



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

Caswell

346

SEP 29 1987

OFFICE OF  
PESTICIDES AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation Between Theodore Taylor of the North Carolina Department of Health and William B. Greear of the Toxicology Branch Regarding Hartz Mountain Corporation's "Blockade Flea and Tick Spray"

FROM: William B. Greear, M.P.H. *William B. Greear 9/25/87*  
Section VII, Toxicology Branch  
Hazard Evaluation Division (TS-769C)

TO: Toxicology Caswell Files #77A and #346

*#BIC 9/28/87*

Dr. Theodore Taylor of the North Carolina Department of Health called on September 4, 1987 to discuss the problems that have erupted recently due to Blockade, a newly developed flea and tick spray that contains fenvalerate and Deet. Dr. Taylor wanted to discuss some aspects of the toxicological effects of fenvalerate. Prior to the telephone conversation he had obtained subchronic data on fenvalerate. He calculated that a 7 oz can of Blockade would expose cats to the LEL obtained in a subchronic rat study. The LEL was based on neurological signs. He then queried whether fenvalerate was a real neurotoxic agent that could similarly affect humans. I stated that it was neurotoxic but did not compare with the neurotoxicity associated with TOCP or leptophos. I also indicated that we had received a number of human accident reports associated with the alpha-cyano pyrethroids fluvalinate and fenvalerate. These two pesticides produced skin sensory effects and nose and throat irritation.

Dr. Taylor then indicated that they had been swamped with complaints concerning the adverse effects of Blockade on pets. As a result, he wanted to send out a survey to those persons who complained in order to obtain information on possible adverse effects on humans. [Dr. Taylor is an epidemiologist with the North Carolina Department of Health.] I stated that it might be a project that could provide useful

-2-

information and indicated that I would be interested in the results. Dr. Taylor was also interested in whether or not EPA intended to remove the formulation from the market. I stated that I was not aware that EPA was in fact considering the option, but I would investigate and let him know. He thanked me and the telephone conversation of September 9, 1987 ended.

cc: B.T. Backus

2