



IPP

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY • LOS ANGELES

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July 30, 2004

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Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB) (7502C)  
Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP)  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.  
Washington, DC 20460-0001  
Attention: Docket ID Number OPP-2004- 0159

RECEIVED  
AUG - 5 2004  
OPP PUBLIC DOCKET  
postmark 7/30/04

Dear Sir or Madam:

Physicians for Social Responsibility- Los Angeles urge you to not reregister Metam sodium. We represent over 800 physicians in Southern California for the last five years our environmental health program staff have been working with physicians to educate them on the acute and chronic impacts of pesticides, we also work with communities impacted by pesticide drift.

Metam sodium is a developmental toxicant and probable carcinogen. When combined with water in the soil, it breaks down into MITC (a highly toxic and volatile chemical) and gases that are extremely irritant to the eyes and respiratory system, including methyl isocyanate - the gas that killed tens of thousands of people in Bhopal, India after a chemical plant leak in 1984. Exposure to these breakdown chemicals may both cause and exacerbate asthma and other respiratory problems.

Metam Sodium has been responsible for a number of major poisonings since 1999, including two mass community poisonings: in November, 1999, 173 residents were poisoned in Earlimart, Tulare County and over 260 residents of Arvin, Kern County were poisoned in July, 2002.

We strongly encourage the EPA to protect public health and the communities living on the fence line of agricultural fields by not reregistering this highly toxic pesticide.

Martha Dina Arguello  
Director Health and Environment Programs  
Physicians for Social Responsibility



Soy Based Ink  
Chlorine Free Paper



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