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Subject: EPA Seeks State Gov Comments on Data Collection For Fish Kills, Other Pesticide Poisonings

Courtesy of Audrey Moore, US EPA Region 2

Pesticides: EPA Seeks Comments on Data Collection For Fish Kills, Other Pesticide Poisonings

The Environmental Protection Agency is requesting State government comments on a **new agency survey designed to collect more precise data on pesticide poisonings of animals including bird kills, fish kills, and other incidents as well as incidents in which plant species are harmed by spray drift.**

As proposed, the data would be collected each year from state agricultural and other offices that regularly investigate such occurrences and are responsible for logging them on incident reports, EPA said in the notice. The agency will **extract the data from those agencies and store it in its Ecological Incident Information System,** a national database maintained by the Environmental Fate and Effects Division of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, according to the notice.

Such information on the field effects of pesticides helps the agency both in its **development of ecological risk assessments and in making decisions on the regulation of certain pesticides**, according to the notice. Systematically collecting the data from various states also helps avoid bias in the development of those risk assessments were they to be drawn from reports of pesticide poisoning from a single location or from single incidents, agency said.

EPA conducts ecological risk assessments to determine the likelihood that exposure to a pesticide or pesticides will result in harmful ecological effects. Those effects can be direct, such as when fish are killed from a pesticide entering a waterway, or indirect, such as when a bird becomes ill after eating a rodent that is already sick from pesticide poisoning.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, EPA's proposed data collection must be approved by the White House Office of Management and Budget to ensure that its burden on surveyed companies, state agencies, or the public are minimized. EPA estimates the annual paperwork burden at 264 hours for its data collection, with a total of 75 potential respondents.

Comments should be submitted to the EPA Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Mailcode 7502C, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460 or electronically to http://www.epa.gov/edocket. Both should reference Docket ID ORD-2003-0241.

For more information, contact Nancy Vogel of OPP's
Field and External Affairs Division at (703) 305-6475
or by e-mail at vogel.nancy@epa.gov

See also Federal Register posting @ http://www.epa.gov/fedreg/EPA-PEST/2004/January/Day-14/index.html
[Federal Register: January 14, 2004 (Volume 69, Number 9)][Notices][Page 2136-2139]

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