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Atrazine EXPOSED Unsealed by the Court & Exposed by SourceWatch

The Triazine Network's activities are funded mainly by its non-profit members. Atrazine and simazine are important tools to them, and their participation in the Network is in the best interest of their constituents. Occasionally, Syngenta offers support to cover travel expenses for those groups whose financial limitations would prevent them from attending informational meetings.

Members of the Triazine Network include the American Farm Bureau Federation, American Soybean Association, American Agri-women, National Corn Growers Association, Kansas Corn Growers and Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers associations, Missouri Corn Growers, California Citrus Mutual, Hawaii Sugar Planters' Association, Northwest Horticultural Council, International Apple Institute, Iowa Farm Bureau and Michigan Farm Bureau, among others.

39. *Is atrazine an endocrine disrupter?*

We've seen effects on certain endocrine systems in one strain of female rat (Sprague Dawley), but EPA has since determined that this is not relevant to humans. We have not seen these effects in other species at concentrations found in the environment. In line with SAP's recommendation, EPA requested additional studies in the October IRED to determine atrazine's potential to affect gonadal development in frogs. In our opinion, neither humans nor ecosystems would be exposed to levels of atrazine that would cause adverse endocrine effects.

Furthermore, the following regulatory bodies have this to say about atrazine potential to be an endocrine disruptor:

"Atrazine is unlikely to be an endocrine disruptor in humans based on the known mechanism of action in Sprague Dawley rats."

Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority, 2004

"EPA does not agree that available frog research emphatically shows the effects of atrazine on the frog endocrine system and thus the likelihood of similar outcomes in humans."

*Anne Lindsay, Deputy Director, Office of Pesticide Programs
US Environmental Protection Agency, March 2005*

40. *Why was atrazine recently nominated for review and possible inclusion on the National Toxicology Program 12th Report on Carcinogens?*

We're not sure, because EPA has already reviewed multiple studies

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on this topic and convened two Scientific Advisory Panel meetings, all confirming that atrazine is "not likely to be a human carcinogen."

In a letter dated July 19, 2004, EPA recommends that atrazine be removed from the NTP nomination list. To quote: "EPA's opinion is that there would be no merit in NTP separately considering the cancer classification of atrazine..."

On October 18, 2005, the Federal Register reported that atrazine will not be reviewed in the NTP's 12th Report on Carcinogens. Instead, any review of the atrazine nomination has been "deferred" until the 13th RoC.

41. *How much did Syngenta spend on all atrazine-related research during the duration of the special review (1994-2003)? About how many in-house scientists have worked on it?*

In the 10 years since the beginning of the Special Review, Syngenta has totally updated the database for atrazine at a cost of more than \$30 million. This figure is in line with any product requiring an updated risk assessment. This included basic research in emerging areas of science that we hope will improve safety testing for all pesticides.

Regarding the number of scientists involved, we devote the time necessary to support the registration or re-registration of our products. A core group of about 10 scientists (out of approx. 250) have consistently worked on the atrazine re-registration, supported by dozens of others who have worked on various studies as needed over the years.

Atrazine is one of 65 active ingredients in the Syngenta portfolio.

42. *Aren't federally-designated endangered species at particular risk from exposure to atrazine?*

There is no scientific evidence to support that atrazine use has any adverse effect on endangered species. Syngenta supports the full protection of endangered species. We are a participating member of the FIFRA endangered species task force, which is working in cooperation with the EPA and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to evaluate potential risk to endangered species. This program provides an effective means of assuring that atrazine and other crop protection products do not put endangered species at additional risk.