Message

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Subject: Pesticides & Toxic Substances Law News for August 24, 2018

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Highlights

LEADING THE NEWS

EPA on Time Crunch to Release Drifting Dicamba Herbicide Decision

By Tiffany Stecker

The Environmental Protection Agency is under pressure to reapprove new uses of dicamba, a herbicide meant specifically for genetically engineered crops that has caused widespread problems when it drifts into neighboring farms.

Blue-Collar Workers 'Invisible' as EPA Critiques Chemicals

By Pat Rizzuto

Electricians, firefighters, roofers, plumbers, homeowners, and school maintenance workers are among those whose contact with asbestos—and other hazardous chemicals—the EPA plans to ignore, according to physicians and public health officials.

Nature Valley Drops '100% Natural' Claim After Pesticide Suit

By Deena Shanker

General Mills Inc.'s Nature Valley bars will no longer bear the "Made with 100% Natural Whole Grain Oats" label, after the company settled a lawsuit by consumer groups alleging the snack contained glyphosate—a pesticide better known as Roundup.

Roundup Cancer Verdict May Ignite 'Glyphosate-Free' Food Demand

By Lydia Mulvany and Megan Durisin

Consumers already pay a premium for foods labeled GMO-free. The next thing that shoppers could be shelling out for are foods free from pesticides—in particular, free from glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, Monsanto Co.'s bestselling weedkiller.

Bayer Has a $289 Million Roundup Headache

By Naomi Kresge, Aaron Kirchfeld and Klaus Wille

Last fall, as Bayer AG was completing its $66 billion merger with Monsanto Co., Werner Baumann, its chief executive, visited the concrete-slab Berlin complex where company scientists develop disease-fighting drugs. At an employee town hall meeting, Baumann asked whether staffers believed environmentalists' claims that the Monsanto weed killer Roundup causes cancer.

Bayer CEO Tries to Calm Nerves After $289 Million Roundup Award (1)

By Naomi Kresge

Bayer AG Chief Executive Officer Werner Baumann sought to soothe investors' worries after a $289 million jury award over the controversial weed-killer Roundup, saying the $66 billion purchase of Monsanto Co. still makes sense.

Chemical Groups Cite Duty Relief Bill at China Hearing

By Len Bracken

Congress is likely to suspend duties on upwards of one thousand chemicals, two industry representatives said Aug. 22 at a hearing reviewing China-specific tariffs.

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Critics Charge EPA's TSCA Data Guide Mirrors Controversial Science Rule

Environmentalists and other Trump administration critics are concerned that EPA's proposed approach for how it will gather and evaluate scientific information about chemicals under the revised Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) mirrors its controversial science transparency plan, which they say seeks to block studies that could drive stricter rules.

EPA Drops Plan To Weigh Responders' Asbestos Risk, Citing Legacy Use

EPA has dropped an early plan to consider risks of asbestos exposures to firefighters and other first responders due to its policy of excluding legacy uses from consideration for possible regulation under the revised toxics law, a move that is drawing protest from a group representing the workers and highlights the controversy around the policy decision.

GREENWIRE
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USDA

Government denies blame over cyanide trap that sprayed boy

Published: Thursday, August 23, 2018

The federal government denies it is responsible for any injuries caused when a cyanide predator-killing trap sprayed a 14-year-old boy in March 2017.

An Idaho family is seeking more than $150,000 after they say an M-44 ejector device mistakenly placed near their home injured their son, causing him to still have headaches.

In a court filing, the Department of Justice asked for the lawsuit to be tossed out, blaming negligence by the parents and child.

Canyon Mansfield was playing with his dog when the trap was triggered. The cyanide spray covered them both, killing the dog.

The devices are meant to kill coyotes.

The lawsuit alleges that Department of Agriculture employees were negligent in placing the trap. The government had decided to halt the use of the traps on public lands in Idaho a month before the incident (Keith Riddler, Associated Press, Aug. 22). **— NB**

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