

PESTICIDES

Enviros hail deal forcing EPA to study impact on species

[Jeremy P. Jacobs](#), E&E News reporter

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A court order compels EPA to assess the risks eight pesticides pose to protected species. jetsandzeppelins/Flickr

EPA must analyze the effects of eight widely used pesticides and other chemicals on plants and animals under a settlement reached yesterday with conservation groups.

The Center for Biological Diversity and Pesticide Action Network North America touted the court settlement as a legal victory.

It sets firm deadlines for EPA to conduct biological evaluations under the Endangered Species Act for a series of herbicides, rat poisons and pesticides, including atrazine, the second-most-used pesticide in America.

CBD says 75 million pounds of the chemicals are used across the country annually.

"This victory requires the Trump EPA to finally protect some of our most endangered plants and animals from harmful pesticides," Stephanie Parent, a CBD attorney, said in a statement.

The [settlement](#) filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California sets a 2021 deadline for the atrazine analysis.

Other substances covered are pesticides carbaryl, methomyl and simazine. Rodenticides included in the settlement are bromadiolone, warfarin, zinc phosphide and the widely used brodifacoum.

The deadlines for the review begin in 2021 and run through 2024, depending on the chemical.

Conservationists have been pushing EPA to ban atrazine for years, citing harmful effects on people, plants and animals. The pesticide is particularly toxic to frogs. The European Union banned the chemical more than a decade ago, according to CBD.

"Assessing the dangers of pesticides and taking action to protect public health and the environment is the agency's job," said Kristin Schafer, executive director of the Pesticide Action Network, "and we'll keep fighting until EPA fulfills its duty."