Message

From: Sappington, Keith [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1C95ED87B01241A5ADDBE88FA4257F6C-KEITH G SAPPINGTON]
Sent: 11/6/2019 12:10:06 PM
To: Steeger, Thomas [Steeger.Thomas@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Press responses for your immediate review: BNV - Treated Seeds

Thank you Tom!

From: Steeger, Thomas <Steeger.Thomas@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 6:08 AM
To: Borges-Silva, Quentin <Borges-Silva.Quentin@epa.gov>; Sappington, Keith <Sappington.Keith@epa.gov>
Cc: Housenger, Justin <Housenger.Justin@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press responses for your immediate review: BNV - Treated Seeds

Relatively minor edits

From: Borges-Silva, Quentin <Borges-Silva.Quentin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2019 3:57 PM
To: Sappington, Keith <Sappington.Keith@epa.gov>
Cc: Housenger, Justin <Housenger.Justin@epa.gov>; Steeger, Thomas <Steeger.Thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press responses for your immediate review: BNV - Treated Seeds

Thanks Keith.

PRD is currently reviewing.

Tom and Justin, let me know if you concur or have additional comments. Please keep in mind OPA generally likes short responses in plain English and 3~4 sentences long.

Quentin Borges-Silva
EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs
"Protecting Human Health & the Environment"

From: Sappington, Keith <Sappington.Keith@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 3:10 PM
To: Borges-Silva, Quentin <Borges-Silva.Quentin@epa.gov>
Cc: Housenger, Justin <Housenger.Justin@epa.gov>; Steeger, Thomas <Steeger.Thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press responses for your immediate review: BNV - Treated Seeds

Hi Quentin:

#1-3 below are not in my wheelhouse (PRD issue). I've edited #4 and #5 a bit as shown.

I've cc'd my Branch Chief, Justin Housenger to keep him in the loop (please cc him on future requests). I've also cc'd Tom Steeger since he has more connection with seed treatment issue than I do. But again, I think that #1 -3 are in PRD's purview.

Best,

Keith

From: Borges-Silva, Quentin <Borges-Silva.Quentin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2019 1:55 PM
To: Sappington, Keith <Sappington.Keith@epa.gov>
Subject: Press responses for your immediate review: BNV - Treated Seeds
Importance: High

Hi Keith.

Please review and edit if necessary my draft responses below to this Bloomberg reporter. Connie Hernandez (FEAD) is reviewing concurrently in a separate thread, since she has the lead on the treated article petition. I'm also reaching out to PRD's neonic team.

This is due out of OCSPP IO around noon tomorrow, so please try to get your comments/concurrence back to me by 4pm today. If you can indicate EFED IO concurrence, too, that'd be helpful.

Thanks,

Quentin Borges-Silva
EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs
"Protecting Human Health & the Environment"

From: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 9:05 AM
To: OPP FEAD CSB <OPP_FEAD_CSB@epa.gov>; Dinkins, Darlene <Dinkins.Darlene@epa.gov>
Cc: Han, Kaythi <Han.Kaythi@epa.gov>; Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
Subject: OPP - BNV - Treated Seeds

BNV
ADAM ALLINGTON
DDL WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER

Good morning all,

Should we talk about how to handle this inquiry? Should we loop ORD in at any stage?

Thanks, R.

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Hello Robert,

I hope all is well at your end.

So, I'm been working on investigative story about EPA's regulation of pesticide seed treatments for awhile. I now am in a position where I can present you with a complete list of the questions I have. Given the complexity and the amount of questions I have, I would ideally like to conduct a phone interview, both so I have the chance to completely understand the nature of the answers, but also have an opportunity to ask individual follow ups questions based on the responses. AND also to ensure EPA has the chance to adequately defend any specific criticisms from other groups.

I think we could address most of these questions in a 15-20 minute phone call.

Some of the questions I have are as follows:

1. A number of scientists, and environmental groups say that treated seeds treated seeds fit the legal definition of and are explicitly marketed as pesticides, and therefore should be regulated under FIFRA. What is the Agencies position? Do treated seeds not meet the bar to be considered pesticides?

EPA response: Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

2. Has the dramatic increase in the use of pesticide coated seeds over the last decade indicate that it may be time to revisit the treated article exemption, which currently exempts treated seed from registration and labeling requirements?

EPA response: Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

3. Some also claim that pesticide-coated seeds possess unique pesticidal and environmental fate properties that must be regulated under FIFRA to ensure adequate protection of the environment and public health. If EPA disagrees, what steps have they taken to ensure adequate protections from the specific risks posed by seed-coatings?

EPA response: Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

4. There is an increasing body of scientific studies that are pointing to broader environmental impacts of from neonic-coated seeds (besides pollinators). Is this something that is concerning from a risk analysis POV? Is EPA factoring these new studies into the re-registration review for neonics?

EPA response: Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

5. Is there any concern that the massive use of treated seeds (particularly corn, soybeans and wheat) have led to the overuse of pesticides, and that this might exacerbate problems such as endangered species exposure, or weed resistance?

EPA response: **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Again, I know these aren't cut-and-dry type answers. If you'd prefer to answer each individual questions directly via email, that is fine with me. But, as I said, a phone call with the relevant subject matter expert seems like it might be the easiest. I'm shooting to have responses for this by COB on Wednesday.

Many thanks, Robert.

Best,
Adam

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Adam Allington
Chemicals and Pesticides Reporter

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