Message

From: McQueen, Jacqueline [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3A023F4D48EE4E1F8B758FA87310F703-MCQUEEN, JACKIE]
Sent: 6/2/2016 2:05:18 PM
To: Flowers, Lynn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1a4411c874d041b9a8badfc32b91bd70-Flowers, Lynn]
Subject: RE: more EU glyphosate news - proposed extension of approval and taking the cancer descriptor issue to ECHA

It is probably good for EPA so they are not under pressure re: glyphosate.

Nonresponsive Discussion of Personal Matters / Ex. 6

From: Flowers, Lynn
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2016 8:21 AM
To: McQueen, Jacqueline <McQueen.Jacqueline@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: more EU glyphosate news - proposed extension of approval and taking the cancer descriptor issue to ECHA

Yep---over a year anyway. Gives us time to get our act together! Maybe its good?
Not a word from OPP....really weird. No bounceback emails either.

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From: McQueen, Jacqueline
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2016 7:39 AM
To: Flowers, Lynn <Flowers.Lynn@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: more EU glyphosate news - proposed extension of approval and taking the cancer descriptor issue to ECHA

Thanks, is 18 months a typical time period for this? It seems like a very long time.

Any news back from OPP on the MOU?

From: Flowers, Lynn
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2016 7:37 AM
To: Smith, Kelley <Smith.Kelley@epa.gov>; Burke, Thomas <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov>; Gwinn, Maureen <gwinn.maureen@epa.gov>; Deener, Kathleen <Deener.Kathleen@epa.gov>; Hauchman, Fred <hauchman.fred@epa.gov>; Kavlock, Robert <Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: McQueen, Jacqueline <McQueen.Jacqueline@epa.gov>; Cogliano, Vincent <cogliano.vincent@epa.gov>; Fegley, Robert <Fegley.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: more EU glyphosate news - proposed extension of approval and taking the cancer descriptor issue to ECHA

Looks like they will vote on a temporary extension next week and that the matter is being taken up by ECHA – which could take 1+ years. It's not over yet!

Also - Here is a website that popped up yesterday from Brussels on FAQs on glyphosate, including next steps.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-2012_en.htm

Bloomberg BNA – June 1

Toxic Substances

EU to Consider Extension of Glyphosate Approval

BNA Snapshot

EU Reauthorization of Glyphosate

The Latest: European Commission proposes temporary extension of current EU glyphosate pending a new assessment of its hazard classification.

What's Next: An EU Chemicals Agency consultation on the classification of glyphosate could start June 2.

By Stephen Gardner

June 1 — The European Commission June 1 sought to sidestep difficulties in the European Union-level reauthorization of the widely used herbicide glyphosate by proposing an extension of the current approval until the European Chemicals Agency can assess whether the chemical should be classified as carcinogenic.

Without an extension, the EU-level authorization for glyphosate will expire June 30, meaning that EU countries that have authorized use of products containing the herbicide in their territory would also have to withdraw those approvals.

EU health and food safety commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis said that the commission would bring the temporary extension plan to a June 6 meeting of a regulatory committee of EU member country representatives in the hope of breaking a stalemate that has developed around glyphosate.

The reauthorization in the EU of the substance has become a battleground between industry and environmental groups because of conflicting studies that have variously identified it as "probably carcinogenic to humans" and "unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans" (95 DEN A-7, 5/17/16).

The commission, the EU's executive arm, said in February that glyphosate could be reauthorized at EU level through 2031, but the issue has not yet been put to a vote of the regulatory committee because of differences between EU countries (98 DEN A-10, 5/20/16).

ECHA Opinion

Andriukaitis said it would take ECHA a year to 18 months to conclude an opinion of its Risk Assessment Committee on the EU-level hazard classification of glyphosate.

The commission said in a statement that this opinion would be "relevant for the approval" of glyphosate, which could be revisited when the RAC opinion becomes available.

In March, Germany submitted to ECHA a proposal to modify the EU-level classification of glyphosate. The herbicide is currently classified as causing serious eye damage and as toxic to aquatic life. Under the German proposal it would also be classified as potentially damaging to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure.

However, as part of the exercise to check the classification, glyphosate's potential "carcinogenicity, germ cell mutagenicity and reproductive toxicity" will also be evaluated, according to the ECHA website.

ECHA told Bloomberg BNA June 1 that a public consultation on the classification of glyphosate could start June 2, depending on finalization of Germany's proposal to modify the classification.

Authorization Conditions

Andriukaitis said that the commission would also propose to the regulatory committee June 6 that a glyphosate co-formulant, polyethoxylated tallowamine, be banned, and that the use of herbicides containing the substance should be minimized in parks, gardens and public areas, and prior to harvest.

Polyethoxylated tallowamine has been identified by the European Food Safety Agency as requiring further study because of possible reprotoxic effects.

Andriukaitis said that even if glyphosate is approved as an active substance at EU level, countries in the EU-bloc can decide whether or not to approve products containing it for their territory.

Some EU countries were "reluctant to take a position" on the EU-level approval but "do not need to hide behind the commission's decision," Andriukaitis said.

Different Views

Bart Staes, a Belgian Green member of the European Parliament, said some EU governments had been reluctant to reauthorize glyphosate because of "significant public mobilization and political opposition."

Though the commission had offered an "eleventh hour reprieve for glyphosate, this is hopefully only temporary and this should be the beginning of the end. This opportunity now needs to be seized both as regards to phasing out glyphosate and other toxic herbicides and pesticides," Staes said.

The European Glyphosate Task Force, a consortium of companies seeking the reauthorization of glyphosate, said in a statement that it "values ongoing efforts by the European Commission to resolve the current impasse."

However, the "proposal to extend the existing approval period in order to take account of the ECHA classification of glyphosate sets a precedent which is disproportionate" because EU legislation "already provides for the assessment of new scientific evidence during the approval period," the task force said.

Glyphosate is currently authorized for use in herbicides in all 28 EU member countries.

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