

Years after approving the strawberry fumigant methyl iodide, EPA may reconsider.

Methyl iodide will face renewed scrutiny from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The agency is asking for public comment on a nearly year-old petition filed by farmworker and environmental advocacy groups that calls on the government to rescind its approval of the controversial fumigant.

News of the move came just a day after state Department of Pesticide Regulation Director Mary-Ann Warmerdam, under fire for rushing methyl iodide through an emergency approval process last December, resigned to take a job with Clorox.

The public now has until April 30 to comment on the pending petition, filed last March by a dozen advocacy groups including United Farm Workers, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation and Pesticide Action Network North America.

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