

## **ESA SME Liaison to EPA OPP Report for March/April 2021**

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Erin Cadwalader and I have been engaged in further conversations with Dr. Kelly Tindal, the EPA OPP staff scientist who is the SME contact person in OPP, regarding ideas for webinars of interest to ESA members as well as for informing EPA OPP staff. EPA OPP is interested in developing a quarterly webinar series about insect/insecticide issues. In the near future, EPA would like to have a webinar specifically about tick and flea control products for use on pets. This interest follows the news report about pet illness and deaths following use of the formulated product Seresto with active ingredient imidacloprid (neonicotinoid class) and flumethrin (pyrethroid class) (see USA Today article as an example of reports in the media, USA Today; <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2021/03/02/seresto-dog-cat-collars-found-harm-pets-humans-epa-records-show/4574753001/>). Kelly proposed inviting Dr. Maureen Hinkle from the University of Georgia to give a webinar. Kelly has scheduled a meeting with us for Friday, April 16th to discuss the webinar and other topics. I've recently sent an invitation to Dr. Hinkle to determine her possible interest in making a presentation.

In addition to direct communications with EPA OPP, I met earlier with PIE Section leaders to discuss implementing more interactions with that division and determining how they could interact with the SME Liaison and exchange information for communicating to the EPA OPP and better bring concerns/queries to the attention of EPA.

EPA has made the following public announcements of possible interest to ESA members.

### **EPA Proposes to Conditionally Register Combination Insecticide for Residential Outdoor Use (April 8, 2021)**

EPA is accepting public comments on its proposed decision to conditionally register the first residential outdoor use of the insecticides cyclaniliprole (diamide class, ryanodine receptor agonist) and flonicamid (pyridinecarboxamide class, potassium inward rectifier channel antagonist) on roses, flowers, shrubs, and small (non-fruit bearing) trees. The agency is proposing to register three new products: an individual manufacturing-use product for each of the two active ingredients and one end-use product formulated with both active ingredients.

EPA is proposing specific mitigation measures on the end-use product label to address potential ecological risks, including:

- A pollinator advisory label statement; and
- Ground and surface water advisories and an environmental hazard statement because of cyclaniliprole's mobility and persistence.

EPA will accept public comments on this proposal via docket numbers EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0013 (flonicamid) and EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0458 (cyclaniliprole) at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) for 30 days (by May 8, 2021).

The docket ([www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)) containing EPA risk analysis and draft registration decision documents for flonicamid issues is located at URL <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0013>. The docket for the information about cyclaniliprole is at URL <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0458/document>.

### **EPA Releases Final Biological Evaluations of Carbaryl and Methomyl's Impacts on Endangered Species (March 31, 2021)**

EPA considered public comments about its draft biological evaluations (BE) of carbaryl and methomyl issued under the mandates of the Endangered Species Act for possible

consultation with agencies managing specific endangered species. Based on the public comments, the agency released its final BEs with the finding that these insecticides are “likely to adversely affect” a number of threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitats.

Because the BEs have concluded a potential for adverse effects on listed species, EPA must engage in formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (the Services) to further study the documented potential impacts and possibly propose mitigation measures for vulnerable species. EPA’s final BEs are being submitted to the Services to begin this process. EPA is also considering additional mitigation measures, including prioritizing mitigation measures for certain vulnerable species while in consultation with the Services.”

The revised method for analyzing potential effects of pesticides on endangered species used in the biological evaluations of carbaryl and methomyl is located at URL <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/implementing-nas-report-recommendations-risk-assessment-methodology-endangered> (Website titled: *Implementing NAS Report Recommendations on Risk Assessment Methodology for Endangered and Threatened Species*).

The BE for **carbaryl** is located at URL <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/final-national-level-listed-species-biological-evaluation-carbaryl>

The BE for **methomyl** is located at URL <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/final-national-level-listed-species-biological-evaluation-methomyl>

Finally, as always, I welcome queries about EPA OPP activities and hearing about any issues or concerns that members would like to bring to the table in my interactions with staff scientists. I am also happy to comment on news stories that involve insecticide (or other pesticide) issues that have resulted from recently published research.