UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 3 1 2011

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

Thank you for your letter of December 22, 2010, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson. I appreciate the opportunity to respond on behalf of the Administrator since my office is responsible for regulating pesticides. In response to your request that EPA accelerate its efforts to re-assess triclosan, I can report that we are currently involved in several key efforts that will ensure our review is timely, scientifically sound, and transparent with appropriate public participation.

On January 14, 2010, Beyond Pesticides and Food and Water Watch submitted a petition to EPA requesting that the Agency use its authority under various statutes to regulate triclosan. In response to the petition, EPA published a Federal Register Notice (FR Vol. 75, No. 235, December 8, 2010) seeking review and public comment. The same organizations also filed a related petition with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). EPA and FDA are collaborating and sharing information on our respective triclosan activities, including FDA's ongoing development of its topical antimicrobial over-the-counter (OTC) drug monograph, and we intend to do so throughout the petition response process as well.

As mentioned in our letter to you dated March 5, 2010, EPA is in the process of updating the human exposure assessment for triclosan using the most current National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) data. These data, the NHANES 2007-2008 data set, were not available during the 2008 assessment, and will be used to provide the most current and comprehensive accounting for all sources of exposure to triclosan. This activity will allow us to be well prepared for registration review of triclosan in 2013.

Additional preparation for the upcoming registration review of triclosan includes a comprehensive review of the available data on the occurrence of triclosan in the environment, including its presence in soil and water, is being initiated in order to update our assessment of the effects of triclosan on fish and other wildlife.

These activities reflect our ongoing evaluation of the science concerning triclosan and provide an overview of much of the work conducted over the past 12 months. In response to your request, I am also providing a summarized listing of all the research activities and steps taken to contribute to EPA's review of triclosan:

- Since the 2008 reregistration eligibility decision in which EPA concluded that there were potential effects of triclosan on the thyroid hormone system and estrogen hormone system in laboratory rats, EPA has expanded research investigations into these potential endocrine effects of triclosan.
- EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) has published research reporting the effects of triclosan on the thyroid hormone system in laboratory rats (Zorilla *et al.*, 2009; Paul *et al.*, 2010).
- ORD research (Stoker *et al.*, 2010) also reported results of the investigation of triclosan's effect on estrogen hormones using the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program (EDSP) uterotrophic assay protocol.
- EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) continues to collaborate with ORD to investigate the effects of triclosan on mammalian endocrine systems.
- ORD and OPP will complete research and analysis on the effect of triclosan on estrogen hormone systems by the end of 2011.
- A toxicological evaluation and dose response analysis of the thyroid hormone data from ORD has been conducted by OPP. OPP is in the process of finalizing the analysis and combining the results of this latest research on thyroid effects with the latest NHANES analysis to form the basis for a revised human health assessment for triclosan.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Mr. Sven-Erik Kaiser in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at 202-566-2753.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Owens
Assistant Administrator