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Atrazine EXPOSED Unsealed by the Court & Exposed by SourceWatch

From: Josh Gilder [joshgilder@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2009 8:05 AM
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Subject: Duhigg -- ****Privileged and confidential. Attorney work product. Prepared at the request of counsel.****

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All: I believe Duhigg's interview on NPR represents the new line of attack on atrazine, and just as the other side has been getting its organizational duck in a row, they have advanced their message in a way that will require a certain amount of catching up on our part. This advanced message is that "new science" suggests that exposure to even infinitesimal amounts of atz, measured in ppb, at critical points in a pregnancy can cause birth defects or premature birth for a few members of the population. This renders past EPA decisions less compelling, as this is "new science." It is also clearly an end run around our 1000-fold safety margin. It doesn't invalidate either point, which we should continue to drive home, but it means that we need to develop good counter arguments.

I suspect these counter arguments will focus on the dubiousness of "new science" and the epidemiological studies which have shown an absence of health effects among farmers and the population at large. On the latter point, however, Tim said that the large scale agricultural survey is under a lot of pressure to find some epidemiological evidence against atz.

In the short term (in the run up to the Nov. SAP) we need to meet with Tim over the phone to get our arms around the "new science" and develop arguments for the op-eds and talking points surrounding the event. Then we need to brief allies, such as Elisabeth Whelan and Gil Ross, on the new angle of attack and how to respond. In the longer term, we need to prepare for what we do when the ag survey comes out. Otherwise we'll be continuing to lay catch up.

We're going to try to organize the call soon.

Best, Josh

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