

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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## SECRETARY HICKEL BANS USE OF 16 PESTICIDES ON ANY INTERIOR LANDS OR PROGRAMS

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel today announced a new policy flatly banning the use of 16 types of pesticides on any lands managed by the Department's bureaus and agencies, or in any program run by them. The Department administers approximately 70 percent of all federally owned lands.

Included in this list of prohibited pesticides are such widely-known substances as DDT, Aldrin, 2, 4, 5,-T, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Lindane and Toxaphene. Also on the list of unconditionally banned items are Amitrol, arsenical compounds (inorganic), Azodrin, Bidrin, DDD (TDE), mercurial compounds, Strobane, and Thallium Sulfate.

The Secretary pointed out that nearly all use of these pesticides has been banned on Interior Lands during recent years. The purpose of the new statement, he said, is to establish a policy for guidance of all Interior personnel.

Another group of chemical pesticides, titled the Restricted List, are to be used only when non-chemical techniques have been considered and found inadequate, and when use can be limited to small-scale applications.

Secretary Hickel emphasized that the use of any chemical pesticide by his agencies must be aimed at a specific pest problem, and involve minimum strength and minimum frequency of application.

"We in the Interior Department--the Nation's chief conservation agency have a special obligation to protect the environment for all the people," Secretary Hickel said.

"We are charged by law with responsibility for protecting interstate and coastal water quality, our fish and wildlife resources, the integrity of our national parks, public lands, and recreation areas," the Secretary continued.

"These, and many other responsibilities assigned to us, impose a problem, and offer an opportunity. We must do our utmost to set an example for government at all levels."

The new policy declaration signed by Secretary Hickel requires all Department personnel to "consider safety and environmental quality as the primary factors in making the decision whether or not to use a pesticide."

The Restricted List -- to be used only if other systems will not work, and then only in small applications -- consists of the following pesticides:

Aramite, arsenical compounds (organic), Azinphosmethyl (Guthion), Benzene hexachloride, Carbophenothion (Trithion), Chlordane, Coumaphos, cyanide compounds, Demeton, Diazinon, Dioxathion, Diquat, Disulfoton (Di-syston), DN compounds such as dinitrocresol; Dursban, Endosulfan, EPN, Ethion, Kepone, Methyl parathion, Mevinphos (phosdrin), Mirex, nicotine compounds, Paraquat, Parathion, Phorate (Thimet), Phosphamidon, Picloram, Sodium Monofluoracetate (1080), Temik, TEPP, and Zectran.

Any proposed program involving use of chemicals on the Restricted List also will require review by President Nixon's Cabinet Sub-Committee on Pesticides, Secretary Hickel's order said.

The new Interior guidelines on pesticide use require that chemical pesticides should not be used alone when non-chemical, or integrated chemical and non-chemical, techniques offer an alternative option.

No pesticide will be used when there is "basis for belief" that water quality will be degraded, and hazards exist that will unnecessarily threaten fish and wildlife, their food chain, or other components of the natural environment.

Large scale non-specific applications will not be made of any pesticides, the guidelines specify.

A contingency plan will be developed for all pesticide storage areas under Interior control to prevent spills; provide remedial action in case they do occur; and formulate disposal methods.

Federal, State and local authorities will be kept informed concerning pesticide research and control programs of interest to them, and their views will be solicited and considered in formulating Interior's programs.

All pesticide applications by Interior agencies will conform to the guidelines and standards of the Pesticides Sub-Committee of the Cabinet Committee on the Environment.

Internal machinery for assuring compliance with these guidelines is outlined in detail in the Secretary's new policy statement.

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