



RT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

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EPA SEEKS TOUGHER SAFETY STANDARDS FOR FARMWORKERS

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The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed strengthening 20-year-old standards aimed at protecting farmworkers from toxic pesticides.

"The current rule is not working the way it should," said Jim Jones, head of the agency's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

The changes would bar almost anyone 16 and younger from handling the most toxic pesticides and require no-entry zones around fields to protect workers from drift and fumes. Farms would also have to post no-entry signs to prohibit workers from entering fields until pesticide residues declined to safe levels.

Farms would also have to provide annual training sessions on pesticide risk to workers, including how to protect their families when they return home with clothes and shoes potentially laced with pesticides. Now, farmworkers receive training once every five years.

Farms staffed with family members would continue to be exempt.

Farmworkers are unique in that many of the workplace protection standards issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for other industries do not apply to them.

(AP - South Jersey Times - 2-21-14)

We at RT are pleased that EPA is moving to help this forgotten section of workers who do work with chemicals. In our international work, RT has experienced hazards that occur where workers are not told what they are working with. Basic health and safety is good for everyone, so this is a great step forward for

farmworkers.

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