UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 25 2017

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable John Moolenaar
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moolenaar:

Thank you for the letter of May 11, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding state emergency exemption requests for chlorothalonil on sugar beets.

The EPA makes a determination to approve a Section 18 emergency exemption if the situation meets the emergency pest criteria and when an overall safety finding can be made with respect to potential risks to human health and the environment from the proposed use. While the EPA shares your concerns on the importance for sugar beet growers to have safe, effective methods to control Cercsopora Leaf Spot (CLS), the agency is unable to make a reasonable certainty of no harm determination for the requested fungicide at this time, as mandated by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

The EPA is currently re-evaluating the safety of chlorothalonil as part of the statutorily-mandated registration review program. As part of this re-evaluation, in March 2012, the EPA identified several data gaps which preclude the agency from being able to make the required safety finding to set a tolerance for the use of chlorothalonil on sugar beets as required by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The registrants for chlorothalonil are in the process of generating the necessary data to support the continued registration of this fungicide.

In an effort to identify potential alternatives to meet the pest control needs of sugar beet growers, my staff are working with industry, state agriculture agencies and cooperative extension services to find safe and effective solutions to address CLS. On June 28, 2017, EPA staff met with sugar beet growers from the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association in North Dakota to tour a farm and discuss pest control problems. The EPA staff provided an update on the re-evaluation of chlorothalonil. The agency is committed to continuing our engagement with the sugar beet grower community to help find effective methods to control CLS.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Sven-Erik Kaiser in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov or at (202) 566-2753.

Sincerely,

Wendy Cleland-Hamnett
Acting Assistant Administrator

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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The Honorable Dan Kildee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kildee:

Thank you for the letter of May 11, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding emergency exemption requests for chlorothalonil on sugar beets.

The EPA makes a determination to approve a Section 18 emergency exemption if the situation meets the emergency pest criteria and when an overall safety finding can be made with respect to potential risks to human health and the environment from the proposed use. While the EPA shares your concerns on the importance for sugar beet growers to have safe, effective methods to control Cercsopora Leaf Spot (CLS), the agency is unable to make a reasonable certainty of no harm determination for the requested fungicide at this time, as mandated by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

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The Honorable Collin Peterson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Peterson:

Thank you for the letter of May 11, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding emergency exemption requests for chlorothalonil on sugar beets.

The EPA makes a determination to approve a Section 18 emergency exemption if the situation meets the emergency pest criteria and when an overall safety finding can be made with respect to potential risks to human health and the environment from the proposed use. While the EPA shares your concerns on the importance for sugar beet growers to have safe, effective methods to control Cercsopora Leaf Spot (CLS), the agency is unable to make a reasonable certainty of no harm determination for the requested fungicide at this time, as mandated by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

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Sincerely,

Wendy C. Hamnett

Wendy Cleland-Hamnett
Acting Assistant Administrator

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JUL 25 2017

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
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The Honorable Paul Mitchell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mitchell:

Thank you for the letter of May 11, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding emergency exemption requests for chlorothalonil on sugar beets.

The EPA makes a determination to approve a Section 18 emergency exemption if the situation meets the emergency pest criteria and when an overall safety finding can be made with respect to potential risks to human health and the environment from the proposed use. While the EPA shares your concerns on the importance for sugar beet growers to have safe, effective methods to control Cercsopora Leaf Spot (CLS), the agency is unable to make a reasonable certainty of no harm determination for the requested fungicide at this time, as mandated by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

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