



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL  
DIRECTOR

June 28, 2019

Richard P. Keigwin, Jr.  
Director of Office of Pesticide Programs  
USEPA Headquarters  
William Jefferson Clinton Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, DC 20460

SUBJECT: Proposed Changes to 24(c) Registration Review Policy

Dear Mr. Keigwin:

This letter is in response to the notification posted on the Guidance on FIFRA 24(c) Registrations website on 03/19/19, under: *Important Information on Requests Under FIFRA 24(c)*. According to the notification, EPA is now re-evaluating its approach to reviewing registrations issued by State Lead Agencies (SLAs) under FIFRA Section 24(c) and the circumstances under which it will exercise its authority to disapprove those registrations.

Clearly this proposed change in long-standing policy results from some states issuing 24(c) registrations with cut-off dates and other use restrictions for dicamba products labeled for over-the-top applications to genetically modified soybeans and cotton. Ironically, dicamba is a perfect example of how more restrictive 24(c) registrations can be used in a way that benefits growers, the public, and the environment. Specifically, the restrictive 24(c) labels issued by some states allow growers to maintain a tool critical to controlling resistant weeds while at the same time allowing the SLAs to mitigate potential risks to human health and the environment.

For nearly 30 years, SLAs have successfully issued hundreds of 24(c) registrations of all types and manner. And, for nearly 30 years, EPA has supported its regulatory partners by not disapproving more restrictive 24(c) registrations. Deviating from this established and successful policy will likely result in losses to growers as SLAs could be compelled to cancel or deny registrations when risks from certain products like dicamba can't be adequately managed through 24(c) registrations.

On behalf of the SLAs in EPA Region 5, I ask that the Agency maintain its historical interpretation that more restrictive 24(c) registrations are appropriate and within the scope

of FIFRA. A flexible 24(c) process is very important to SLAs as it not only allows us to help growers manage unique pest problems, but also provides options for managing risks.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration on this matter. If you have any questions or would like additional information from the Region 5 SLAs, feel free to contact me by phone at (517) 284-5655, or by email at [verhougstraeteb@michigan.gov](mailto:verhougstraeteb@michigan.gov).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Verhougstraete', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Verhougstraete,  
Region 5 SFIREG Representative  
MDARD

Cc: Dave Scott, Office of the Indiana State Chemist  
Roger Mackedanz, Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
Matt Beal, Ohio Department of Agriculture  
Lori Bowman, Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection  
Rose Kachadoorian, AAPCO  
Julie Magee, EPA Region 5