chlorpyrifos in October, 1999.

Chlorpyrifos is in the family of approximately 40 widely used organophosphate pesticides, known neuro-toxic chemicals that together can cause cumulative adverse effects. Because of its high volume and common uses, chlorpyrifos represents one of the most significant sources of organophosphate exposure in non-occupational settings. Between the years 1993-1996, the most recent reporting years, 17,771 cases of unintentional residential chlorpyrifos exposures were reported to poison control centers. EPA's pesticide program, which disbanded its Pesticide Incident Monitoring System in 1981, does not collect adverse effects reports of pesticide poisoning, except those reported by the chemical industry.

"Nothing short of a ban of all uses of chlorpyrifos will protect the public from the chemical's adverse effects to the nervous system," said Jay Feldman, Executive Director of Beyond Pesticides/National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides. "Since less toxic and non-toxic alternatives are available for all chlorpyrifos uses, it is wrong and unnecessary to allow chlorpyrifos uses to continue," said Mr. Feldman. EPA has a history of striking compromises on chemicals like chlorpyrifos. In 1999, despite headlines indicating the banning of two organophosphate pesticides, methyl parathion and azinphos-methyl, EPA's decision left on the market many uses that account for a significant portion of the chemicals' overall poundage.

If reports of an EPA ban of over-the-counter chlorpyrifos products are correct, Beyond Pesticides remains extremely concerned about the continued commercial and agricultural uses, exposure through residues in and on food, farmworker exposure, and direct public exposure from mosquito

control and termite applications made by pesticide applicators. A decision limited to over-the-counter uses is inadequate to the protection of the public's health, according to Beyond Pesticides. "EPA should be in the business of preventing harm rather than calculating acceptable risk levels that allow people to be hurt, despite the availability of safer alternatives," said Mr. Feldman.

Dow AgroSciences and predecessor chlorpyrifos producers have received thousands of poisoning reports. Victims of chlorpyrifos poisoning want EPA to stop the pesticide poisoning of all people.

Chlorpyrifos (Dursban™) Victims

Beyond Pesticides maintains a database of people who are willing to share their stories associated with the tragedy of chlorpyrifos and other pesticide poisoning. The chlorpyrifos data base has been developed with assistance from the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides. The list, representative of a larger group, includes 108 people from 33 states who have been hurt as a result of chlorpyrifos use in homes, offices, schools, and agriculture.

The following are examples of chlorpyrifos poisonings from the Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP data base. Please contact Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP if you would like to contact these or other people.

Raymond and Lois Flory, Lafayette, Louisiana, were exposed to chlorpyrifos in 1993 when their home was treated for termites by a professional pesticide applicator, who told Mr. and Mrs. Flory that the chemical was safe and they could stay in the house while the treatment occurred. While the applicator trenched around their home with the chemical, the fumes overcame Mr. and Mrs. Flory. They suffer from continuing medical problems including chemical encephalopathy, visual and strength loss, mood swings, and depression.

Janie Emerson, La Jolla, California, was exposed to chlorpyrifos in her home in 1993. Medical test results indicated cholinesterase levels affected her health and chlorpyrifos residues were found in her urine. Her health was severely affected by the exposure and continues today. Emerson is chemically sensitized as a result of this particular pesticide poisoning incident.

Middle school students, Charleston, South Carolina, in 1998 were exposed to chlorpyrifos applied in a classroom, soaking carpets and desks where students sat the next morning. The school did not notify parents until more than a month had passed and did not do a thorough cleanup until months after the application. The school has now notified all parents in an effort to monitor students' health, which parents had urged them to do from the beginning. At least 40 children were affected by the pesticide exposure. Some are still ill. The most common health effects experienced were aggravated asthma and coughing, peeling hands and feet, headaches and nausea.

Jane Thomassen, Gouldsboro, Pennsylvania, continues to have numerous health effects due to routine monthly spraying that occurred at the school where she taught in the 1980's. One of the routine treatments occurred while she was in her classroom preparing for school to open. The commercial applicator sprayed pesticides in the halls and rooms of the school, including her classroom. As a result of this exposure, she has become intolerant to chemicals, has had muscle, bone and joint problems, and reproductive and immune system dysfunction. She is now disabled and no longer able to work. Dr. Zamm of Kingston New York identified the cause of her illness to be related to pesticide exposure while at school.

The Trimper family, Rotterdam, New York, was exposed to Dursban TC and LO in 1996 on two separate occasions when the pesticide was applied to their home. Following the second treatment, their three-year-old son became ill with high fevers and respiratory problems. Mrs. Trimper had two miscarriages after the exposure. An investigation found that after each treatment, injected through/in cinder blocks, they had leakage of the chemical the following day and a strong odor that is still present in their home. No ventilation was installed or plastic covering laid in an elevated sub-floor area to prevent the chemicals from coming up into their living quarters. Air testing found levels as high as 720 ppm of chemicals like benzene, xylene and toluene.