



California Notice 2011-04

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
PERTAINING TO
HEXAZINONE DETECTIONS IN GROUND WATER**

**June 7, 2011 – 9:00 am
California Environmental Protection Agency
Sierra Hearing Room
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814**

BACKGROUND

The 1985 Pesticide Contamination Prevention Act (PCPA) is intended to prevent pollution of ground water by the agricultural use of pesticides and requires the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to conduct ground water monitoring (Assembly Bill 2021, Food and Agricultural Code sections 13141 through 13152). If a pesticide is detected in ground water, DPR is required to determine if the detection was the result of legal agricultural use (i.e., applications made according to the label). Once DPR determines that a pesticide detected in ground water is the result of legal agricultural use, the PCPA describes a well-defined process to evaluate if continued use should be allowed, and if so, under what conditions. This evaluation process begins when DPR notifies all registrants of agricultural use products containing the detected pesticide active ingredient. Registrants are provided the opportunity to request a hearing in response to the notification. If the registrants do not request a hearing, the agricultural use product registrations are subject to cancellation.

Hexazinone residues have been found in California's ground water. DPR determined that the source of these detections was predominantly from legal use of this pesticide on alfalfa. At the request of the registrants of hexazinone products, DPR held a public hearing on May 9, 2011, to gather information about the continued agricultural use of hexazinone. At this hearing, the registrant presented oral testimony regarding use of hexazinone in agriculture, toxicology of hexazinone, economic considerations, and effectiveness of alternative products. Members of the public also gave testimony. In addition, written documents and comments were submitted to DPR regarding continued use of hexazinone. Written public comments were accepted both prior to, and following, the May 9, 2011, hearing. The public comment period was closed on May 24, 2011. Information submitted to DPR by the registrants and the public is available to view or download at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/grndwtr/hexazinone.htm>.



PURPOSE

The purpose of the June 7, 2011, public meeting is to hear additional information from state scientists about hexazinone use patterns, toxicology, alternatives, and mitigation options, to determine if agricultural use of hexazinone should continue, and if so, under what conditions. The PCPA calls for a formal review of evidence by a subcommittee of DPR's Pesticide Registration and Evaluation Committee. The three-member subcommittee acts in an advisory capacity to DPR's Director and consists of one representative each from DPR, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the State Water Resources Control Board. The subcommittee reviews documented evidence presented and submitted by the registrant, state scientists, and others in order to determine whether:

- 1) The ingredient found in ground water has not polluted, and does not threaten to pollute, the ground water of the state.
- 2) The agricultural use of the pesticide can be modified so that there is a high probability that the pesticide would not pollute the ground water of the state.
- 3) Modification of the agricultural use of the pesticide or cancellation of the pesticide will cause severe economic hardship on the state's agricultural industry, and that no alternative products or practices can be effectively used so that there is a high probability that pollution of the ground water of the state will not occur.

The subcommittee will make any of the above findings and recommendations within 90 days of the May 9, 2011, hearing. The Director will issue a decision regarding the continued agricultural use of the pesticide within 30 days of the submission of the subcommittee's reported findings. If none of the above findings are made, the product registrations may be subject to cancellation.

MEETING AGENDA

1. Opening remarks
2. Toxicology
3. Hexazinone agricultural use product labels
4. Hexazinone detections, use patterns, and co-occurrence with other pesticides
5. Mitigation options and modeling
6. Hexazinone alternatives

The public is invited to attend this meeting; however, public testimony will not be taken. In addition, questions for the presenters will be limited to subcommittee members. This meeting will also be Webcast live to the public and can be viewed by selecting the appropriate link at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast/>. Information presented at the meeting will be available on the DPR Web site at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/grndwtr/hexazinone.htm> within a few days after the meeting.

PARKING

A parking garage between “I” and “J” Streets, with entrances on both 10th Street and 11th Street, is located across from the Cal/EPA building. Metered parking spaces are also available in the vicinity of the building. For a map and additional information, refer to the Cal/EPA Web site at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPAbldg/Location.htm>.

If you have any questions regarding the June 7, 2011, meeting, please contact Ms. Ann Hanger, Staff Environmental Scientist, by e-mail at ahanger@cdpr.ca.gov or by telephone at 916-324-3535.

Original signed by

May 26, 2011

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Date

cc: Ms. Ann Hanger, Staff Environmental Scientist