



Newsletter about Pesticides

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Jurisdictional News



USA : New lawsuit against pesticide-coated seeds

Coated seeds are crop seeds that have been coated with systemic pesticides, primarily neonicotinoid insecticides. According to the [Center For Food Safety](#), crops grown from coated seeds—including corn, soybean, and sunflower—cover over 150 million acres of U.S. farmland each year, the equivalent acreage of over one and one-half Californias. Neonicotinoids are taken up into the plant's circulatory system as the plant grows, permeating leaf, pollen, nectar, and other plant tissues. Neonicotinoids affect the central nervous system of insects, causing paralysis and death. Sublethal impacts include impaired navigation and learning. As a result, beneficial insects, valuable pollinators, and birds—including

threatened and endangered species protected under the Endangered Species Act—are killed or injured.

In 2017, [a citizen petition](#) called on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to close a regulatory loophole that allows seeds coated with systemic pesticides to evade the registration and labeling requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Indeed, the Agency considers pesticide-coated seeds as “Treated articles,” which are exempt from regulations.

Under the [Administrative Procedure Act](#) (APA) of 1946, which created the “citizen petition” mechanism, the Agency is required to respond. However, five years later, the EPA has yet to respond. It means these pesticides-coated seeds are continuing to cause environmental harm unabated.

Therefore, on December 14, 2021, the Center For Food Safety (CFS) and the Pesticide Action Network of North America filed a [complaint](#) for declaratory and equitable relief in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

They request that the Court enter an Order declaring in particular that EPA has violated the APA by failing to provide a timely response to the 2017 Petition, and ordering EPA to respond to the 2017 Petition by a Court-ordered date, by no more than 90 days. Let’s hope that this action will trigger a real assessment of coated seeds that are living pesticides, and close an amazing loophole that prevents assessments of these most dangerous pesticides.

If you've made it this far, can you make one more tiny effort?

Justice Pesticides needs your help to continue this work of investigation and information to support victims of pesticides.

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