

EPA Weekly Update – Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 29 October 2018

Update from the EPA

Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

The targeted consultation on an exposure draft of the Ozone Layer Protection Amendment Regulations 2018 (Amendment Regulations) to implement the Kigali Amendment closed on 23 October 2018. Subsequently, Minister Parker will meet with Minister Shaw and industry on 30 October to discuss the ratification of the Kigali Amendment and the proposed phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

The Ministry for the Environment intends to forward a Cabinet paper and the Amendment Regulations to Minister Parker's office in November for cross-party consultation, before submitting the Cabinet paper for lodging with the Cabinet Legislation Committee in December.

Grounds to Reassess Synthetic Pyrethroids

The Hazardous Substances Decision-making Committee has approved grounds to reassess 11 synthetic pyrethroids (insecticides) and over 300 associated approved substances. Nine of the 11 chemicals are on the Priority Chemical List released on 15 October 2018. The other two chemicals are of the same chemical family. They are used in a variety of settings, including in agriculture, bed bug and flea treatments, and in household fly sprays and automatic dispensers. We intend to release the grounds for reassessment, a call for information, and a cautionary note on 31 October. The release will be supported by a press release and we will be available for further media.

Key Issues in the Media

Chemical Reassessments Programme

Over the last week, a number of media outlets have covered and commented on the announcement of the chemical reassessments programme (media release issued by the EPA on 15 October).

The story was covered by the *Wairarapa Times*, *Sciencemediacentre.co.nz* and *Organicnz.org.nz* on 17 October, *Hawkes Bay Today* on 18 October, *Dominion Post* on 22 October and *Waikato Times* on 23 October.

It was noted by multiple outlets that the 40 chemicals being reassessed didn't include controversial chemicals Glyphosate, 1080, Neonicotinoids, and Methyl Bromide.

Firefighting Foam

Radio New Zealand, Southland Times, and The Western Leader reported that traces of the banned toxic chemical compounds found in firefighting foam have been detected in water samples around Whenuapai airbase in Auckland.

Nine of the 12 water samples showed PFAS, however, just two exceeded the recreational water guidelines for health.

In regards to the impact on water life, although Food Safety Australia and New Zealand trigger values were exceeded, "these levels are below the Ministry for Primary Industries PFOS food safety risk consumption guidelines for fresh or marine fish".

EPA Official Information Act Requests

Request	Correspondent	Due to Send
Questions about 1080, relating particularly to exposure limits, research, and testing	██████████ Member of public	31 Oct 18
The number of Coastal Resources Limited dumping activities over the past five years, whether undertaken in day or night, and how many marine mammal were spotted	██████████ Auckland University Institute of Marine Science	31 Oct 18
Questions about PFAS (exposure limits, controls, list of chemicals considered to be PFAS)	██████████ Forest and Bird	5 Nov 18
Legal advice sought in regard to the joint processing of OMV applications	██████████████████ Climate Justice Taranaki	5 Nov 18
Copy of the file for 230 Marsden Point (<i>this request is currently being clarified</i>)	██████████ Salters Cartage Limited	8 Nov 18
Questions about further study on 1080	██████████ Member of public	13 Nov 18
How many times the EPA has formally advised the Environment Minister that it considers that insufficient or unnecessary inspection and enforcement action has been taken by WorkSafe (or its predecessor agencies) under the HSNO Act	██████████████████ Whangarei District Council	14 Nov 18
How much was spent on the recent OMV hearing?	██████████ Independent News	15 Nov 18



Copies of all documents generated by the EPA and sent to the office of the Minister for the Environment from 1 January 2013 onwards that contain text proposing a change of law with respect to the HSNO reassessment provisions

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20 Nov 18

Copies of documents generated by the EPA and sent to the Environment Ministry from 1 January 2015 onwards that contain text concerning the HSNO reassessment process and/or its legal provisions
