

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

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EPA OPP Announcements of ESA Interest

EPA Seeking Public Comment on Petition Related to Seresto Pet Collars (announcement release date: July 13, 2021) (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-seeking-public-comment-petition-related-seresto-pet-collars>)

EPA received a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity, an environmental advocacy NGO, requesting cancellation of the registration of the pet insecticide product, Seresto (pet collars) with active ingredients flumethrin and imidacloprid. The agency will release shortly a docket asking for public comment on the petition. EPA had requested and received from Elanco and Bayer (current and previous registrants, respectively) updated data from on toxicity incidents. EPA will use these data along with public comments to determine if additional action to regulate this product is needed. People whose pets experienced adverse reactions after Seresto collar use are encouraged by the agency to discuss the situation with their veterinarian, contact the National Pesticide Information Center (Oregon State University has the current contract; <http://npic.orst.edu>) and to also report the incident to the EPA at www.epa.gov/pets, which is also an informational website titled, "Protecting Pets from Fleas and Ticks". The public comment period will be open for 60 days and available in docket ID number [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0409](https://www.regulations.gov) at www.regulations.gov.

EPA Awards \$6 Million to the University of California, Davis to Support Pesticide Safety Outreach (announcement release date: July 12, 2021) (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-6-million-university-california-davis-support-pesticide-safety-outreach>)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected the Regents of the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) to receive a total of \$6 million over a five-year period to develop materials and projects that promote safe pesticide use. Through this cooperative agreement, UC Davis will establish the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative (PERC) 2.0, the second phase of the currently successful PERC program (located at URL <http://pesticideresources.org>). With the inception of PERC 2.0, UC Davis, in conjunction with EPA, will continue its mission of creating and sharing resources that provide accurate and easily accessible information on pesticide occupational safety and safe pesticide use to support the implementation of the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard and Certification of Pesticide Applicators regulations.

EPA Implementing ESA (Endangered Species Act) Listed Fish Protection Measures Following NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) Release of Final Biological Opinions for the Herbicides Metalochlor, Bromoxynil, Prometryn and the Fumigant 1,3-D (formulated into Telone Products) (announcement release date: July 9, 2012) (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-takes-steps-protect-endangered-fish-pesticide-exposure>)

Under orders of the 9th Circuit Court in conjunction with the lower Federal Courts in the Western district of WA State, EPA must consult with NMFS (aka NOAA Fisheries) prior to finalizing registration (or re-registration) of pesticide products containing certain active ingredients (specific products were listed in court decisions from the earlier 2000s). In previous reports I mentioned the draft Biological Opinions (BiOPs) for current use OP insecticide malathion and EPA requesting comments. In this news release, EPA has already worked with NMFS to find consensus on risk mitigation measures. "EPA will implement the final biological opinions through Endangered Species Protection Bulletins (<https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/endangered-species-protection-bulletins>) as appropriate. These bulletins will direct how these pesticides may be applied in the vicinity of listed salmon and steelhead species'

habitats. Implementation of these biological opinions aligns with EPA's efforts to mitigate risks to species protected by the Endangered Species Act in a timely and effective manner." The BiOP for 1,3-D (at least three Telone products are registered), which is used as a soil fumigant mainly for parasitic nematode control in vegetables, may be of most interest to crop protection specialists in ESA. The BiOP can be located at URL <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/30712>.

EPA Accepting Nominations to the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee [PPDC] (announcement release date: June 23, 2021) (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-accepting-nominations-pesticide-program-dialogue-committee>)

The PPDC is a representative federal advisory committee that provides advice and recommendations to EPA on issues associated with pesticide regulatory development and reform initiatives, evolving public policy, program implementation, and science related to evaluating and reducing risks from pesticide use.

To maintain the broad representation outlined in the PPDC charter, EPA is seeking highly qualified candidates with diverse backgrounds and identities representing any of the following groups:

- Federal, state, local and tribal governments,
- Pesticide industry and trade associations,
- Pesticide applicators,
- Grower and commodity groups,
- Environmental and public interest groups,
- Farmworker organizations,
- Public health organizations,
- Animal welfare groups, and
- Academia.

Nominations can be submitted by email with the subject line "PPDC Membership" to Shannon Jewell (jewell.shannon@epa.gov). Nominations must be sent no later than July 23, 2021. The Federal Register notice has more information including nomination requirements (<https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0196-0002>).

EPA Administrator Regan Signs Proclamation to Mark National Pollinator Week (announcement release date: June 21, 2021) (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-regan-signs-proclamation-mark-national-pollinator-week>)

Director Michael Regan issued a proclamation in support of pollinators as part of EPA's policy that recognizes the importance of pollinators to America's food systems and ecosystems and raise awareness about how to promote pollinator health where one lives. Regan was quoted in the announcement saying, "Today, I am proud to affirm this agency's commitment to protecting the more than 200,000 known species of pollinators." EPA is reinvigorating its commitment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Pollinator Partnership.

Proclamation website for download: <https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/epa-administrator-signs-pollinator-week-proclamation>

MOU Between EPA and Pollinator Partnership website (signed June 17, 2021): <https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/memorandum-understanding-between-epa-and-pollinator-partnership>

EPA releases a revised Carbaryl draft human health risk assessment and a draft ecological risk assessment (announcement release date: June 15, 2021)

See docket at URL: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0230/document>. Note that when you visit the website, older risk analysis docs are posted as well as the ones released during June. The latter are the new documents that EPA has posted about carbaryl. The draft ecological risk assessment is located at URL: <https://www.regulations.gov/>

[document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0230-0073](#). The draft human health risk assessment is located at URL: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0230-0074> . The latter document incorporates previous public comments and also uses a PBKB (Physiological Based Pharmacokinetic Model) to estimate exposure (this type of modeling was also used in the revised chlorpyrifos risk assessment to analyze potential exposures).