**To:** Strauss, Linda[Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]; Cleland-Hamnett, Wendy[Cleland-Hamnett.Wendy@epa.gov]; Keigwin, Richard[Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov]
**Cc:** Jakob, Avivah[Jakob.Avivah@epa.gov]
**From:** Beck, Nancy
**Sent:** Mon 6/19/2017 9:10:32 PM
**Subject:** RE: LINDA ACTION: WSJ re: dicamba

Is this t **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

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Nancy B. Beck, Ph.D., DABT

Deputy Assistant Administrator, OCSPP

**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

beck.nancy@epa.gov


**From:** Strauss, Linda
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 3:44 PM
**To:** Cleland-Hamnett, Wendy <Cleland-Hamnett.Wendy@epa.gov>; Beck, Nancy <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>
**Subject:** FW: LINDA ACTION: WSJ re: dicamba

**From:** Jones, Enesta
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 3:41 PM
**To:** Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>
**Cc:** Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
**Subject:** LINDA ACTION: WSJ re: dicamba

Reporter: Jacob Bunge

DDL: 9 a.m.

I've been following another round of complaints to state agencies about alleged damage from drifting dicamba herbicide sprays, and I wanted to check in with you at the EPA. Last year the EPA had been investigating these complaints as part of a criminal investigation (Posting EPA's prior statement below), so I wanted to check on the outcome of that and any update on current investigations.

-Is the EPA continuing to investigate alleged misuse or misapplication of dicamba herbicide products, given the continued reports of drift damage, especially in Arkansas?

-What did EPA discover in its criminal investigation into these allegations last year? Has EPA developed any new policy or guidelines on dicamba use as a result of its findings?

-Is the EPA re-evaluating the federal labels for any dicamba herbicide products due to these damagereports?

https://www.epa.gov/compliance/compliance-advisory-high-number-complaints-related-alleged-misuse-dicamba-raises-concerns

**DESK STATEMENT**

EPA has executed federal search warrants at several locations in southeastern Missouri as part of an investigation into alleged misuse or misapplication of herbicide products containing Dicamba. EPA's investigation is ongoing and stems from widespread complaints of damage to various crops across Missouri and several other states in the Midwest and Southeast.

Special Agents of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division (EPA-CID) served federal search warrants during the week of October 10, 2016, at several locations in Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, New Madrid, and Stoddard counties of Missouri.
This activity is part of a continuing criminal investigation into alleged misuse or misapplication

of herbicide products containing Dicamba.

Since June 22, 2016, the Missouri Department of Agriculture has received more than 100 complaints of pesticide drift, believed to be related to herbicide use incidents, mostly within the four counties mentioned. The complaints allege damage to more than 41,000 acres of soybeans, and other crops including peaches, tomatoes, watermelons, cantaloupe, rice, purple-hull peas, peanuts, cotton and alfalfa; as well as to residential gardens, trees and shrubs.

Herbicide products containing Dicamba are registered for use in controlling broadleaf weeds and woody plants. Current allowable uses for Dicamba products are restricted to pre-plant and post-harvest burndown applications. Dicamba is a highly volatile herbicide that is prone to move off target by the way of drift or through vapor volatility.

In 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved the Dicamba-tolerant seed technology for cotton, soybean and corn in order to assist farmers in controlling Glyphosate-resistant weeds. The new technology formulations of Dicamba are supposed to reduce off target movement if used in accordance with the product labels. However, EPA has not yet approved the new Dicamba technology for use on the new Dicamba-tolerant crops.

The search warrants served by EPA-CID were issued by a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Cape Girardeau, and are for the expressed purpose of gathering evidence of possible violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and other federal crimes. After they are served, the search warrants and supporting affidavits and information will be returned to a U.S. Magistrate in U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri for public filing.

Persons with information about the misuse or misapplication of Dicamba are encouraged to provide tips to EPA-CID online at https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/report-environmental-violations.

For more information about Dicamba:

http://agriculture.mo.gov/plants/pesticides/dicamba-facts.php

https://www.epa.gov/compliance/compliance-advisory-high-number-complaints-related-alleged-misuse-dicamba-raises-concerns

**Enesta Jones**

**U.S. EPA**

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**"The root of all joy is gratefulness."**