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To: UPC
Date: 12/17/2009 4:16PM
Subject: UPC: OPP/OW Harmonization- Jan. 22 EPA mtg dntn Oakland

Attachments: FR_Notice_OPP-OW_Harmonization_Mtgs_Jan2010.pdf

For the UPC,

The U.S. EPA Offices of Pesticide Programs (OPP) and Water (OW) have begun a joint initiative to "harmonize" their regulatory programs related to toxicity in surface waters (our shorthand name for this is the "OPP / OW Harmonization" initiative). On January 22 from 1pm to 4pm, EPA scientists leading the initiative will be holding a workshop in Oakland. Background on the initiative and the workshop are below.

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Background

The OPP/OW Harmonization initiative is an effort to reconcile methodologies use by U.S. EPA's pesticides and Water programs to assess the effects of pesticides on surface waters and aquatic life. This initiative could reduce the number of incidents of pesticide-related toxicity and the need for 303(d) listings and TMDLs for pesticides.

The approach to this effort is scientific. The goal is to develop methodologies that both EPA pesticides & EPA water scientists will use to identify pesticide problems. This will fix a critical discontinuity in current programs caused by the differences in their procedures that is a root cause of expensive compliance problems for water quality agencies.

EPA has set up a website for this initiative:

http://www.epa.gov/oppefed1/cwa_fifra_effects_methodology/index.html

Workshop

EPA is holding workshops to help finalize the scope of the initiative. One of those workshops will be in Oakland on January 22 from 1-4 p.m. (see attached Federal Register notice). During these meetings, EPA will also solicit input on related topics, including the following topics of likely interest to California water quality agencies:

- Examples of situations in which differences between OW and OPP assessment approaches were an issue
- The types of values that are used by states and/or regions for protecting aquatic life in the absence of ambient water quality criteria
- Sources of pesticide data and relevant reports
- The availability of data, tools, approaches, and data sets on aquatic toxicity

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