

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission on this application if no petition to intervene is filed within the time required herein, and if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that the abandonment is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a petition for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provide for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Applicant to appear or be represented at the hearing.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-29594 Filed 11-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6185-7]

Draft Toxicological Review of Benzene (Noncancer Effects): In Support of Summary Information on the Integrated Risk Information System

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the extension of the public comment period for the external review draft document entitled, Toxicological Review of Benzene (Noncancer Effects) (NCEA-S-0455). The document was prepared by the National Center for Environmental Assessment-Washington Office (NCEA-W) within EPA's Office of Research and Development.

DATES: In the October 6, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 53654), EPA announced a 45-day public comment period from October 9 through November 24, 1998. The Agency is now extending the public comment period to December 31, 1998. Comments must be in writing and postmarked by the December date.

ADDRESSES: The document is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea> under the What's New and Publications menus. A limited number of paper copies are available from the Technical Information Staff (8623D), NCEA-W, telephone: 202-564-3261;

facsimile: 202-565-0050. If you are requesting a paper copy, please provide your name, mailing address, and the title and number for the draft: Toxicological Review of Benzene (Noncancer Effects) (NCEA-S-0455).

Comments may be mailed to the Technical Information Staff (8623D), NCEA-W, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460, or delivered to the Technical Information Staff at 808 17th Street, N.W., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20074. Please submit one unbound original with pages numbered consecutively, and three copies. For attachments, provide an index, number pages consecutively with the comments, and submit an unbound original and three copies. Electronic comments may be sent e-mail to benzene.new@epa.gov.

Please note that all technical comments received in response to this notice will be placed in a public record. For that reason, commentors should not submit personal information (such as medical data or home address), Confidential Business Information, or information protected by copyright. Due to limited resources, acknowledgments will not be sent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information contact Bob Sonawane (202-564-3292) or David Bayliss (202-564-3294); mailing address: NCEA-W (8623D), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460; facsimile: 202-565-0078; e-mail: benzene.new@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This draft report provides the scientific basis for deriving an oral reference dose (RfD) and inhalation reference concentration (RfC) for the noncancer health risk from exposure to benzene.

Dated: October 29, 1998.

William H. Farland,

Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

[FR Doc. 98-29661 Filed 11-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00563; FRL-6044-7]

State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Pesticide Operations and Management Working Committee; Open Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Pesticide Operations and

Management Working Committee will hold a 2-day meeting, November 16 and 17, 1998. This notice announces the location and times for the meeting and sets forth the tentative agenda topics. The meetings are open to the public.

DATES: The SFIREG Working Committee on Pesticide Operations and Management will meet on Monday, November 16, 1998, from 8:30 to 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday, November 17, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at: The Ronald Reagan National Airport, 300 Army-Navy Drive, Arlington-Crystal City, VA 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Elaine Y. Lyon, Field and External Affairs Division, Office of Pesticide Programs (7506C), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location and telephone number: 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, CM #2; (703) 305-5306; e-mail: lyon.elaine@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The tentative agenda of the Working Committee on Pesticide Operations and Management includes the following.

1. Update of Pesticide Inspector Regulatory Training.
2. Submission of field data - 6(a)(2) rule and/or other mechanisms.
3. Enforcement of FIFRA & other Pesticide laws on Federal lands.
4. Inspector use of credentials.
5. Antimicrobial compliance program.
6. Update from the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
7. Status of PR Notice on Greenhouse Pesticide labeling and enforcement.
8. Labeling issues:
 - (a) user compliance with meteorological restrictions.
 - (b) hazards of handling & disposal of swimming pool chemicals/pesticides.
 - (c) compliance with surface water precautions.
9. SFIREG registrations issues:
 - (a) addition of domestic/homeowner use to EPA approved for agriculture use only.
 - (b) marketing of concentrated insecticides for indoor use/supplemental labels.
 - (c) changing labels via "quick" notification subsequent to registration.
10. Update on National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference policy issues.
 11. Quality management plans/state lead agency mandatory compliance.
 12. Update on methyl parathion.
 13. Office of Pesticide Programs update:
 - (a) bee labeling.
 - (b) isoxaflutole conditional registration.
 - (c) indoor insecticide label improvement.

(d) disclaimers, warranties & limitations of liability.

(e) use of chlorine gas as agricultural pesticide.

(f) modification of Worker Protection Standard posting requirements.

14. Reports from committee members.
15. Other topics as appropriate.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection.

Dated: November 2, 1998.

Charles Franklin,

Acting Acting Director, Field and External Affairs Division.

[FR Doc. 98-29790 Filed 11-3-97; 3:37 pm]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00558; FRL-6042-3]

Pesticides; Science Policy Issues Related to the Food Quality Protection Act

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: To assure that EPA's science policies related to implementing the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) are transparent and open to public participation, EPA is soliciting comments on two draft science policy papers—"Guidance for Submission of Probabilistic Exposure Assessments to the Office of Pesticide Programs" and "Office of Pesticide Program's Science Policy on the Use of Cholinesterase Inhibition for Risk Assessments of Organophosphate and Carbamate Pesticides." These policies have been peer reviewed by the Agency's FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel and are now ready for broader public comment.

DATES: Written comments for each science policy paper, identified by separate docket numbers provided in the ADDRESSES section, should be submitted by January 4, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The docket number for "Guidance for Submission of Probabilistic Exposure Assessments to the Office of Pesticide Programs" is OPP-00559 and for "Office of Pesticide Program's Science Policy on the Use of Cholinesterase Inhibition for Risk Assessments of Organophosphate and Carbamate Pesticides" is OPP-00560. By mail, submit written comments identified by the docket control number listed for each to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services

Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, deliver comments to: Rm. 119, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to: opp-docket@epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit V. of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this document may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the comment that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public docket by EPA without prior notice. The public docket is available for public inspection in Rm. 119 at the Virginia address given above, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For "Guidance for Submission of Probabilistic Exposure Assessments to the Office of Pesticide Programs" contact by mail: Kathleen Martin, Environmental Protection Agency (7509C), 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail: 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, 703-308-2857, fax: 703-305-5147, e-mail: martin.kathleen@epa.gov.

For "Office of Pesticide Program's Science Policy on the Use of Cholinesterase Inhibition for Risk Assessments of Organophosphate and Carbamate Pesticides" contact William Wooge, Environmental Protection Agency (7509C), 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, e-mail: 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, 703-308-8794, fax: 703-305-5147, e-mail: wooge.william@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Electronic Availability

A. Internet

Electronic copies of this document and the two science policy papers are available from the EPA Home Page at the **Federal Register** - Environmental Documents entry for this document under "Laws and Regulations" (<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>).

B. Fax-on-Demand

For Fax-on-Demand, use a faxphone to call 202-401-0527 and select item 6021 for the draft document entitled "Guidance for Submission of Probabilistic Exposure Assessments to the Office of Pesticide Programs" and item 6022 for the draft document entitled "Office of Pesticide Program's Science Policy on the Use of Cholinesterase Inhibition for Risk Assessments of Organophosphate and Carbamate Pesticides."

II. Background

On August 3, 1996, the FQPA was signed into law. Effective upon signature, the FQPA significantly amended the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). Among other changes, FQPA established a stringent health-based standard ("a reasonable certainty of no harm") for pesticide residues in foods to assure protection from unacceptable pesticide exposure; provided heightened health protections for infants and children from pesticide risks; required expedited review of new, safer pesticides; created incentives for the development and maintenance of effective crop protection tools for farmers; required reassessment of existing tolerances over a 10 year period; and required periodic re-evaluation of pesticide registrations and tolerances to ensure that scientific data supporting pesticide registrations will remain up-to-date in the future.

Subsequently, the Agency established the Food Safety Advisory Committee (FSAC) as a subcommittee of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology to assist in soliciting input from stakeholders and to provide input to EPA on some of the broad policy choices facing the Agency and on strategic direction for the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP). The Agency has used the interim approaches developed through discussions with FSAC to make regulatory decisions that met FQPA's standard but that could be revisited if additional information became available or as the science evolved. As EPA's approach to implementing the scientific provisions of FQPA has evolved, the Agency has sought independent review and public participation, often through presentation of many of the science policy issues to the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP), a group of independent, outside experts who provide peer review and scientific advice to OPP.