



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

AUG 12 1992

OFFICE OF
PESTICIDES AND TOXIC
SUBSTANCES

Charles G. Keefer
Director, Regulatory Affairs
Sandoz Agro, Inc.
1300 East Touhy Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

SUBJECT: Voluntary Cancellation of Methazole Products

Dear Mr. Keefer,

This letter is in response to your request, dated May 18, 1992, for voluntary cancellation of Sandoz registered pesticide products containing the active ingredient methazole. I am hereby notifying you that the Agency is accepting your request to cancel the two remaining methazole products. They are a 95% technical formulation (EPA Registration Number 55947-22) and a 75% wettable powder formulation (EPA Registration Number 55947-23).

The Agency is accepting your cancellation request and is waiving the 90-day comment period usually associated with voluntary cancellations. The decision not to allow the 90-day comment period is based on results of the Agency's review of recent 6(a)(2) data submitted by you. Review of that data indicates that the use of products containing methazole may pose unreasonable adverse effects to the environment. The Agency has conducted a risk assessment and calculated margin of exposure values which suggest that unreasonable risks may be posed to workers exposed to methazole. In addition, there are efficacious, cost-effective alternatives available in the marketplace.

Because your products are now cancelled, continued sale or distribution of these products is a violation of FIFRA section 12(a)(1)(A). We will soon issue a cancellation order which will establish provisions controlling the disposition

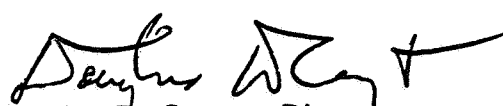


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of existing stocks of these products. To establish acceptable provisions for dealing with existing stocks of methazole, my staff will be contacting you shortly to arrange a meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Jack Housenger of my staff at (703) 308-8163.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas D. Campt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Douglas D. Campt, Director
Office of Pesticide Programs