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Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP)
Regulatory Public Docket (7502P)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Submitted via email to: Katie Hall at hall.katie@epa.gov

Attn: Docket No. EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0284

Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0284: Resmethrin Reregistration Eligibility Decision

The purpose of this letter is to comment on EPA's Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) for resmethrin, which was made available for public comment on July 26, 2006 (71 FR 42389). Resmethrin is a first generation synthetic pyrethroid insecticide used in commercial and residential areas for treatment of many species of insects. Resmethrin is used alone and in combination with synergists such as piperonyl butoxide. Tri-TAC previously submitted comments on the Resmethrin Risk Assessments on January 23, 2006, and is pleased that EPA modeled the impacts from the "down-the-drain" uses (e.g. indoor space, crack, and crevice treatments and pet products) in the revised risk assessments. Tri-TAC would like to work with EPA to refine the methodology for future "down-the-drain" assessments, since the current procedures do not fully analyze the potential impacts to aquatic organisms from the discharge of pesticides into sewers. As background, Tri-TAC is a technical advisory group for Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) in California. It is jointly sponsored by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, the California Water Environment Association, and the League of California Cities. The constituency base for Tri-TAC collects, treats, and reclaims more than two billion gallons of wastewater each day and serves most of the sewered population of California.

"Down-the-Drain" Assessment

Tri-TAC reiterates our appreciation for EPA's effort in conducting a "down-the-drain" analysis prior to issuance of the RED. In the [Preliminary Environmental Fate and Effects Risk Assessment Chapter for the Reregistration Eligibility Decision \(RED\) Document for: Resmethrin \(Risk](#)

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Assessment), EPA evaluated the potential impacts from resmethrin discharge into sewers by utilizing the E-FAST (Exposure and Fate Assessment Screening Tool). The assessment suggested that due to the relatively small amount of resmethrin used nationwide, the estimated environmental concentrations were relatively small, and the residues of resmethrin released to aquatic areas from “down-the-drain” uses did not appear to cause acute or chronic toxicity to the aquatic species tested. Tri-TAC basically agrees with the results from the “down-the-drain” screening model; however, the “down-the-drain” assessment methodology should be refined to better predict potential impacts to aquatic organisms and POTWs.

Tri-TAC disagrees with several of EPA’s assumptions in the “down-the-drain” analysis for resmethrin. First, EPA states “information on the degree of removal for resmethrin from wastewater at POTWs is unavailable.” Since the data is unavailable, EPA used the EPIWIN program to estimate removal and utilized the most conservative value. Tri-TAC disagrees with the use of this methodology to calculate wastewater treatment removal values for “down-the-drain” assessments.

U.S. EPA Office of Water maintains an extensive database of wastewater treatment plant removal efficiencies for various pollutants, including pesticides (the National Risk Management Research Laboratory Treatability Database). This data set is one of many resources that can be used to estimate environmental concentrations of pesticides discharged to the sewer system. If data on the degree and mechanisms of removal of a pesticide is not known, EPA should conservatively assume that wastewater treatment does not remove the pesticide. If data regarding wastewater treatment removal is available, EPA should evaluate the technology to determine if it is commonly utilized at POTWs prior to using it in the “down-the-drain” assessment.

Tri-TAC has previously submitted comments to EPA regarding our concerns with the E-FAST model. In our comments, Tri-TAC has requested the technical basis for assuming the surface water concentrations obtained from the 10th and 50th percentile stream dilution factors as acute and chronic concentrations. Since some POTWs discharge to effluent dominated receiving waters, EPA should not include stream dilution factors in the nationwide “down-the-drain” assessment. For “down-the-drain” assessments, EPA should calculate median surface water concentrations without a stream dilution factor for use as the chronic concentrations. For the acute concentrations, EPA should calculate a surface water concentration assuming a local high-end scenario appropriate for the pesticide. For example, a high-end scenario for resmethrin could be a concentrated mass loading due to a preference to using a specific pet shampoo or high use of the pesticide by professional applicators in a neighborhood. The surface water concentration from the high-end scenario should be used as an acute concentration in the risk analysis. These simple modifications to the procedures for “down-the-drain” assessments would improve the evaluation of the potential impacts to aquatic organisms.

Tri-TAC would like to work with EPA's Offices of Pesticide Programs and Wastewater Management to develop an improved wastewater discharge methodology using the April 2006 version of the E-FAST model to evaluate impacts to aquatic organisms from pesticides discharged to sewers. This methodology would include an analysis of the input parameters needed to generate representative surface water concentrations from the use of pesticides discharged to sewers and consideration of POTWs without stream dilution credits. Development of a methodology would be beneficial to both EPA and POTWs to evaluate the impacts of pesticides in the future during Registration Review.

Environmental Fate in Wastewater Treatment

EPA states in the RED that the most important route of dissipation for resmethrin is photolysis. Tri-TAC previously commented that photolysis is not expected to significantly reduce resmethrin during wastewater treatment. EPA responded to Tri-TAC's comment in the Response to Comments of Phase 3 Period for the Revised Draft EFED RED Chapter for Resmethrin dated March 8, 2006 stating, "SDLAC and Tri-TAC do not consider a major route of dissipation for most of the synthetic pyrethroids. Resmethrin binds to sediments and organic matter, and it is likely that at least during sedimentation and filtration it will be reduced substantially." Tri-TAC concurs that resmethrin is likely to bind with solids during wastewater treatment; however, Tri-TAC disagrees that this is a "dissipation" mechanism. Resmethrin binding to solids during wastewater treatment is a cross-media transfer of the pesticide to biosolids. Since, biosolids are frequently land applied or used as soil amendments, resmethrin may limit the ability of biosolids to be reused. EPA should consider the impacts of pesticides on the reuse of biosolids as part of the "down-the-drain" assessment and in the cost benefit analyses for pesticide registration.

Label Language

Tri-TAC requests that aquatic hazard language be added to the label of "indoor-use" products containing resmethrin to inform the users of the product of the risk to aquatic organisms. This language should be similar to the label language for "outdoor-use" end use products intended for residential use. Tri-TAC suggests the label state "This pesticide is extremely toxic to fish, aquatic organisms, and oysters/shrimp. Local sewerage treatment agency regulations should be consulted before use."

Aquatic Toxicity Data Gaps

Tri-TAC is concerned that EPA is proposing reregistration for resmethrin despite unfulfilled guideline requirements and existing data gaps. In the RED, EPA has requested that the registrants perform specific ecological tests to reduce the uncertainty of the effects to aquatic organisms, including chronic whole sediment tests for freshwater and estuarine/marine organisms and acute whole sediment tests for

estuarine/marine organisms. However, the RED does not request acute whole sediment tests for freshwater organisms, it is "held in reserve." Tri-TAC supports the Environmental Fate and Effects Division's recommendation that acute whole sediment tests for freshwater organisms be requested in the RED. Furthermore, it is important for EPA to collect toxicity data for both the technical grade active ingredient and formulations since resmethrin formulations often include a synergist. It is anticipated that Registration Review for pyrethroids will begin in 2010, and it is imperative that the registrants complete this testing prior to this date, so Tri-TAC requests that EPA include a time schedule for the aquatic toxicity tests in the RED.

In conclusion, sewerage agencies need EPA's assistance to protect surface waters from contamination from resmethrin. Tri-TAC appreciates that EPA evaluated the potential impacts to aquatic organisms in a "down-the-drain" assessment and has recommend simple modifications to the technique to improve future assessments. Furthermore, Tri-TAC requests to work with EPA's Offices of Pesticide Programs and Wastewater Management to develop a wastewater discharge methodology for evaluating impacts to aquatic organisms from the discharge of pesticides to sewers for Registration Review.

Tri-TAC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the resmethrin RED. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Preeti Ghuman by phone at (562) 699-7411, extension 2904 or by email at pghuman@lacs.org.

Sincerely,



Charles V. Weir
Chair, Tri-TAC

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