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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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From the Agricultural Products Department,
Public Affairs Group, Dow Chemical U.S.A.

DOW CHEMICAL WITHDRAWS FROM 2,4,5-T BUSINESS IN THE U.S.; EXITS EPA POLICY PROCEEDING ON THE HERBICIDE

The Dow Chemical Company has announced its withdrawal from the domestic 2,4,5-T herbicide business. This action includes the voluntary cancellation of all of Dow's remaining U.S. registrations for products containing 2,4,5-T and silvex.

In a related decision, Dow formally withdrew from the EPA administrative cancellation hearings which were convened to evaluate the risks and benefits of 2,4,5-T application.

"The great weight of scientific evidence confirms that 2,4,5-T can be used safely without undue risk to people or the environment," said Keith R. McKennon, Dow group vice president for Agricultural Products. "Our commitment to this position is firm, unwavering, unequivocal."

Reinforcing this position is the judicial decision last month in Canada in which Nova Scotia Supreme Court Justice D. Merlin Nunn stated: "I am satisfied that the overwhelming currently accepted view of responsible scientists is that there is little evidence that, for humans, 2,4,5-T is mutagenic or carcinogenic, and that TCDD is not an effective carcinogen, and further, that there are no-effect levels and safe levels for humans and wildlife for each of these substances."

"We have worked hard to demonstrate that scientific reality," said McKennon. "But we believe further expenditures of Dow and EPA resources on the issue are not likely to be productive. Since we have no significant commercial interest, we have chosen the action announced today."

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"Much has changed since 1979 when EPA suspended certain uses of 2,4,5-T and silvex. We are encouraged by Administrator Ruckelshaus' recognition that a risk-free environment is not possible and that EPA must manage risk reductions based on full consideration of the available scientific evidence along with the cost and benefits of regulatory action," McKennon said.

Dow has expended over \$10 million to defend the continued use of 2,4,5-T based on the preponderance of scientific data demonstrating the herbicide's safety and utility. These expenses far exceeded the minimal profit return from 2,4,5-T sales.

Despite exhaustive efforts for nearly three years by Dow and the EPA to reach agreement regarding the future of 2,4,5-T herbicides, the parties were unable to achieve a satisfactory compromise.

Progress made by Dow and others in herbicide product development since 1979 has resulted in substitute products being available to satisfy the needs of foresters, ranchers, and farmers. --

Dow has not manufactured 2,4,5-T in the United States since 1979 when the EPA restricted some uses of the herbicide. Since then, Dow has been supplying reduced market demand from residual inventories. Dow's U.S.-based 2,4,5-T manufacturing plant has been dismantled for some time and no Dow jobs will be affected by today's action.

Dow has encouraged the EPA to permit existing inventories of 2,4,5-T and silvex products to continue to be sold for the same uses allowed since 1979, thus eliminating any undue hardship on Dow customers and current end-users.