



August 5, 2020

Mr. Andrew Muench  
OPP Docket  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Docket Center (EPA/DC), (28221T)  
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Submitted via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)

**Re: Pesticide Registration Review: Proposed Interim Decision for Clopyralid; EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0167; 85 Fed. Reg. 26682 (May 5, 2020)**

Dear Mr. Muench:

CropLife America (CLA), established in 1933, represents the developers, manufacturers, formulators and distributors of plant science solutions for agriculture and pest management in the United States. CLA's member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all the pesticide and biotechnology products used by American farmers. CLA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or the Agency) Proposed Interim Decision (PID) for registration review of Clopyralid; EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0167; 85 Fed. Reg. 26682 (May 5, 2020).

Our comments to this docket highlight two critical issues, both of which need a broader stakeholder discussion. First, the Clopyralid PID brings to the forefront the lack of guidelines / process for determining which active ingredients and use patterns require compost studies to promote predictability in the registration process. Not all herbicides or use patterns pose risks to compost systems, but it is helpful for registrants to know when they may be asked for additional compost data to support their registrations. For example, EPA might review existing data to identify potential gaps, then communicate with registrants about any concerns before asking for additional data. Establishing a process for identifying when more data is needed would allow the Agency to be consistent in its requests. An established process or guidelines will also allow registrants to plan for and conduct accurate studies needed for registering an active ingredient. Further, the Agency should provide clarity on how this data is leveraged into a robust environmental risk assessment. As noted in the PID, EPA does not yet have data to support a holding period for clopyralid-treated materials, and we encourage the Agency to identify supporting data prior to implementing this restriction.



Second, the Agency's proposal on notification and recordkeeping (page 17, PID) goes beyond existing practices and state regulations. Establishment of additional recordkeeping measures for pesticide applications would be generally redundant, overly burdensome, and unnecessary. An existing mechanism of inspection and violation detection for these recordkeeping requirements can serve to enforce adherence to these requirements. The proposed requirements could also set precedent for future pesticide registrations, without justifying the burden on applicators, and landowners/managers. We would encourage the Agency to engage with all stakeholders (Registrants, Distributors, Applicators, Landowners/Managers and Composting Industry) to develop a guideline for notification and recordkeeping requirements with relevant pesticides and specific uses of relevance (scenarios with prominent input to compost streams) to minimize unnecessary impacts on those stakeholders.

To conclude, we request the Agency to base its final registration review decisions on sound science and all available data. Additional comments to this docket from registrants and applicators of clopyralid can provides details about the proposed mitigations and how it affects applicators' ability to control weeds. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at [mbasu@croplifeamerica.org](mailto:mbasu@croplifeamerica.org) or 202-296-1585.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Manojit Basu", with a horizontal line underneath.

Manojit Basu, PhD  
Managing Director, Science Policy  
CropLife America