

EIR - LBAM Comments

Tuesday, September 22, 2009 7:35 PM

From: "kate bernier" <healthyberkeley@yahoo.com>
To: "Jim Rains" <jrains@cdfa.ca.gov>, "EIR" <LBAM_EIR@cdfa.ca.gov>

At the EIR scoping session I left the Committee with 1000 peer reviewed abstracts from the National Institute of Health linking benzene to cancer. See: http://www.frankmckinnon.com/benzene_casrn.htm.

I submitted these studies because the 'Checkmate' pesticide spray contains benzene molecules. 'Checkmate' is no longer being considered for the LBAM. Two of 'Checkmate's' replacements under consideration, 'Spinosad' & 'Permethrin,' also contain benzene molecules. I believe the issue of benzene toxicity I presented was not addressed in the EIR scoping draft. Neither was the issue of significant water use for the spray application.

Veterans' compensation benefits are finally, after long litigation, being made available to the 2.6 million service men and women who were exposed to the 'Agent Orange' defoliant in Vietnam during the years of 1962 thru 1975. 'Agent Orange' contains benzene. Is the State of California ready to assume such a compensation burden? See: <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide/aono1.htm>

Btk is also under consideration as a 'Checkmate' substitute. This Bt variant may also pose risks, given "Bt can easily take up an anthrax plasmid and create anthrax-related disease," and "gene exchange could occur in the soil between [biotech] plant debris and bacteria."

Is the LBAM really so bad as to warrant all this trouble?

Yours Truly,

Kate Bernier

LBAM,CDFA and future litigation

Friday, September 25, 2009, 2:57 PM

From: kate bernier <healthyberkeley@yahoo.com>
To: jrains@cdfa.ca.gov, LBAM_EIR@cdfa.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Rains,

Recent research from Dr. Michael Skinner of the University of Washington (see Skinner Laboratory: NIEHS abstract) has found that pesticide exposure can, in humans, produce transgenerational epigenome changes that are capable of influencing disease onset for at least 2 to 3 future generations, with no additional pesticide exposure.

The U.S. Veterans Administration is at long last assuming fiscal responsibility for illnesses brought on by exposure to 'Agent Orange' during the Vietnam War. Is the CDFA willing to take on comparable ethical and fiscal liability for the controversial LBAM spray program?

Yours truly,

Kate Bernier
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