

Notice to the Public – December 22, 2021

Review Panel following Notices of Objection for RVD2020-06: *Strychnine and Its Associated End-use Products (Richardson’s Ground Squirrels)*.

The purpose of this document is to notify the objectors, registrant, and the Canadian public that Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) will establish a review panel to assist in addressing the subject matter of the objection.

Notices of Objection, filed under subsection 35(1) of the *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA), regarding the re-evaluation decision for Strychnine and Its Associated End-Use Products (Richardson’s Ground Squirrels) were reviewed and assessed in accordance with the PCPA and *Review Panel Regulations*.

While the assessment of the Notices of Objection did not raise scientifically-founded doubt as to PMRA’s decision to cancel the use of Strychnine to control Richardson Ground Squirrel, it did raise a concern with the PMRA’s three-year phase out timeline for cancellation based on the risk to the chestnut-collared longspur, a species at risk.

The PMRA will convene an external review panel of two subject matter experts to provide advice on the risk to the chestnut-collared longspur as a result of strychnine use during the phase out period (which is scheduled to be completed by March 2023). The PMRA will consider the advice to determine if a shorter cancellation timeline of the use of strychnine to control Richardson’s Ground Squirrels is warranted.

The re-evaluation decision to cancel the registration of strychnine to control Richardson’s Ground Squirrels will not be suspended while the Review Panel is established and conducting the review.

The question to the review panel is: “Based on the background information provided and your knowledge of the biology and conservation status of the chestnut-collared longspur, will the use of strychnine to control Richardson’s ground squirrel until the last day of use in the phase out timeline (March 2023) result in irreversible damage to the chestnut-collared longspur species in Canada? Please provide justification for your answer.” The scope of the question may be subject to change (as per subsection 35(6) of the PCPA).

The PMRA invites interested persons to submit written representations to the review panel experts. The representation must be specific to the question that the review panel experts will be reviewing (as stated above). **Please provide information within 45 days from the date of this notice to the Notice of Objection e-mail account (pmra.noo-ado.arla@hc-sc.gc.ca) with the subject line “Representation for Sub. No. 2021-6314.** General comments regarding the re-evaluation decision will not be considered by the review panel experts.