

EPA Approves Probable Carcinogenic Herbicide For Soybean Use Without Proper Public Review

Isoxaflutole is a herbicide that's manufactured and sold by BASF, the second-largest chemical producer in the world, under the name brand name Alite 27. It's currently used on corn plants in 33 states, and the EPA has recently registered the use of the chemical on soybeans in 25 different states. This registration is the Environmental Protection Agency's assurance that Isoxaflutole does what the label says it does and should not pose an unreasonable hazard to your health. Isoxaflutole is classified by the EPA as a probable human carcinogen, and it is phytotoxic to non-target aquatic and terrestrial plants and moderately toxic to freshwater fish.

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The EPA requested public comment on the proposed registration decision and cited that feedback as a key factor in the organization's decision to move forward with the registration. All fifty-four comments left during the public review period were positive, a show of overwhelmingly support for the use of Isoxaflutole on soybeans.

Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, says,

We've heard from farmers across the country about the importance of having new means available to combat economically-damaging weeds...We listened and believe this action balances the need to provide growers with the products necessary to continue to provide Americans with a safe and abundant food supply while ensuring our country's endangered

species are protected.”

EPA.gov

The comments reviewed by the EPA did not include feedback from environmental groups and journalists. The EPA circumvented a critical part of the usual chemical approval process, opening the herbicide registration for public comment without notifying the Federal Register. The Federal Register notifies the press and environmental groups of significant rule changes and without this notice, the opponents of Isoxaflutole were unable to register their comments.

Nathan Donley is a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity, a national, nonprofit conservation organization. He stated,

The press release caught everyone off guard. We were just waiting for the EPA to open the comment period, and we never saw it.”

AP News

Sources:

- *EPA sidesteps normal public process to approve BASF’s cancer-linked pesticide – St. Louis Post-Dispatch*
- *Isoxaflutole | New Active Ingredient Review – MN Department of Agriculture*
- *Public Participation for Isoxaflutole: New Use on Herbicide Resistant Soybeans – Regulations.gov*