



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 17 2006

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Mr. Chuck Weir
Chair, Tri-TAC
East Bay Dischargers Authority
2651 Grant Avenue
San Lorenzo, CA 94580

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2006

EAST BAY DISCHARGERS
AUTHORITY

Dear Mr. Weir:

Thank you for your letter of January 27, 2006, regarding your request to require registration of the Samsung "Silver Wash" washing machines, and silver ion electrode pesticide products. As you may know, my staff in the Antimicrobials Division within the Office of Pesticide Programs is responsible for reviewing the registration of these types of products, and determining if such a product would be considered a pesticidal device under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

We understand that Tri-TAC, as the technical advisory group for Public Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) in California, has concerns about potential water quality impacts of residential pesticide uses, specifically the discharge of silver into the environment resulting from the silver ion electrodes used in this product. We also understand your interest in having the efficacy claims for the product evaluated. We want to assure you that we are carefully considering your recommendations and the issue of registration of products that use silver ion electrodes as disinfectants.

At this time, this issue is being reevaluated and we anticipate having a decision within the next few weeks. Once a determination is made as to whether the product requires registration, we will be able to evaluate potential environmental issues, and assess what efficacy data would be required to support any claims.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 703-305-7090. If your staff needs a contact person, they may reach Marshall Swindell, Product Manager, Antimicrobials Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, at 703-308-6341.

Sincerely,

James J. Jones, Director
Office of Pesticide Programs

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