



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

MAR 10 2006

Mr. Ken Kirk
Executive Director, National Association of Clean Water Agencies
1816 Jefferson Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-2505

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Dear Mr. Kirk:

Thank you for your February 14, 2006, letter to Administrator Stephen L. Johnson concerning the use of silver ions as a disinfectant in certain washing machines. Your letter was forwarded to me, since my staff in the Antimicrobials Division within the Office of Pesticide Programs is responsible for reviewing the registration of this type of product and determining if such a product would be considered a pesticidal device under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

We understand that NACWA members have 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 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Jones".

James J. Jones, Director
Office of Pesticide Programs



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