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Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2003 1:38 PM
Subject: Comparative Ecological Assessment for Nine Rodenticides for Comment

Action: EPA has announced the availability of the preliminary comparative ecological assessment for nine rodenticides as follows:

1. brodifacoum,
2. bromadiolone,
3. bromethalin,
4. chlorophacinone,
5. diphacinone,
6. zinc phosphide,
7. warfarin,
8. difethialone, and
9. cholecalciferol (Vitamin D3).

This also starts a 60-day public comment period for the document. You may review the **Potential Risks of Nine**

Rodenticides to Birds and Nontarget Mammals: a Comparative Approach and the supporting documents in EPA's electronic docket @ http://cascade.epa.gov/RightSite/dk_public_home.htm; select 'view open dockets ' and scroll to docket number [OPP-2002-0049](#). Comments must be received by EPA on or before March 31, 2003.

Background: All 9 rodenticides above are available to the public "over the counter" as grain-based food baits for control of commensal rats and mice, including the Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), roof rat (*R. rattus*), and house mouse (*Mus musculus*). They are labeled for use in and around buildings, transport vehicles, and inside sewers. Further, some (mainly zinc phosphide, chlorophacinone, and diphacinone) also have products registered for other outdoor uses against other rodent and small mammalian pests.

After a Rodenticide Cluster Registration Eligibility Document (RED) was released in 1998, a group formed the Rodenticide Registrants Task Force (RRTF). With the EPA, this group addresses issues of shared concern regarding the evaluation and use of rodenticides. This has included participation in meetings and review of documents released by EPA on related issues. Response to comments are included in the E-docket (see below).

The central purpose of the assessment was to evaluate each of the nine rodenticides and rank them in terms of potential primary, secondary, and overall risk to non-targets to determine if risk reduction measures are indicated. EPA provides in the Conclusion to the document: *'Rodenticide baits are not selective to the target species. Some baits pose a greater hazard than others, but all rodenticides pose a risk to small nontarget mammals that eat bait, and many pose a potential risk to mammals that prey or scavenge dead or dying rodents that have eaten bait.'* More detailed conclusions, uncertainty, and data needs are discussed here as well.

Source: [Federal Register: January 29, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 19)][Notices][Page 4468-4470]; Docket [OPP-2002-0049](#).

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