

Steve Bullock
Governor



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Ron de Yong
Director

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November 5, 2015

Eric Urban
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
1520 East Sixth Ave
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Mr. Urban,

The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) share the responsibility of protecting groundwater from pesticides under the Montana Agricultural Chemical Groundwater Protection Act (Title 80, Chapter 15). The MDA is responsible for groundwater monitoring activities as authorized by 80-15-202 and the DEQ is responsible for the establishment of agricultural chemical groundwater standards or interim numerical standards as established in 80-15-201.

During 2010-2015, the MDA detected two pesticides that have not previously been detected in waters of the state. Currently, neither of these pesticides has drinking water standards in Circular DEQ-7, Montana Numerical Water Quality Standards. The detected pesticides are:

Thiamethoxam
Sulfentrazone

At this time, the MDA is requesting that the DEQ develop human health drinking water standards for the above pesticides to be added to Circular DEQ-7. These standards are necessary for the MDA to determine if the detections of the above pesticides pose a threat to human health.

Sincerely,

Emilie Erich
Hydrologist
Montana Department of Agriculture
Groundwater Protection Program