

CANNOT PAY FOR FERRIAMICIDE, EPA TELLS MISSISSIPPI'S JIM BUCK ROSS

EPA cannot pay for ferriamicide, the agency has told Jim Buck Ross, Commissioner, Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, who stated last month that he intended to demand \$250,000 from EPA for the cost of the inventory, storage and disposal (See June 29, 1983, Page 21).

Dr. John A. Moore, EPA's Assistant Administrator for Pesticides and Toxic Substances, told Ross last week in a letter that either he could sell the ferriamicide or seek specific legislation to appropriate funds on Mississippi's behalf.

The EPA-er also concluded that the denial of the Section 18 exemption request for ferri-amicide was "a proper action, and it is not realistic to expect a permitted use of ferri-amicide for fire ant control that would circumvent that decision."

In his letter to EPA Administrator Ruckelshaus, Ross said he was going to demand payment in part because, before the 1983 change in EPA officials, the Mississippi Authority for the Control of Fire Ants had an understanding that the Section 18 exemption request would be approved. "In 1983 there was a change in EPA officials and the emergency application was denied on June 29, 1983 by these new officials, even though the prior agency personnel had indicated this application would be approved," Ross told the Administrator.

"The Mississippi Authority plans to submit a demand for the cost of the inventory, storage and disposal, as this cost has been incurred by the state because of the recommendations of the prior EPA officials," Ross concluded.

MOORE EXPLAINS WHY SOME DAMINOZIDE STUDIES WILL BE AUDITED

As noted earlier, EPA will audit carcinogenicity studies on daminozide done by Dr. Bela Toth because, according to Dr. John A. Moore, EPA's Assistant Administrator for Pesticides and Toxic Substances:

"(1) The studies were not conducted or submitted by the pesticide registrant; they were conducted at an independent research institute and (2) the registrant has raised questions regarding the verification of the test material and the completeness of necropsy records. EPA will coordinate the audit with the National Cancer Institute. The audit will not be conducted in conjunction with Uniroyal to preclude even the perception that the agency's regulatory determination was influenced by registrant involvement. The audit will be conducted in time to allow the results to be considered in the agency's regulatory decision for daminozide."

Moore's explanation was in a letter sent earlier this month to Kenneth Weinstein of the Washington, D.C., law firm of McKenna, Conner and Cuneo (See Sept. 12, Page 20).

INCREASES IN TOLERANCE FEES, ANNUAL HEREAFTER, PROPOSED BY EPA

A proposal to increase tolerance fees substantially and to provide for annual increases from now on is being issued by EPA. The proposal is expected to be published in the Federal Register, today, Oct. 3, with 60 days allowed for comment.