Message

From: Dennis, Allison [Dennis.Allison@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/6/2020 4:52:43 PM
To: Dunn, Alexandra [dunn.alexandra@epa.gov]
CC: Dunton, Cheryl [Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Grable, Melissa [Grable.Melissa@epa.gov]; Tyler, Tom [Tyler.Tom@epa.gov]; Bolen, Derrick [bolen.derrick@epa.gov]
Subject: For Alex approval: Desk Statement for FIFRA exemption for State of TX slated for 5/7

Hi Alex,

Here is our proposed desk statement on our emergency use decision for clothianidin in Texas. I believe this decision will be signed by OPP tomorrow. Melissa- if you have a near final version of the letter, can you share it with me? I'd like to share it w/OPA for awareness purposes. -Allison

Desk Statement: EPA Grants Emergency Use of Clothianidin to Combat Citrus Greening in Texas

To control the spread of citrus greening, EPA has granted emergency use of clothianidin in Texas for this year. This is the fourth year Texas has received this authorization.

Clothianidin controls the Asian Citrus Psyllid, the insect that transmits Huanglongbing or citrus greening disease. Citrus greening is considered the most serious citrus disease worldwide and has affected citrus-producing counties in Florida and California.

EPA determined that there were no effective alternative pesticides available for season-long protection of young citrus trees. EPA also concluded that an urgent, non-routine situation exists that would likely cause Texas citrus growers to experience significant economic losses.

EPA's risk assessments demonstrate no risks of concern for farmworkers and the public. Notably, concerning pollinator safety, uses may only take place after petal fall to minimize clothianidin exposure to pollinators.

Background:

Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) authorizes EPA to allow emergency exemptions for unregistered uses of pesticides to address emergency conditions. Under such an exemption, EPA allows limited use of the pesticide in defined geographic areas for a finite period of time once EPA confirms the situation meets the statutory definition of "emergency condition." More information is available at www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/pesticide-emergency-exemptions

Separate from this emergency use action, clothianidin, along with other neonicotinoids, is currently in EPA's registration review process. The comment period on the proposed interim decisions closed on May 4, 2020. EPA is now carefully reviewing the comments received.

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