



Report: August 2024
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EPA Announcements of Interest to ESA Members

Sources: Regulations.gov, epa.gov, and EPA Weekly Digest Bulletin

Registration and registration review of insecticides

The following updated risk assessments have been posted in the docket and are open for public comments:

Active Ingredient	Risk assessment is available at view at:	Additional information guide at:	Comments should be submitted at (by 09/24-2024):
Clothianidin	https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0865-1409	https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0865-1410	https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0865-1411
Imidacloprid	https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0844-1882	https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0844-1883	https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0844-1881
Thiamethoxam	https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0581-0722	https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0581-0723	https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0581-0721

Strategy to Better Protect Endangered Species from Insecticides

EPA has released a draft guidance to further the agency's work to adopt early, practical protections to ESA and listed threatened species and designated critical habitats from the use of conventional agricultural insecticides.

The draft has three components:

1. **Three-Step Framework:** The strategy outlines a three-step process to:
 - Establish potential population-level impacts on listed species
 - Identify necessary mitigation measures
 - Determine the geographic extent of these measures
2. **Early Protections:** The draft identifies protections earlier in the pesticide review process, creating a more efficient approach to evaluate and protect listed species near agricultural areas.
3. **Updated Assessment Methods:** It uses the most current information and processes to determine insecticide impacts on listed species, considering factors like species habitat, reproduction needs, and pesticide environmental fate.

Mitigation Measures

This draft follows the release of the draft Herbicide Strategy in 2023 and the strategy incorporates lessons from the earlier draft Herbicide Strategy, including:

- Maximizing options for farmers and other pesticide users
- Considering existing runoff reduction measures
- Accounting for geographical factors like flat lands and rainfall patterns

Streamlining ESA Consultations

Once finalized, the strategy aims to expedite future Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Public Engagement

The EPA is seeking public input on the draft strategy:

- A 60-day public comment period is open

Broader Context

This strategy is part of EPA's ongoing efforts to develop a more efficient, effective, and protective multi-chemical, multi-species approach to meeting its ESA obligations.

It is important to say that changes in pesticide use should be expected regarding restrictions on when, where, and how they can apply certain insecticides, especially near habitats of endangered species.

More information about the document can be found at: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0299/document> and public comments are due September 23, 2024.

A public webinar on September 5, 2024, provided an overview and answered questions. Once the recording link is available on the EPA homepage, it will be provided in the upcoming report.