

From: MEGAN VERTELLE

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I ask that FSANZ decline the approval of application A1139 - Food derived from Potato Lines E56, F10, J3, W8, X17 & Y9.

NZ's greatest asset is its pristine environment and potential for organic exports, currently in exponential overseas demand. Every approval for genetically modified organisms sets us further away from our inherent jewel in the crown. Consumers worldwide are increasingly seeking GE free products and we would be foolish to infect our incredible country with produce that does not have adequate independent proof of food safety and toxicity.

The APHIS documentation shows that these GE potato lines offer no nutritional advantage, as there are non-GE potato varieties that are naturally low in the desired profiles. This demonstrates that there is no need for approval of the GE potatoes.

I strongly object to FSANZ approving application A1139 - Food derived from Potato Lines E56, F10, J3, W8, X17 & Y9. I ask that FSANZ decline the application

There is no comprehensive data showing evidence of unintended effects of the transgenic potato lines.

It makes it mandatory for FSANZ to decline the approval.

It is necessary for FSANZ to require whole genome sequencing to identify off-target mutations and also essential to ascertain the effects of unintended changes on global patterns of gene function.

FSANZ must require sequencing using molecular profiling analyses or "omics"-

- transcriptomics — gene expression profiling,
- proteomics — protein composition profiling,
- metabolomics — profiling of metabolites,
- miR-omics – microRNA profiling

The best evidence available for effective safety assessment also requires long-term toxicity studies in established animal model systems. In the absence of these data to inform FSANZ, there can be no legal approval of A1139

Instead of approving this application, FSANZ could instead recommend non-GE potato varieties that have naturally-occurring low levels of compounds responsible for acrylamide production. They could also educate food businesses on storing and cooking procedures that minimize acrylamide production..

The FSANZ assessment is compromised with respect to rigorous scientific procedure. These GE potato lines cannot be approved for the human or animal

consumption, without the provision of comprehensive information regarding compositional differences to their non-GE counterparts. Compositional analyses are very limited in that they can only assay for known compounds. Any novel compounds would not be detected in such analyses.

FSANZ must provide evidence of safety, when eaten, in the lines that have significant variations in nutrients, or more importantly anti-nutrients. Anti nutrients such as glycoalkaloids can be highly toxic for consumers.

The afore-mentioned studies have not been carried out and in their absence, there should be no legal approval of the A1139 application.

SIGNED/YOURS SINCERELY MEGAN VERTELLE