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October 16, 2012

Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) Docket
Mail Code 28221T – Docket ID Number: EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0442
Attn: Richard P. Keigwin, Jr.
Pesticide Reevaluation Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.
Washington, DC 20460-0001
Via *Regulations.gov*

Subject: FIFRA Pesticide Registration Review and ESA Consultation Processes;
Proposal Regarding Stakeholder Input - Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-
OPP-2012-0442

Dear Mr. Keigwin:

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) notice of availability and request for comments on the document entitled *Proposal for Enhancing Stakeholder Input in the Pesticide Registration Review and ESA Consultation Processes and Development of Economically and Technologically Feasible Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives* (August 17, 2012; 77 Fed. Reg. 49792). NACWA represents the interests of nearly 300 of the nation's publicly owned wastewater treatment utilities or clean water agencies who collectively serve the majority of the sewered population in the country.

NACWA's members continue to face challenges as they strive to meet increasingly stringent Clean Water Act (CWA) requirements while having only limited control over the toxic substances in the wastewater they treat. Pesticide residuals and other harmful pollutants are often discharged into the sewer system and have been found in treatment plant effluent and biosolids. Without the appropriate controls and restrictions based on a full understanding of the potential impacts these substances can have, clean water agencies will continue to be vulnerable to biosolids management issues and/or violations of CWA permit requirements. For this reason NACWA has been engaged in EPA's work on toxic substances and pesticides to ensure the Agency accurately accounts for potential impacts on the clean water community during all phases of its chemical review, approval and registration

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processes. It is essential that EPA's pesticide regulatory program adequately consider all impacts of pesticides and pesticide residuals discharged to the sewer system on wastewater treatment processes, wastewater effluent and biosolids.

NACWA supports the concept of EPA's proposed "Focus" meetings that would be held in advance of opening a pesticide registration review docket to solicit input early in the registration review process. However, NACWA strongly recommends that EPA make participation in such "Focus" meetings available to all interested stakeholders, not just to pesticide registrants. Interested stakeholders would include wastewater treatment facilities as well as sister offices within EPA, such as the Office of Wastewater Management and Office of Science and Technology – both in the Office of Water – the Office of Research and Development, and others. State environmental regulatory programs should also be included.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions or seek further clarification please contact me at chornback@nacwa.org or 202-833-9106.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Hornback", with a stylized, cursive script.

Chris Hornback
Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs

cc: Steven Bradbury, U.S. EPA Office of Pesticide Programs
Donald Brady, U.S. EPA Office of Pesticide Programs
Randy Hill, U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management
Betsy Southerland, U.S. EPA Office of Science and Technology