United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20250

November 19, 2004

NOV 23 2004

Dr. C. W. Jameson
National Toxicology Program
Report on Carcinogens
79 Alexander Drive
Building 4401, Room 3118
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Jameson:

On behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) I am submitting comments on the National Toxicological Program's (NTP) intent to review Atrazine for possible listing in the next edition of the Report on Carcinogens (RoC). USDA supports the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) position recommending removal of Atrazine from the list of agents proposed for possible listing in the next edition of the RoC. EPA's position and supporting arguments are contained in their July 19, 2004 comment letter to you on the proposed listing.

USDA works closely with EPA on pesticide re-registration and tolerance re-assessment. Because of Atrazine's importance to agriculture and its large volume of use, EPA's review of the chemical has been of particular interest to a number of stakeholders—most of whom took a very active role in the public participation process. EPA has devoted considerable resources to the review of Atrazine and all potential health and environmental effects including carcinogenicity.

Both the EPA review and a review by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) concluded that the evidence is not adequate to conclude that Atrazine is reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen. Given EPA's determination, which resulted from their comprehensive analysis of independently peer reviewed scientific data, and which also included a well-defined process for stakeholder involvement, additional review by NTP is not warranted at this time. We would urge NTP to support both EPA's decision and their recommendation to not list Atrazine in the upcoming revisions to the RoC.

Sincerely,

Allen L. Jennings,
Director
Office of Pest Management Policy