



## BEYOND PESTICIDES

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### ACTION ALERT

#### Industry Pressuring EPA To Approve the Carcinogenic Chromium-Based Wood Preservative ACC for Backyard Use

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In 2002, the environmental community achieved a tremendous victory when U.S. EPA and the wood treatment industry agreed to a voluntary phase-out of the residential uses of the arsenic- and hexavalent chromium-based wood treatment chemical, CCA. Now, EPA may undermine this progress by approving a registration that would allow a *hexavalent chromium*-based wood preservative, Acid Copper Chromate (ACC), to be used with no restrictions for residential, school, and playground uses across America.

ACC is made primarily from hexavalent chromium ("Chrome 6"), at double the amount of Chrome 6 in CCA. Chrome 6 is a *known human carcinogen*, responsible for drinking water contamination, worker illness, and soil and air degradation. Chrome 6 is the chemical publicized by Erin Brockovich, and it is linked to health problems such as kidney and liver damage, birth defects, and skin ulcers.

If EPA approves residential use of ACC, *millions of children will be exposed to this cancer-causing chemical* when they come into contact with playground equipment, picnic tables, decks, or other surfaces treated with this wood preservative. It is extremely concerning that the public could be exposed to this dangerous chromium-based preservative, especially when there are safer alternatives, which are widely available and in use. Our children are just as vulnerable to cancer-causing chromium leaching from playground equipment and picnic tables as they are to arsenic.

*The chromium industry (and their lobbyist, former Senator Bob Dole) is pressuring EPA to approve a new registration for ACC by January 20, 2007.* Please contact EPA immediately and urge the agency to deny the registration of this dangerous wood treatment chemical.

**Please contact EPA Administrator Steve Johnson and  
EPA Assistant Administrator for Pesticides Jim Gulliford today!**

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Also, please let incoming Chair Barbara Boxer of the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee, and incoming Chair John Dingell of the House Energy & Commerce Committee, know about your concern on this issue, by contacting Senate Environment Committee General Counsel Erik Olson at [erik\\_olson@epw.senate.gov](mailto:erik_olson@epw.senate.gov) and House Energy & Commerce Committee Counsel Dick Frandsen at [dick.frandsen@mail.house.gov](mailto:dick.frandsen@mail.house.gov).

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