



Newsletter about Pesticides

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Jurisdictional News



USA: Risk assessment of Seresto pet flea collars

On April 20, 2022, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco [ruled](#) that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must revisit its risk assessment of tetrachlorvinphos (TCVP), which is an organophosphate insecticide commonly found in Seresto flea collars for pets.

Since Seresto was approved for use in 2012, the collar has been the subject of at least [86,000 incident reports](#), more than any other product in EPA's history, including more than 2,300 reports of pet deaths. TCVP is neurotoxic, meaning that it can damage the developing brain and nervous system of young children, toddlers and fetuses.

As early as 2009, the [Natural Resource Defense Council](#) (NRDC) had submitted an administrative petition to the EPA, asking to forbid the use of TCVP in pet

products. Since it did not get any answer from the EPA, the NRDC filed a petition for a mandate in February 2014. In 2014 and 2020, the NGO obtained two orders of mandate, requiring the EPA to respond to its requests to cancel the registration of the insecticide. Based on a revised risk assessment, the EPA opposed a second refusal to ban the product, and the NRDC challenged this new decision in court.

On 20 April 2022, the Court found that the EPA's risk analysis, which was used to deny the NRDC's petition, was incorrect. It considered that the EPA had failed to provide a reasoned explanation for its denial of NRDC's petition and had made several biased calculations on key elements, such as the amount of TCVP dust released from pet collars.

As a result, it required the EPA to publish a revised risk assessment of TCVP-based flea collars within 120 days. On 19 May 2022, EPA's Office of Inspector General [indicated](#) that it planned to determine whether the agency's response 'provides assurance that the collars can still be used without posing unreasonable adverse effects to human health and the environment' and if it had complied with pesticide registration requirements in approving the Seresto collar.

Given the number of reported incidents involving this insecticide, it is clear that this flea collar should be removed from circulation, and that its approval should be revoked.

If you have made it this far, can you make one more small effort to allow us to continue this work of investigation and information to help the victims of pesticides?

Justice Pesticides needs you.

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