

HB019 Supporting Document – Response to Committee Questions by DEC 3.24.17

1. What is the lifespan of contaminated seeds and soil? So, once the plant/seed has been treated, does it stay in the plant for its lifespan?

I do not have a great amount of expertise/understanding of the behavior of neonics in seeds and plants. I did do some quick internet research, and, as an example, in the case of soybeans, A Minnesota document indicates that neonicotinoid concentrations in plants that germinated from neonicotinoid treated seeds decrease rapidly as the plant grows (see <https://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/soybean/pest/docs/effectiveness-of-neonicotinoid-seed-treatments-in-soybean.pdf>). I don't know if this is typical of other plants.

2. What would be the penalties for non-compliance?

We use an Enforcement Response Policy in dealing with pesticide violations, with ramifications depending on the gravity of the violation, and the compliance history of the violator. We do not have administrative fine authority under Alaska Statutes; however, we do have the potential to seek Civil or Criminal penalties. We also have the ability to perform administrative actions, such as warning letters, notice of violation, etc. Among the most significant administrative actions we could take is revoking certification from an applicator for significant non-compliance.

3. How confident are we in licensed pesticide applicators? How rigorous is the licensure process?

DEC does not license applicators, rather, we issue a certification. I would say that the certification process is fairly rigorous – new applicators are required to pass a comprehensive examination, which includes specific questions depending on which category or categories that the applicator is certified under. Applicators are also subject to continuing education requirements. Regulations covering certified applicators can be found in 18 AAC 90.300 - .315.

Thanks,

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