



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

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OFFICE OF  
ENFORCEMENT AND  
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Mr. Noel F. Schneeberger  
Forest Health Program Leader  
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry  
11 Campus Boulevard, Suite 200  
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Dear Mr. Schneeberger:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: A Cooperative Approach (CEQ # 20120333).

USDA proposes to add the insecticide tebufenozide, a reduced-risk and registered use pesticide, and other new treatments, to support the National Gypsy Moth Management Program. These new treatments would generally originate from an EPA regulatory approval. Given that USDA is proposing to employ a registered use of the insecticide tebufenozide, EPA has no objections to the proposed action.

EPA registered pesticides undergo a rigorous evaluation for safety to human health and environment. The use pattern proposed in this FSEIS has been separately reviewed and registered by EPA. The EPA risk assessment processes use protective assumptions to ensure safety for the public and pesticide applicators, as well as ecosystem protection. EPA continuously revisits and updates methodologies to enhance protection, and also establishes labeling terms that specify correct and appropriate use, which are binding to all users.

We appreciate that the FSEIS addresses the concerns outlined in EPA's comment letter on the Draft SEIS dated December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008. If you have questions or comments please contact Jessica Aresta-DaSilva of my staff at (202) 564-1567.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan E. Bromm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Susan E. Bromm  
Director  
Office of Federal Activities