

# INDUSTRY TASK FORCE II ON 2,4-D RESEARCH DATA

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## News Statement

### **EPA SAYS NO SPECIAL REVIEW OF 2,4-D NEEDED AFTER YEARS OF RESEARCH DATA PROVE IT'S NOT A HUMAN CARCINOGEN**

*(Washington, DC, August 9, 2007)* – Following its recent decision to reregister 2,4-dichloro-phenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) yesterday announced its Decision Not to Initiate a Special Review 2,4-D.

EPA's decision states: "Because the Agency has determined that the existing data do not support a conclusion that links human cancer to 2,4-D exposure, it has decided not to initiate a Special Review of 2,4-D, 2,4-DB and 2,4-DP."

EPA first considered Special Review for 2,4-D in 1986, and after more than 21 years of research and agency review, EPA was able to determine that no correlation exists between 2,4-D and human cancer.

"Based on extensive scientific review of many epidemiology and animal studies, the Agency finds that the weight of the evidence does not support a conclusion that 2,4-D, 2,4-DB and 2,4-DP are likely human carcinogens," according to a notice released by EPA. The herbicides 2,4-DB and 2,4-DP were considered for Special Review based solely on their similarity for 2,4-D.

"The impact of this decision should not be understated," said Jack Dutra, executive director of the Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data. "Today EPA definitively stated that 2,4-D is not a human carcinogen. This has been one of the most widely used and successful herbicides in history, and growers around the U.S. and the world will continue to use it with confidence."

Since 1989, the Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data developed and submitted to EPA over 300 Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) toxicology, environmental and residue studies which EPA scientists reviewed to assess the herbicide's safety under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA).

The Industry Task Force II will develop studies required by EPA's reregistration review of 2,4-D, most of which are being required of all pesticides.

2,4-D is commonly applied to a variety of crops such as wheat, corn, rice, soybeans, potatoes, sugar cane, pome fruits, stone fruits and nuts. It controls invasive species in aquatic and federally protected areas and broadleaf weeds in turf grass. An economic evaluation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (NAPIAP Report 1-PA-96) concluded that the loss of 2, 4-D would cost the U.S. economy \$1.7 billion annually in higher food production and weed control expenses.

To learn more about 2,4-D visit <http://www.24d.org> or call 1-800-345-5109.

Full text of EPA's decision may be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2007/August/Day-08/p15109.htm>

### **About the Task Force**

The Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data was formed, as allowed under U.S. pesticide laws, to fund the new research required by both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency under their current pesticide re-registration/re-evaluation programs. The Task Force does not conduct any research, it simply must fund it. The actual research, under both U.S. and Canadian law, must be done by GLP qualified laboratories. The current companies making up the Task Force are Dow AgroSciences (U.S.), Nufarm Ltd. (Australia) and Agro-Gor Corp., a U.S. corporation jointly owned by Atanor, S.A. (Argentina) and PBI-Gordon Corp. (U.S.).

## **Highlights of 2,4-D Herbicide's 62-year History**

- 1945 – U.S. Patent No 2,390,941 is issued for 2,4-D to plant physiologist Dr. Franklin D. Jones of the American Chemical Paint Company.
- 1947 – 2,4-D is registered for use in the United States on crops and turf grass.
- 1950 – 14 million pounds of 2,4-D produced.
- 1964 – 54 million pounds of 2,4-D produced as farmers and homeowners alike discover the benefits of effective weed control. Studies at the time found that weeds typically destroyed 30 – 35 percent of crop yields.
- 1970 – Plant scientists continue to find new uses for 2,4-D in protecting crops, such as plant growth regulator on potatoes and weed control for blueberries, cranberries, raspberries and strawberries.
- 1980 – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiates assessment for a toxicology review of 2,4-D.
- 1986 – EPA issues preliminary notification of Special Review.
- 1988 – Beginning of reregistration data development by the 2,4-D Task Force and review by EPA.
- 1996 – World Health Organization completes its toxicological review of 2,4-D and determines the compound does not present a risk to human health.
- 2001 – European Commission completes its toxicological and environmental assessment of 2,4-D and states "...that the plant protection products containing 2,4-D will fulfill the safety requirements laid down in the Directive 91/414/EEC."
- 2004 – The Henry Ford organization in Dearborn, Michigan declares 2,4-D one of the 75 most important innovations in the previous 75 years.
- 2005 – EPA releases 2,4-D Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED). EPA's review of human health and environmental data concludes there is no additional evidence that would implicate 2,4-D as a cause of cancer and it does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health when product instructions are followed.
- 2007 – EPA determines the existing data do not support a conclusion that links human cancer to 2,4-D exposure and issues "Decision Not to Initiate a Special Review" after more than 21 years of research and agency review.