GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY
PROJECT

1612 K Street NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 457-0034
whistleblower.org

June 25, 2019

National Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW (2822T)
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Government Accountability Project (GAP) is writing to request, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, all communication and copies of records, including records of meetings, related to Provisia Rice and the herbicide Quizalofop-p-ethyl (also known as quizolafop, PC Code 128709) from July 1, 2017 to the present.

The trade name for the herbicide products registered for use on the Provisia™ Rice are Provisia™ Herbicide (Quizalofop-P-ethyl, EPA Reg. No. 33906-9-7969), and Quizalofop-P-Ethyl MUP Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 33906-10).
Thank you very much for your assistance.

If any of the material covered by this request has been destroyed or removed, please provide all surrounding documentation including, but not limited to, a description of the action taken regarding the materials and justification for those actions taken. For any documents or portions you deny due to a specific FOIA exemption, please provide a detailed justification of your grounds for claiming such exemption, explaining why the exemption is relevant to the document or portion of the document withheld.

The Government Accountability Project requests that all fees incurred in connection with this request be waived, because "disclosure of the information is in the public interest and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. §552 (a)(4)(A)(iii).

The Government Accountability Project consents to the deletion of any material that would violate an individual's rights under the Privacy Act. We will work with your office to prioritize responsive data for this request, further refine the request if you find any terms too imprecise, conduct searches for unclassified responsive records, or engage in any other reasonable activities that would lessen the agency's burden and costs.

The Requesters' Public Interest Status and History

GAP is a non-profit, non-partisan, public interest organization chartered under IRS Code §501 (C)(3) as a non-profit, educational, and charitable organization. We seek to serve the public through achieving governmental accountability by protecting and encouraging federal and corporate employees who observe or are victimized by wrongdoing, gross waste of public funds,

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threats to public health and safety, environmental contamination, corruption, abuse of the public trust, and other abuses of power.

GAP accomplishes these goals primarily by conducting advocacy campaigns before Congress, through the media, and for the general public and by providing legal representation to whistleblowers to combat the retaliation they have suffered in exercising their right of occupational free speech. Our twin aims are to promote corporate and government accountability and to expose, investigate, and correct substantive problems that formed the basis of protected whistleblowing disclosures. GAP's role is well-recognized by the courts and, as an organization, has informational standing under the First Amendment protecting its receipt of disclosed information. *Virginia Pharmacy Bd. v. Virginia Consumer Council*, 425 U.S. 748, 756-57 (1976); *Taylor v. Resolution Tr. Corp.*, 56 F.3d 1497 (D.C. Cir. 1995); *United States v. Garde*, 673 F. Supp. 604 (D.D.C. 1987).

GAP has a forty-year history of working in the public interest. GAP does not take individual cases based on the client's ability to pay, how much money GAP believes it can recover in legal fees through litigation, or any other commercial interest. Rather, GAP takes cases of legitimately harassed whistleblowers, often pro-bono (without charge), that further public policy or legislative changes that make the law stronger for workers who witness and choose to tell the truth about corporate and taxpayer-financed wrongdoing and to pursue exposure and resolution of the wrongdoing. It is through this work and with the help of whistleblowers that GAP has, among other things, pushed for enactment of several whistleblower protection statutes, exposed unhealthy food at supermarket chains, pushed for independent reviews of the safety of the Alaska pipeline, exposed the threat of explosion in waste tanks at the Hanford nuclear site, and pushed for policy reform within numerous executive agencies. All this activity is done primarily with the interest of the public in mind.

Disclosure of this information by GAP is in no way connected with any commercial interest since GAP is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under § 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code. The information we are seeking is crucial to advance public knowledge and will not be put to any commercial use.

Please be reminded that under the Freedom of Information Act, we are entitled to a response to this request within twenty working days. Should this request be denied for any reason, we ask that a detailed explanation be provided along with the name of the person to whom administrative appeals should be addressed.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Sarah Borron
Senior Program Officer, Food Integrity Campaign

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sarahb@whistleblower.org