

Glyphosate – Update for PPDC

May 3-4, 2017

Current Status

- EPA is currently evaluating FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel's (SAP) report on the carcinogenic potential of glyphosate (see more information in "background"). EPA plans to issue for public comment the registration review draft risk assessments for glyphosate in 2017. The draft risk assessments will include both human health and ecological components.
- Once public comments are received on the risk assessment, EPA will revise its risk assessments (if needed) and issue a Proposed Interim Decision for public comment, which will include proposed labeling changes and other risk mitigation measures, if necessary.
- After public comments on the Proposed Interim Decision are received and evaluated, EPA plans to issue an Interim Decision. A Final Decision will be issued after an evaluation of risks to pollinators and an endangered species assessment are completed.
- Under a settlement agreement with the Center for Biological Diversity, EPA is scheduled to complete a biological evaluation on glyphosate by 2020 and, if necessary, initiate an Endangered Species Act consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service by 2020.

Background

- EPA initiated registration review for glyphosate in 2009.
- The glyphosate draft risk assessments will address the results of endocrine screening testing for glyphosate and the potential effects of glyphosate on monarch butterflies. The draft human health risk assessment will also consider the International Agency for Research on Cancer's (IARC) 2015 report on the cancer classification of glyphosate.
- Various international regulatory agencies have recently concluded that glyphosate does not cause cancer. These include Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (June 2015), Germany's BfR (October 2015), the European Food Safety Authority (November 2015), the World Health Organization's Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (May 2016), and the European Chemicals Agency (March 2017).
- EPA held a FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) meeting for glyphosate in December 2016 to discuss the carcinogenic potential of glyphosate. The agency proposed to classify glyphosate as not likely to cause cancer. Recommendations from the SAP were received in March 2017 and EPA is reviewing their report. The full SAP report is available at:
<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0385-0526>

Petition from NRDC on Glyphosate and the Monarch Butterfly

- In February 2014, NRDC petitioned EPA to conduct a special review on glyphosate on grounds that glyphosate was the cause of loss of milkweed habitat in/around agricultural land and consequently the reduction of the monarch butterfly population.
- In June 2015, EPA issued its draft Risk Management Approach to Identifying Options for Protecting the Monarch Butterfly for a 60-day public comment period; over 41,000 comments were received. At the same time, EPA denied NRDC's petition to initiate a special review for glyphosate.
- In 2017, EPA intends to complete the risk management approach for the protection of the monarch butterfly. In addition, EPA has already begun adopting advisory label language in its decisions for herbicides and other pesticide chemicals to protect pollinators (including the monarch butterfly) and important plant resources.