



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5, Canada

Item No. 8.1 (ii)
Halifax Regional Council
June 22, 2010

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

DATE: June 15, 2010

SUBJECT: Amendment to Administrative Order #23, Respecting Pesticides,
Herbicides and Insecticides - Notice of Motion to Add FeHEDTA (for
lawn use) to the Permitted Pesticides List

INFORMATION REPORT

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 11.1.5, June 8, Regional Council: Amendment to Administrative Order #23, Respecting Pesticides, Herbicides and Insecticides - Notice of Motion to Add FeHEDTA (for lawn use) to the Permitted Pesticides List.

BACKGROUND

On June 8, 2010, Regional Council deferred this item to request staff to solicit information about the repercussions of introducing additional iron into Nova Scotian soil.

DISCUSSION

Following Regional Council's question regarding the repercussions of introducing additional iron into Nova Scotian soil, staff solicited responses from Neudorff (the manufacturer) and Landscape Nova Scotia. The two attachments provide the response to the question.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This Supplementary Information report creates no Budget Implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This process requires two Notices of Motion, which gives the public opportunity to comment on the motion. In addition, prior to submitting the report, Sustainable Environment Management Office staff advised local environmental groups in advance to provide opportunity for comment. Regional Council has received those comments.

ATTACHMENTS

- Neudorff response
- Landscape Nova Scotia / Nova Scotia Agricultural College response

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Richard MacLellan, Manager, SEMO, 490-6056

Attachment 1



Neudorff North America · Unit II · 6782 Veyaness Road · V8M 2C2 · Saanichton B.C.

June 10, 2010

Peter Guan
Neudorff North America
11-6782 Veyaness Rd.
Saanichton, BC
V8M 2C2
Canada

To Whom It May Concern:

With regards to our product, NEU1173H Irons Selective Herbicide, and its compatibility with high iron content soil, the product is only applied to lawns and therefore most of the product will remain on the leaves (and subsequently be taken up by the plants). The small amount reaching the soil would not be enough to significantly impact nutrient levels in the soil. Also, any formulation reaching soil is just a small amount of spray on the surface. The product is not applied directly to the soil and the formulation is not soaking or saturating the soil. Iron chelates (e.g. FeHEDTA and FeEDTA) are also commonly used as fertilizers where they are applied directly to soil.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at 250-652-5888, or send me an email at peter@neudorff.ca

Thanks

Peter Guan
Chemist
Neudorff North America
Phone: 250-652-5888
Fax: 250-652-5788
Email: peter@neudorff.ca

Attachment 2

Richard MacLellan - Iron chelates as selective weed control

From: "Jeff Morton" <JMORTON@nsac.ca>
To: <maclelri@halifax.ca>
Date: 14/06/2010 4:13 PM
Subject: Iron chelates as selective weed control
CC:

To Richard MacLellan,

Information regarding Iron Chelates (FeHEDTA) from the NSAC:

The question about the use of this product on both plants and soils and its potential buildup is the main point of reference for this letter. I have consulted with Dr. Dave Burton on this issue and come up with the following points.

The product Fiesta as it is directed in application would be made at approximately 0.1-0.2% which is significantly less than other products such as ferrous sulfate (9-11%) iron commonly used for moss control. Iron products are also used for greening turf and soil applied in fertilizers at 1-2%.

The chelated forms of iron make it much more active in its soluble form (chelated) and therefore damaging to plants to which it is applied. This allows much lower concentrations of iron to be used and the chelation keeps them soluble on the leaves for plant uptake. Once the soluble iron reaches the soil it would be rapidly oxidized and turned into elemental iron which is not soluble. The product is meant to be applied on a spot application basis to existing (emerged weeds) so the majority of this iron chelate would impact leaves and not necessarily reach the soil.

Iron is a major plant nutrient in our soils and the amounts being applied should not have an impact on significantly increasing soil iron levels. The spot applications would indicate it being applied to limited areas of any lawn or turf area.

Since Iron is used by many microorganisms in their life cycles the used of this product could stimulate the growth of common beneficial soil microorganisms especially bacteria. Iron remaining on the leaf residues would most likely be maintained in the bodies of the microorganisms.

I hope these points help to answer some of your questions. As with any product these recommendations are based on the proper use of this product following manufacturers directions.

Jeff Morton
Department of Environmental Sciences

