

ESA SME Liaison to EPA OPP Report for July/August 2021

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Following the announcement about ESA's "Better Common Names Project" (<https://www.entsoc.org/better-common-names-project>), a constituent reached out to ask what EPA OPP's position was on use of common names on labels and what implications ESA approved name changes would have on already listed pest common names. I forwarded this query to the SME liaison from EPA OPP, Murphey Coy, who responded in writing with the following information. "Because the inclusion of a scientific and/or common name on the label is up to the registrant—we did not see this as a major issue for the Agency. Any changes to the common pest names used on a label would need to be initiated by the registrant. With that said, my understanding is that at least internally we would use any newly approved common name for our day-to-day work moving forward."

On July 30, 2021 Erin Cadwalader and I met ('Zoomed') with Murphey Coy and Virna Stillwaugh in EPA OPP to discuss future OPP webinar topics. These webinars are hosted by EPA as training/educational sessions for headquarters and regional office staff. For example, Nancy Hinkle from the University of Georgia presented a webinar on pet products that was attended by over 180 agency staff members. EPA OPP is now interested in a presentation about insect control in hops/orchard/vineyard crops to occur on September 15, 2021. The next webinar thereafter would occur on December 15, 2021 with the subject designated generically as "monarch decline". I offered to contact two colleagues who are working in the subject areas to encourage their participation in the webinars. Also notable is EPA's future interest in hearing about new developments in IPM. I offered one subject area of importance that crosses the bridge from Extension to grower useable tools is the use of Decision Aid Systems (DAS) that rely on degree day models within an online software tool that predicts pest populations and phenological development in crops (mainly orchards, presently) and make recommendations according to agronomic systems (i.e., certified organic and "conventional") (see for example the Washington State University tools at <https://decisionaid.systems>).

EPA Announces Plan for Pet Incident Reporting and Releases Proposed Interim Decisions for Four Pesticides (announcement release date: August 3, 2021) <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-announces-plan-pet-incident-reporting-and-releases-proposed-interim-decisions-four>

"The U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing its plan collect pet incident data on four pesticides used in a variety of agricultural and non-agricultural settings, including in residential pet products. These pesticides are MGK-264, piperonyl butoxide (PBO), pyrethrins, and amitraz." EPA is seeking enhanced incident reporting data for suspected poisoning in association with the pet formulations of these products as well as increased data on sales. The agency would like to compare all products registered and the data requested is in addition to what is already collected for 'spot-on' treatments. It is seeking feedback from stakeholders on the most efficient way these data can be provided to the agency and types of analyses that could be submitted to expedite the agency's assessment. EPA would like to enhance its oversight of pet pesticide products and is considering additional targeted studies and monitoring. Public comments are welcome (see the links below for commenting on individual pesticides).

EPA has conducted revised human and ecological risk assessments for the four aforementioned pesticides and has issued preliminary interim decisions (PIDs) documents that can be accessed from [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (link to the tab titled, "Browse & Comment on Documents").

- MGK-264: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0415/document>

- PBO: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0498/document>
- Pyrethrins: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0885/document>
- Amitraz: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-1015/document>

Public comments will be accepted for 60 days in the registration review dockets. “After a thorough review of the science and carefully considering scientific peer review and public comments, EPA will proceed with the registration review process for MGK-264, PBO, pyrethrins, and amitraz. The next step in the FIFRA registration review process is the interim decision, which imposes risk mitigation measures necessary to protect human health and the environment.”

EPA Proposes Registration of New Nematicide Active Ingredient (announcement release date: July 23, 2021) <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-new-nematicide-active-ingredient>

EPA has posted human and ecological risk assessments in [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) for a new nematicidal active ingredient with the common name fluazaindolizine. The Dupont (Corteva) formulated product is planned to be sold under the brand name ‘Salibro’ nematode control and the active ingredient will be branded as Vellozine nematode control. The compound based on recent literature is highly selective for plant parasitic nematodes with nil practical activity against non-parasitic nematodes and insects (tested in *Drosophila*).

“Proposed uses of fluazaindolizine include carrots and cucurbit vegetables and certain fruiting, tuberous, and corm vegetables. Other use sites include certain other crops that will not bear fruit within a year of nematicide application: citrus fruit, stone fruit, tree nuts, and small vine-climbing fruit (except fuzzy kiwi).

The human health and ecological hazard profiles for fluazaindolizine indicate that it is a reduced-risk alternative for all its proposed uses when compared to registered alternatives. Furthermore, the mode of action studies suggest that the biochemical target site is uncommon with other known nematicidal active ingredients. EPA is accepting public comments on the proposed registration decision proposal through docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0065 at www.regulations.gov for 15 days (<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0065/document>).

Comment Period Extended for Draft Risk Assessments and Proposed Mitigation Measures for Sulfuryl Fluoride (announcement release date: July 23, 2021) <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/comment-period-extended-draft-risk-assessments-and-proposed-mitigation-measures-sulfuryl>

EPA has extended the public comment period for the draft risk assessments and proposed mitigation measures for sulfuryl fluoride. Comments are now due by September 23, 2021 and should be submitted to docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0136 at www.regulations.gov (<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0136/document>). EPA has also published a risk mitigation document related to re-entry after termiticide fumigation treatment (Sulfuryl Fluoride Draft Interim Re-Entry Mitigation Measures; <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0136-0105>). This document was developed in response to Office of Inspector General’s (OIG) 2016 report, Additional Measures Can Be Taken to Prevent Deaths and Serious Injuries From Residential Fumigations.

EPA Awards Over \$3 Million Towards Research to Assess Health and Environmental Impacts of Biotechnology Products (announcement released July 22, 2021) <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-over-3-million-towards-research-assess-health-and-environmental-impacts>

EPA announced funding awarded to five institutions to develop science-based approaches to evaluate the potential human health and environmental impacts of new

biotechnology products. Four of the projects involved microorganisms (essentially microbial ecology and monitoring projects) but one should be of interest to ESA members. The University of California, San Diego was awarded a grant to develop an approach to understand and effectively monitor the dispersal of lab-generated sterile mosquitoes in the Hawaiian Islands.