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**From:** Tom Peterson [mailto:petersont@mvtvwireless.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 14, 2010 9:54 AM  
**To:** Regimbal, Gregg (MDA)  
**Subject:** atrazine

Dear Mr. Regimbal,  
Please do everything within your power to have atrazine banned as an acceptable agricultural product. If we continue to pour harmful chemicals onto our farm fields, the day will soon come when we no longer have any potable water.

Thomas Peterson  
Raymond, MN

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**From:** Susan Harper [susan@harp3r.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 18, 2010 3:45 PM  
**To:** Regimbal, Gregg (MDA)  
**Subject:** Atrazine

I urge you to do anything you can to rid our ecosystem of Atrazine.  
Susan Harper  
201 Elm Street  
Northfield

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**From:** Diane Burry & Norman Butler [mailto:dux@rconnect.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2010 8:30 AM  
**To:** Regimbal, Gregg (MDA)  
**Subject:** Atrazine - please ban it

Dear Mr. Regimbal,

I am writing to you in your role as part of the MN Dept. of Agriculture, to urge you to ban Atrazine. A study published in the March 1, 2010 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences shows that the herbicide Atrazine can cause male-to-female sex changes in frogs at levels permitted by the FDA. Atrazine is persistent in the environment, and is the leading pesticide contaminant of well water, ground water, and surface water in the Midwest. It can be transported in the air and a half million pounds of it fall on the US each year as part of our rainfall. Atrazine has been shown to be an endocrine disruptor in many vertebrate species, and it has been banned in the European Union. We need to do as the EU did, and ban this contaminant.  
Thanks in advance,  
Diane Burry

Diane Burry  
1001 Division St. South  
Northfield, MN 55057  
Tel: 507-645-9404  
Cell: 507-581-0041  
email: [dux@rconnect.com](mailto:dux@rconnect.com)

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**From:** Al & Jan Saunders [mailto:saunders@cloudnet.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2010 2:31 PM  
**To:** Regimbal, Gregg (MDA)  
**Subject:** Atrazine EPA Review

To: Greg Regimbal MDA

From: Allen Saunders  
555 10th St. S.E.  
Benson, Mn 56215

Comments: Atrazine Use

Greg,

We have found Atrazine to be a very valuable part of the weed control measures we use on our farm in West Central Minnesota. Atrazine has never been used as a stand alone chemical on the variable soil types we farm but rather as a tank mix to enhance control of grasses and small broadleaf weeds. Although we use only 2/3 of a pint of Atrazine 4L per acre, the pennies we spend on this product have allowed us to use much lower rates of other chemicals used in combination. This product has not been broadcast over drainage ditches or any other bodies of water in the many years we have used Atrazine. As always our use of chemical weed control is limited to the minimum amount of product necessary to control the weed species we encounter in our production of corn, soybeans and wheat. We live, work and raise our children directly on the soil we farm, safety is of first concern!

Regards,

Allen Saunders

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**From:** Mark Pelham [mailto:mepelham@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2010 10:14 AM  
**To:** Regimbal, Gregg (MDA)  
**Subject:** atrazine review comments

Dear Mr. Regimbal,

I recently read the atrazine registration review and I am pleased that the Department of Agriculture is undertaking this process. My comments are as follows:

1.) I am not convinced that the current 3 ppb standard for atrazine is sufficiently low. A lower threshold should be pursued. I don't see convincing evidence from long-term studies on humans and wildlife that atrazine or its metabolites are without chronic effects at this level. We don't know enough to say that this is safe.

2.) I am in favor of larger set-backs for the use of atrazine in agriculture and a higher level of regulatory enforcement. I have repeatedly observed spraying of agricultural substances within the riparian area of lakes and streams. I have personally been exposed due to a spray rig operating upwind of the lake I was boating on. Thankfully, I was only sprayed with urea on that occasion.

3.) The current testing of private wells is helpful but inadequate to assess the exposure of 20% of our population. Testing of private water sources for atrazine and its metabolites should be expanded.

4.) I recommend phasing out atrazine use in Minnesota. Substitutes are available and should be used. The long-term risks to humans, wildlife, and the environment should be given more weight than short-term

increases in agricultural costs. Wider use of alternative herbicides will inevitably lower their price.

Sincerely,

Mark Pelham  
Buffalo, MN

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**From:** dr.billy [mailto:dr.billy@embarqmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2010 9:20 PM  
**To:** Regimbal, Gregg (MDA)  
**Subject:** Atrazine REVIEW

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has failed to conduct field audits of atrazine best management practices as required by Minnesota Statutes 103H.151. Subd. 4 states:

**Subd. 4.Evaluation.**

The commissioners of agriculture and the Pollution Control Agency shall, through field audits and other appropriate means, monitor the use and effectiveness of best management practices developed and promoted under this section. The information collected must be submitted to the Environmental Quality Board, which must include the information in the report required in section [103A.43, paragraph \(d\)](#).

Failure to perform field audits makes it impossible to determine what practices corn growers in Minnesota are doing to minimize or eliminate atrazine from contaminating our aquifers and streams. Until MDA systematically conducts annual field audits on the 15 million acres of corn and soybeans grown in Minnesota to ascertain the adoption and implementation of atrazine BMPs no one can know their efficacy.

MDA's real environmental policy concerning atrazine is stated in its Atrazine Talking Points memo. In describing the environmental consequences of banning atrazine the memo states:

"If corn yields are significantly reduced the demand for E85 fuel production may not be met since some growers may shift from corn to other crops. If the currently expanding E85 use shrinks it is an environmental loss."

Based on the fact that MDA is more concerned with growing corn for ethanol production than it is about water quality, we feel MDA cannot be an objective party in conducting this special review of atrazine.

**Bill Thomas**  
**2943 hwy 42 se**  
**eyota, mn 55934**

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**From:** linda perry [mailto:linda-perry@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2010 9:03 AM  
**To:** Regimbal, Gregg (MDA)  
**Subject:** atrazine

It's time we start protecting people from the most harmful chemicals by banning them and quit catering to the companies who skew the test results to get them approved. Atrazine has been shown to be an endocrine disrupter and is in most of our water supplies already but now is the time to take it off the market . Linda Perry

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**From:** Adriana Estill [mailto:aestill@carleton.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2010 5:03 PM  
**To:** Regimbal, Gregg (MDA)  
**Subject:** Ban Atrazine

To Gregg Regimbal,

I am not a scientist myself, but I am surrounded by them. And they've made me aware of a recent study published (March 1 2010) in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that shows how dangerous Atrazine is. To wit: of the male frogs exposed to 2.5 parts per billion Atrazine, 10% were converted to females. The remaining males treated with Atrazine had lowered levels of testosterone, sperm count and fertility. And here's the kicker: in humans, atrazine exposure has been associated with low sperm count and impaired fertility.

Please, let's get Atrazine out of our water. Ban Atrazine so that we have a world that's safer for our children.

Thank you for listening.

Adriana Estill

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Adriana Estill  
Associate Professor of English and American Studies  
One North College St.  
Carleton College  
Northfield MN 55057  
507-222-7498  
[aestill@carleton.edu](mailto:aestill@carleton.edu)

"A Physics of Sudden Light" --Alberto Ríos

This is just about light, how suddenly  
One comes upon it sometimes and is surprised.  
In light, something is lifted.  
That is the property of light,  
And in it one weighs less.

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** david [mailto:dkamis@rconnect.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2010 5:19 PM  
**To:** Regimbal, Gregg (MDA)  
**Subject:** Comment: NO to atrazine

Dear Mr. Regimbal,

Some years ago, a renter admitted to triple dosing my fields w/atrazine and oil. Evidence of the damage was dramatic. Atrazine is persistent in the environment and is the leading pesticide contaminant in well water, groundwater and surface water in the Midwest. It is high time we ban use of atrazine altogether, not just in areas showing evidence of damage.

Thank you,

David Kamis  
Stone Hill Farm

Box 267  
Dundas, MN 55019  
507-645-7086

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**From:** Terry deutchman [mailto:deut1ter@swwnet.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 3:48 PM  
**To:** Regimbal, Gregg (MDA)  
**Subject:** comment on atrazine review

I am glad to see that state water-monitoring data is showing less atrazine levels in ground water. We can not loose atrazine as an intrigal part of our herbicide rotation options.

I ask that no further action be taken against the use of atrazine and let producers continue to use it with best management practices.

Terry Deutchman  
Owner / Operator  
Windom , MN.

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**From:** Steve Openshaw [mailto:steve\_openshaw@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 04, 2010 2:53 PM  
**To:** Regimbal, Gregg (MDA)  
**Cc:** David Bly  
**Subject:** MDA Atrazine Review comments

Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
Atrazine Special Registration Review  
Gregg Regimbal MDA-PFMD

Atrazine is an endocrine disruptor in mammals and other vertebrates.

(A Qualitative Meta-analysis Reveals Consistent Effects of Atrazine on Freshwater Fish and Amphibians Jason R. Rohr and Krista A. McCoy doi: 10.1289/ehp.0901164 (available at <http://dx.doi.org/>)  
Online 23 September 2009 ehponline.org.)

A recent study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences shows that it emasculates and causes sex change in frogs.

(Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Published online before print March 1, 2010, doi: 10.1073/pnas.0909519107)

Would you want your young son to drink well-water contaminated with atrazine?

This decision should not be about profitability, it should be about the health of our children. Atrazine should be banned in Minnesota. We do not need atrazine. US counties and other countries that have banned the use of atrazine to protect their environment and their youth are still able to grow corn.

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments,

Steve Openshaw  
516 3rd St E

Northfield MN 55057  
[steve\\_openshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:steve_openshaw@yahoo.com)

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**From:** Jan Blevins [mailto:JBlevins@RPU.ORG]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2010 9:23 AM  
**To:** gregg.regimbal@state.mn.us.  
**Subject:** Atrazine

Please see Attached:

Jan R. Blevins  
Sales Specialist  
Rochester Public Utilities  
4000 East River Road NE  
Rochester, MN - 55906-2813  
Office: 507-280-1578  
Cell: 507-254-0460  
Toll Free: 800-778-3421  
Fax: 507-280-1542  
Email: [jblevins@rpu.org](mailto:jblevins@rpu.org)

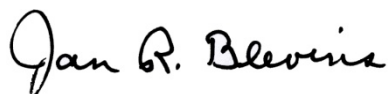
Date: March 19, 2010

To: Whom it May Concern [gregg.regimbal@state.mn.us](mailto:gregg.regimbal@state.mn.us).

From: Jan Blevins, Olmsted County Concerned Citizens

**Subject:** Evaluation of Human Health risk From Mixtures of Pesticides and their Metabolites or Degradation Products

MDA has failed to follow the advice of the Minnesota Department of Health in evaluating human health base standards for atrazine in surface waters. The MDH memo below clearly states that pesticide parents and metabolites should be added together when assessing concentrations of atrazine for human health concerns. MDA and MPCA need to review the surface water assessments of atrazine for the time period 2000-2009 for both atrazine and its metabolites. We believe this assessment should be reviewed by an independent panel of water quality experts from outside the State agencies. Our analysis indicates that atrazine has occurred in high concentrations for sufficient duration to result in numerous impairments of the State's surface water particularly in SE MN.



Attachment: 1

# Memo



**Date:** February 15, 2002

**To:** Dan Stoddard, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

**From:** Larry Gust, Supervisor, Health Risk Assessment  
Anne Kukowski, Health Risk Assessment *Larry Gust*

**Phone:** (651) 215-0928

**Subject:** Evaluation of Human Health Risk From Mixtures of Pesticides and Their Metabolites or Degradation Products

At the request of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) reaffirms its earlier memorandum that discussed evaluation of human health risks posed by pesticides and their metabolites or degradation products. The earlier memorandum was sent November 8, 1999 by MDH staff Hillary Carpenter to MDA staff Cathy Villas-Horns.

Toxicological information allowing evaluation of human health risk from pesticide metabolites or degradation products is often unavailable. In the absence of compound-specific toxicological information, MDH uses a conservative default approach. Under this approach, a pesticide metabolite or degradation product is assumed to have the same toxicological effect as its pesticide parent compound and to be as potent as its pesticide parent compound. The approach is as follows:

1. Add sample concentrations for all metabolites or degradation products of a pesticide parent compound to concentrations of the parent. If the parent compound is not present, add concentrations of its metabolites or degradates.
2. Compare the sum of the concentrations of the pesticide parent compound and its metabolites or degradation products (or, in the absence of the parent, of the metabolites or degradates of a single parent) to the health-risk limit (HRL) or health-based value (HBV) for the parent compound. If the sum is greater than the HRL or HBV, the HRL or HBV has been exceeded and health protective measures should be considered.

This approach is conservative if the metabolites or degradates are less toxic than their parent compound. Although exceptions, such as vinyl chloride, a degradate of trichloroethylene, do exist, available toxicity data generally do not indicate that metabolites or degradates are more toxic than their parent compound. Therefore, MDH is reasonably confident that this additive approach is sufficiently health protective.

MDA's real environmental policy concerning atrazine is stated in its Atrazine Talking Points memo. In describing the environmental consequences of banning atrazine the memo states: "If corn yields are significantly reduced the demand for E85 fuel production may not be met since some growers may shift from corn to other crops. If the currently expanding E85 shrinks it is an environmental loss."

Based on the fact that MDA is more concerned with growing corn for ethanol production than it is about water quality, we feel MDA cannot be an objective party in conducting this special review of atrazine.