

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the banning of atrazine.

In Canada, pesticides are regulated by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*. The PMRA is committed to ensuring pesticides used in Canada are safe for human health and the environment when used according to label directions. Rigorous scientific evaluations are conducted on all pesticides in Canada before they are approved for use, and pesticides are regularly re-examined to ensure they remain safe.

The PMRA previously conducted detailed health and environmental assessments and concluded that the levels of atrazine in Canadian lakes and rivers do not present a risk to human health or to other species in the environment. Further, in light of a European Commission decision with respect to atrazine levels in groundwater, the PMRA conducted a special review and concluded in 2017 that atrazine levels in Canadian groundwater do not represent a significant risk.

In March 2017, the PMRA also initiated a new special review of atrazine to consider the most recent information to ensure that there continues to be no health or environmental concerns from its use in Canada. This special review includes an assessment of potential human health and environmental risk from levels of atrazine in Canadian surface water and drinking water. The proposed decision will be published for public consultation prior to the final decision. At any point during the special review, the registration of atrazine may be amended, should evidence become available to believe that such action is necessary to deal with a situation that endangers human health or the environment.

For additional information on atrazine and pesticide registration in Canada, I encourage you to visit the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/index-eng.php>.

I hope that my comments are helpful in addressing your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ginette Petitpas Taylor'.

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, P.C., M.P.

Canada