STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

Memorandum

To: Maine Board of Pesticides Control

From: Julia Vacchiano, Pesticides Registrar and Water Quality Specialist

Re: Request to renew EPA FIFRA, Section 24(c) SLN use of Express Herbicide with Total Sol (EPA Registration # 279-9594) for Bunchberry control in wild blueberries

March 6, 2025

The Board approved the renewal of Section 24(c) on January 19, 2021, to extend the registration for Express Herbicide with Total Sol for five years. This extended registration is set to expire on December 31, 2025. Dr. Lily Calderwood, University of Maine Cooperative Extension Blueberry Specialist, requests another 5-year extension. The requested extension would expire December 31, 2030.

Previous research demonstrated tribenuron methyl, the active ingredient in Express, degraded rapidly and failed to migrate deeply into the soil profile, making it an unlikely groundwater contaminant. The original application for this registration was approved in 2010 and UMaine has since conducted water quality testing per the Board's request. Confirming the aforementioned groundwater contamination research, Cooperative Extension collected samples from three test wells in blueberry barren soils from May to October 2019, following the initial spray application. Tribenuron-methyl was not detected in any of the samples analyzed by the Massachusetts Pesticide Analysis Laboratory. The report is included with this request.

The SLN allows a fall application for bunchberry control or a spring application in the non-crop year at one ounce in 20-30 gallons of water and spot applications to control alders, bracken fern, wild rose, and yellow loosestrife at the rate of one ounce in 20 gallons of water during the summer and early fall. Application within 365 days of harvest is not permitted.

Please review the following included documents:

- Letter of request from Lily Calderwood, Ph.D., University of Maine Cooperative Extension Blueberry Specialist
- Letters of support from FMC Corporation, Cherryfield Foods Inc. and Wyman's
- 2019 UMaine well water testing results
- 2019 Summary of toxicity topics for the Specialized Local Needs (SLN) application of Express, Pamela Bryer, Ph.D.
- FMC Express Herbicide with TotalSol Section 24(c) label for requested approval
- FMC Express Herbicide with TotalSol Section 3 label
- FMC Express Herbicide with TotalSol Safety Data Sheet

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