

Regulatory Status of Soil Fumigants

James Jones, Director
Office of Pesticide Programs
US Environmental Protection Agency

Status of Methyl Bromide Alternatives for Pre-plant

- No pure “drop-in” replacement available.
- Research strategies of USDA/EPA Methyl Bromide Alternatives Workgroup offer some interim approaches
 - short run: metam sodium + telone + chloropicrin; telone + chloropicrin + pebulate
 - long run: new active ingredients

Registration Actions to Date

- 1999 - glyphosate for orchard replant
- 1999 – pebulate for tomato transplant
- 2001 – telone inline (drip irrigation)
- 2001 – halosulfuron-methyl for melons
- 2002 – halosulfuron-methyl for fruiting vegetables
- 2002 terrazole for tobacco float bed use

*Agency recognizes replacement limitations of each

Registration Actions to Date

(continued)

- 2003 telone amendment to reduce buffers from 300 feet to 100 feet
- 2003 – telone amendment to reduce PPE requirements with use of Yetter rig
- 2003 – trifloxysulfuron methyl for tomatoes
- 2003 – s-metolachlor for tomatoes

*Agency recognizes replacement limitations of each.

Telone Status

- Only fumigant that has completed reregistration – RED issued December '98
- Drip irrigation works better in CA loamy soil than FL sandy soil
- Faces CA township cap restrictions in some strawberry producing areas
- FL shank-in application performs best

Telone Status (continued)

- Issues with large buffers and excessive PPE requirements have been addressed
- Label issue prohibiting use “in areas overlying karst geology” is under consideration
- Mechanistic data submitted 4/03 to rebut carcinogenicity conclusions in RED

Iodomethane Status

- Potential quasi “drop-in” replacement from efficacy perspective for limited crops it has been tested on
- Application submitted 02/02
- Agency & registrant are trying to work through science/regulatory issues

Other New Pesticides on Horizon

- **Conventional Pesticides**
 - Fosthiazate – possible fall decision
 - Furfural – on FY04 Draft Workplan
 - Sodium azide – application not submitted yet
- **Biopesticide – diallyl sulfide registered to control sclerotinia fungus**

Reregistration Status of Methyl Bromide

- RED scheduled for FY 2005
- Will go through 6-phase public participation process

Tentative MeBr RED Schedule

- Phase 1 – Error Correction **June 2004**
- Phase 2 – EPA Error Review **July 2004**
- Phase 3 – Public Comment Period **Oct-Nov 2004**
- Phase 4 – EPA Comment Review &
Develop Risk Reduction Proposal **Dec 04-Feb 05**
- Phase 5 – Public Comment Period **Mar-April 2005**
- Phase 6 – Risk Mitigation Proposal
Development **May-June 2005**

Methyl Bromide Restrictions

- Phase out by 2005 – Clean Air Act and Montreal Protocol
- Nationwide, 2003 use down to 30% of 1991 amount
- U.S. nominated continued use under critical use exemptions (CUE)
- CUEs represent about current level of use in U.S.
- Use allowed under CUEs subject to reregistration of MeBr
- Later colleague presentations will detail CUE process.

Reregistration Status of Metam Sodium

- **RED scheduled for FY 2005**
- **NRDC Consent Decree requires completion of revised risk assessments by 8/31/04.**

Tentative Metam RED Schedule

- Phase 1 – Error Correction **Jan. 2004**
- Phase 2 – EPA Error Review **Feb. 2004**
- Phase 3 – Public Comment Period **Mar-April 2004**
- Phase 4 – EPA Comment Review & Develop Risk Reduction Proposal **May-July 2004**
- * Release revised risk assessment per NRDC Consent Decree **Aug. 31, 2004**
- Phase 5 – Public Comment Period on Revised Risk Assessments **Sept-Oct 2004**
- Phase 6 – Risk Mitigation Proposal Development **Nov-Dec 2004**

Conclusion

- **Sound science and stakeholder participation critical to solid decisions**
- **Work within legislative requirements**
- **Recognize importance of fumigants to many crop production plans**
- **Working collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure pest control needs are met**