Message

From: Fitz, Nancy [Fitz.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/4/2021 7:29:03 PM
To: Lara, Rhina [Lara.Rhina@epa.gov]; Aubee, Catherine [Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov]; Leifer, Kerry [Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov]
CC: Echeverria, Marietta [Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry Help: E&E News, PFAS in Pesticide Packaging, DDL ASAP

Rhina,

I defer to Catherine and Kerry on this one. I'm just the container person. 😊

Nancy

From: Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>; Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>; Fitz, Nancy <Fitz.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Echeverria, Marietta <Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry Help: E&E News, PFAS in Pesticide Packaging, DDL ASAP

Yes, it's a tricky question. If we are good with Catherine's response, I can have OPPT look at it next before we move on to OGC review.

Is EPA aware of any current uses of PFAS in pesticides as inert ingredients? For example, are PFAS being used as propellants?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Best,
Rhina M. Lara *(she/her/hers)*
Communications Branch
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: (202) 815- 5722

From: Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>; Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>; Fitz, Nancy <Fitz.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Echeverria, Marietta <Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry Help: E&E News, PFAS in Pesticide Packaging, DDL ASAP

I think we need to loop in OPPT on the response and possibly update other Q&A's to better capture the nuances here. Suggestions below from previous drafts of desk statements, one-pagers, etc.

Is EPA aware of any current uses of PFAS in pesticides as inert ingredients? For example, are PFAS being used as propellants?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Best,
Catherine

From: Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2021 2:03 PM
To: Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>; Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>; Fitz, Nancy <Fitz.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Echeverria, Marietta <Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry Help: E&E News, PFAS in Pesticide Packaging, DDL ASAP
Importance: High

Hi Everyone,

I am back with another follow-up question from E&E. We are trying to get these answers to the reporters by 5:30pm, so trying to move quickly. Could you take a look at this answer, please? Also, I do need help with answering the propellant piece.

Is EPA aware of any current uses of PFAS in pesticides as inert ingredients? For example, are PFAS being used as propellants?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Best,
Rhina M. Lara *(she/her/hers)*
Communications Branch
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
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Phone: (202) 815- 5722

From: Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 2:09 PM
To: Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>; Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>; Fitz, Nancy <Fitz.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Echeverria, Marietta <Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry Help: E&E News, PFAS in Pesticide Packaging, DDL 12:30 PM

The nonfood database is part of OPPIN which is not available to the public.

_____
Kerry Leifer, Chief
Chemistry, Inerts and Toxicology Assessment Branch

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From: Lara, Rhina
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>; Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>; Fitz, Nancy <Fitz.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Echeverria, Marietta <Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry Help: E&E News, PFAS in Pesticide Packaging, DDL 12:30 PM

Hi Kerry and Catherine,

Slightly modified answers below. Let me know if these work. Do we have a link to the database with nonfood use approvals?

6. ***Regarding EPA's Inert Finder, are companies meant to use that as a baseline for what inert ingredients are permitted?***

The InertFinder is a tool for helping stakeholders determine which inert ingredients are approved (or not approved) for use in pesticide products. However, the Code of Federal Regulations remains the official source for regulatory information related to the use of inert ingredients in pesticide products used on food. In the case of nonfood use inert ingredients, the Office of Pesticide Programs maintains a database of nonfood use limitations and approvals.

7. ***Are there any PFAS listed in the finder? If so, how has EPA been able to rule them out as a potential source of the contamination?***

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Best,
Rhina M. Lara *(she/her/hers)*
Communications Branch
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Phone: (202) 815- 5722

From: Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:46 PM
To: Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>; Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>; Fitz, Nancy <Fitz.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Echeverria, Marietta <Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry Help: E&E News, PFAS in Pesticide Packaging, DDL 12:30 PM

Thanks, Kerry! For the second question, I would focus on the Inert Finder for the response. We have previously said that there are no registered pesticide ingredients (active or inert) that are similar to PFAS such as PFOS, etc. Inert Finder may contain legacy chemicals not currently approved for use in pesticide products. We recently received an inquiry with a list of chemicals of interest to a stakeholder and are in the process of evaluating those entries.

Best,
Catherine

From: Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:39 PM
To: Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>; Fitz, Nancy <Fitz.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Echeverria, Marietta <Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>; Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry Help: E&E News, PFAS in Pesticide Packaging, DDL 12:30 PM

Thank you, Kerry! I appreciate your input.
Best,
Rhina M. Lara *(she/her/hers)*
Communications Branch
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: (202) 815- 5722

From: Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>; Fitz, Nancy <Fitz.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Echeverria, Marietta <Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>; Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry Help: E&E News, PFAS in Pesticide Packaging, DDL 12:30 PM

Hi Rhina,

Here is some language for answering the two questions:

Q. Regarding EPA's Inert Finder, are companies meant to use that as a baseline for what inert ingredients are permitted?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Are there any PFAS listed in the finder? If so, how has EPA been able to rule them out as a potential source of the contamination?

EPA is in the process of evaluating whether there is actual use in registered pesticide formulations of any PFAS compound. Additionally, that evaluation will include a determination as to whether any PFAS inert ingredient (if actually used in pesticides) is the source of any product container contamination.

Kerry

Kerry Leifer, Chief
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From: Lara, Rhina
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:26 PM
To: Fitz, Nancy <Fitz.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry Help: E&E News, PFAS in Pesticide Packaging, DDL 12:30 PM

Thanks, Nancy! I'll await Kerry's response.

Best,
Rhina M. Lara *(she/her/hers)*
Communications Branch
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: (202) 815- 5722

From: Fitz, Nancy <Fitz.Nancy@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:56 AM
To: Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>
Cc: Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry Help: E&E News, PFAS in Pesticide Packaging, DDL 12:30 PM

Hi Rhina,

I defer to Kerry on both of these, since they specifically address inerts. He is in the RD management meeting now but hopefully will be able to address this soon.

Nancy

From: Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:16 AM
To: Fitz, Nancy <Fitz.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>

Subject: Press Inquiry Help: E&E News, PFAS in Pesticide Packaging, DDL 12:30 PM
Importance: High

Hi Nancy and Kerry,

We got a press inquiry from E&E News regarding the PFAS in pesticide packaging issue. Sorry for the quick turnaround, but we have to get an answer to the reporters by COB Wednesday. Could you please help with the following questions by **12:30 PM today**?

6. ***Regarding EPA's Inert Finder, are companies meant to use that as a baseline for what inert ingredients are permitted?***
7. ***Are there any PFAS listed in the finder? If so, how has EPA been able to rule them out as a potential source of the contamination?***

Best,
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