Maske (7507C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are as follows: Ingrid Sunzenauer (703) 305–5196, sunzenauer.ingrid@epa.gov; and Gail Maske (703) 305–5245, maske.gail@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Seating Availability

Seating for each session of the ECOFRAM Workshops will be limited to approximately 60 people and will be available on a first come, first served basis. If the number of attendees exceeds the capacity of the room, individuals can register at the door to receive copies of the workshop summaries.

II. Public Comment

The total public comment period will be limited to 1 hour for each workshop and 5 minutes for each individual, depending on the number of people who plan to make comments. Anyone who intends to make a public comment should sign in before the workshop begins.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection.

Dated: May 28, 1999.

Denise M. Keehner,

Acting Director, Environmental Fate and Effects Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 99–14364 Filed 6–8–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[PF–876; FRL–6082–6]

Notice of Filing Pesticide Petition

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initial filing of a pesticide petition proposing the establishment of regulations for residues of a certain pesticide chemical in or on various food commodities.

DATES: Comments, identified by the docket control number PF–876, must be received on or before July 9, 1999.

ADDRESSES: By mail submit written comments to: Information and Records Integrity Branch, Public Information and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticides Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person bring comments to: Rm. 1132, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by following the instructions under ''SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.'' 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. CBI should not be submitted through e-mail. Information marked as CBI 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 may be disclosed publicly by EPA without prior notice. All written comments will be available for public inspection in Rm. 1132 at the address given above, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vera Soltero, Registration Support Branch, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: Rm. 713G, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, (703) 308–9359; e-mail: soltero.vera@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has received a pesticide petition as follows proposing the establishment and/or amendment of regulations for residues of certain pesticide chemical in or on various food commodities under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Comestic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a. EPA has determined that this petition contains data or information regarding the elements set forth in section 408(d)(2); however, EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficiency of the submitted data at this time or whether the data supports granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

The official record for this notice of filing, as well as the public version, has been established for this notice of filing under docket control number [PF–876] (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The official record is located at the address in ''ADDRESSES'' at the beginning of this document.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:

opp-docket@epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comment and data will also be accepted on disks in Wordperfect 5.1 file format or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number (PF-876) and appropriate petition number. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Agricultural commodities, Feed additives, Food additives, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: May 27, 1999.

James Jones,

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Summaries of Petition

Petitioner summary of the pesticide petition is printed below as required by section 408(d)(3) of the FFDCA. The summary of the petition was prepared by the petitioner and represents the views of the petitioner. EPA is publishing the petition summary verbatim without editing them in any way. The petition summary announces the availability of a description of the analytical methods available to EPA for the detection and measurement of the pesticide chemical residues or an explanation of why no such method is needed.

AgrEvo USA Company

PP 9E5060

EPA has received a pesticide petition (9E5060) from AgrEvo USA Company, Little Falls Centre One, 2711 Centerville Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19808 proposing, pursuant to section 408(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a(d), to amend 40 CFR part 180 by establishing a tolerance for residues of ethyl 5,5-diphenyl-2-isoxazoline-3-carboxylate (CAS 163520-33-0) herbicide safener AE F122006 in or on the raw agricultural commodities (RAC) rice grain at 0.05 parts per million (ppm) and rice straw

at 0.2 ppm. EPA has determined that the petition contains data or information regarding the elements set forth in section 408(d)(2) of the FFDCA; however, EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficiency of the submitted data at this time or whether the data support granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

A. Residue Chemistry

1. *Plant metabolism*. The metabolism of AE F122006 (ethyl 5,5-diphenyl-2-isoxazoline-3-carboxylate) in rice has been investigated and is understood. Total residue levels in animal and rice commodities (particularly grain) were very low. The initial metabolic transformation of AE F122006 in plants is hydrolysis of the prominent ester function, yielding the carboxylic acid, AE F129431 (4,5-dihydro-5,5-diphenyl-3-isoxazolecarboxylic acid). In rice grain, the primary metabolite identified was AE C637375 (β-hydroxy-β-benzenepropanenitrile), which was found only in trace amounts. AE F129431 and its hydroxylated analog AE F162241 (4,5-dihydro-5-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-5-phenyl-3-isoxazolecarboxylic acid) comprised the major metabolic residues in rice straw.

2. *Analytical method*. Based on the results of the metabolism studies, the analytical targets selected were parent compound (AE F122006), and the metabolites AE F129431, AE F162241, and AE C637375. A practical analytical method utilizing capillary gas chromatography and a mass spectrometer detector is available for detecting and measuring levels of these residue targets. The limit of quantification (LOQ) is 0.02 ppm in rice grain and 0.05 ppm in rice straw.

3. *Magnitude of residues*. Eighteen residue trials were conducted in the major United States rice growing areas over 2-years (1996 to 1997). When applied twice at a single application rate of 0.071 pound of the safener per acre (80 g/ha) with the second application made at 65-days before harvest, combined residues in rice grain did not exceed the LOQ (0.02 ppm) with the exception of the results from one trial where the residues were 0.03 and 0.04 ppm for AE F122006 and AE C637375, respectively. In rice straw, the combined maximum residues did not exceed 0.2 ppm. Thus, the tolerances are proposed at 0.05 ppm in rice grain and 0.2 ppm in rice straw. Based on the results of the animal metabolism studies, no residues are anticipated in milk, meat, and eggs due to feeding rice grain or straw. Therefore, tolerances for these commodities are not required.

B. Toxicological Profile

1. *Acute toxicity*. AE F122006 is slightly toxic following acute oral exposure, no more than slightly toxic following acute dermal exposure and practically non-toxic following acute inhalation exposure. The acute rat oral LD_{50} of AE F122006 was 1,740 milligrams/kilograms (mg/kg). The acute rat dermal LD_{50} was greater than 2,000 mg/kg and the 4-hour rat inhalation LC_{50} was > 5 milligrams per liter (mg/l). AE F122006 was slightly irritating to rabbit eyes and non-irritating to rabbit skin. Based on these results, AE F122006 would be classified as EPA Category III for oral and dermal toxicity and eye irritation, and EPA Category IV for inhalation toxicity and dermal irritation. Technical AE F122006 was shown to be a dermal sensitizer in a guinea pig maximization assay, but no evidence of sensitization has been observed in a Buehler assay when formulated into a commercial product.

2. *Genotoxicity*. No evidence of genotoxicity was noted in *Salmonella* and *E. coli* reverse bacterial mutation assays, an *in vitro* mammalian gene mutation assay in Chinese hamster lung (V79) cells, an *in vivo* unscheduled DNA synthesis assay in rat hepatocytes, or a mouse micronucleus assay. An increase in chromosomal aberrations was observed in an *in vitro* assay in Chinese hamster lung (V79) cells, but only at toxic concentrations. Thus, the overall weight of evidence indicates that AE F122006 does not possess significant genotoxic activity.

3. *Reproductive and developmental toxicity*. A rat developmental toxicity study was conducted at dose levels of 0, 15, 120, and 1,000 mg/kg/day. Maternal toxicity (including one death) was noted at 1,000 mg/kg/day. Slight developmental toxicity (an increase in resorptions) but no evidence of teratogenicity was also noted at this level. No effects were noted at 120 mg/kg/day, which was considered to be the no-observed adverse effect level (NOAEL) for both maternal and developmental toxicity.

A rabbit developmental toxicity study was conducted at dose levels of 0, 5, 50, and 500 mg/kg/day. Maternal effects at 500 mg/kg/day consisted of decreased food consumption, slight weight loss during gestation days 6-8, and one death. In addition, one animal at 500 mg/kg/day had only two empty implantation sites. No evidence of teratogenicity or developmental toxicity was noted. Thus, 50 mg/kg/day was considered to be the NOAEL for maternal toxicity while 500 mg/kg/day was the NOAEL for developmental effects.

Although generally not a prerequisite for the establishment of tolerances for an inert safener, a 2-generation rat reproduction study with AE F122006 is in progress. In this study, AE F122006 was administered at dietary concentrations of 0, 20, 200, and 4,000 ppm. Although histopathology is still in progress, the preliminary results from the in-life data indicate that the NOAEL will likely be 200 ppm, based on decreased body weight (bwt) gain in both adults and weanlings (beginning at day 21) at 4,000 ppm. No reproductive effects have been observed at any dose level.

4. *Subchronic toxicity*. In a 90-day rat feeding study, AE F122006 was administered at dietary concentrations of 0, 20, 200, 2,000, and 4,000 ppm. The NOAEL for this study was considered to be 200 ppm (approximately 15.3 mg/kg/day) based on decreased weight gain at 2,000 ppm, and decreased weight gain, increased liver weights, and centrilobular hepatocyte enlargement at 4,000 ppm.

In a 90-day feeding study in mice, AE F122006 was administered at dietary concentrations of 13, 125, 1,250, and 2,500 ppm. Decreased kidney weights, increased liver weights, and histopathological changes in the liver (centrilobular hepatocyte enlargement and vacuolation) were noted at 1,250, and 2,500 ppm. The NOAEL for this study was 125 ppm (approximately 23 mg/kg/day).

In a 90-day dog feeding study, AE F122006 was administered to beagle dogs at dietary concentrations of 0, 25, 125, and 1,000 ppm. The NOAEL for this study was considered to be 25 ppm (approximately 1.3 mg/kg/day) based on slight histopathological effects in the kidneys at 125 ppm, and effects on the kidneys, spleen, liver, heart, and intestines at 1,000 ppm.

5. *Chronic toxicity*. Long-term studies in rats, mice, and dogs have not yet been completed. However, these studies are generally not a prerequisite to the establishment of tolerances for inert safeners, and no preneoplastic lesions were observed in any of the 90-day studies. Furthermore, AE F122006 is not closely related to any known human or animal oncogen, and a structure activity assessment revealed no structural alerts for oncogenicity.

6. *Animal metabolism*. AE F122006 was well absorbed and rapidly metabolized and excreted when administered to rats as a single oral dose in sesame oil. AE F122006 was poorly absorbed in dogs when administered as a single oral dose in 1% gum tragacanth.

A 2-fold increase in absorption was noted in dogs when administered via the diet. The primary metabolite in both rats and dogs was the carboxylic acid, AE F129431, which is the same as observed in plants.

The metabolism of AE F122006 in ruminants is adequately understood. A dairy cow was dosed with the compound at a level equivalent to 10 ppm in the diet for 7 days. Total residue levels were very low. Parent compound was seen in fats and milk only. The carboxylic acid, AE F129431, was the major metabolite identified in all of the tissues, with traces also being found in the milk.

The metabolism of AE F122006 in poultry is also adequately understood. Laying hens were fed the compound at a level equivalent to 10 ppm in the diet for 14 days. Residue levels were low in all commodities. The vast majority of the dose was excreted as AE F129431, with smaller amounts of AE F162241 and AE F122006. AE F129431 was the major metabolite identified in all of the tissues and yolks. Trace amounts of AE F122006 and AE F162241 were detected in liver and eggs with AE F122006 also being detected in the muscle.

7. *Endocrine disruption*. No special studies have been conducted to investigate the potential of AE F122006 to induce estrogenic or other endocrine effects. However, no evidence of estrogenic or other endocrine effects have been noted in any of the standard toxicology studies that have been conducted with this product, and there is no reason to suspect that any such effects would be likely.

C. Aggregate Exposure

1. *Dietary exposure*. AE F122006 will be used only as a herbicide safener and, at this time, only for use on rice. No non-agricultural uses are anticipated. Thus, the only potential sources of non-occupational exposure to AE F122006 would consist of any potential residues in food and drinking water. As previously indicated, in the absence of any acute toxicity concerns, only chronic exposures have been evaluated.

i. *Food*. AE F122006 is being proposed for use only in rice. In the animal metabolism studies with ruminants and poultry, the concentration of AE F122006 and its metabolites in the edible tissues, milk and eggs were very low. Based on these results, no secondary residues of AE F122006 are expected in meat, milk and eggs as a result of using AE F122006 treated rice and/or rice commodities as animal feed. Thus, only potential exposures from direct human consumption of rice containing residues of AE F122006 were evaluated.

The potential dietary exposures from consumption of treated rice have been assessed using the Exposure 1 software system (TAS, Inc.) and the 1977-78 USDA food consumption data. Two different dietary exposure scenarios were evaluated. In the first, worst-case scenario, it was assumed that 100% of the rice consumed contained residues of AE F122006 at the proposed tolerance level of 0.05 ppm. However, it is anticipated that AE F122006 would be used on no more than 10% of the rice grown in the United States. Furthermore, rice is a nationally distributed crop. Rice treated with AE F122006 would be mixed in grain elevators and processing plants with other rice which was not treated with this product. Thus, a second, more realistic scenario assumed that only 10% of the commodities consumed contained residues of AE F122006, but that these residues remained at the proposed tolerance level of 0.05 ppm.

ii. *Drinking water*. The potential for AE F122006 and its main acid metabolite AE F129431 to leach into ground water and reach surface water has been assessed in various laboratory studies. These studies clearly demonstrate that both compounds are rapidly degraded in the environment. AE F122006 is rapidly hydrolyzed in soil (half-life = 0.1-day) to AE F129431 which is further metabolized to carbon dioxide and soil bound residue (half-life = 6.5 days).

A screening evaluation of worst-case shallow ground water concentration was conducted using the EPA model SCIGROW and a simple calculation of worst-case long-term surface water concentrations following use in rice paddies. The results indicate that both compounds (parent and its primary degradate) will not contaminate shallow ground water or surface water. Concentrations of AE F122006 and its primary degradate, AE F129431 in ground or surface water were calculated to be < 0.01 ppb. Potential residues in drinking water would be even lower. Since the contribution of any potential residues of AE F122006 in water to the total dietary intake of AE F122006 would be negligible, these values were not included in the dietary exposure assessment.

D. Cumulative Effects

There is no information to indicate that AE F122006 may share a common mechanism of toxicity with any other chemical. Thus, this assessment was limited strictly to AE F122006.

E. Safety Determination

1. *U.S. population*. No acute toxicity concerns were noted in either the acute toxicity studies or the developmental toxicity studies in rats or rabbits. Since an acute toxicology endpoint has not been identified, an acute risk assessment with AE F122006 is not necessary and has not been conducted.

Long-term studies in rats, mice and dogs, although generally not a prerequisite for issuance of tolerances for inert safeners, have not yet been completed. Based on the subchronic toxicity data, it appears that the dog is the species most sensitive to AE F122006. Therefore, a provisional RfD (ADI) of 0.0013 mg/kg/day has been proposed by using the NOAEL of 1.3 mg/kg/day from the 90-day dog study and a 1,000-fold (rather than 100-fold) margin of safety. The extra ten-fold safety factor is used to account for the fact that the RfD is calculated from the NOAEL of a subchronic rather than chronic toxicity study.

Although there is no indication or expectation of any oncogenic effect from AE F122006, a worst-case Q1* can be estimated based on the potential worst-case results from the ongoing rodent oncogenicity studies. Using the linearized multistage model with hypothetical worst-case tumor responses from the ongoing studies, a hypothetical worst-case Q1* was calculated to be 1.2×10^{-2} $(mg/kg/day)^{-1}$. This hypothetical Q1* can be used to generate an upper bound on any potential oncogenic risk that might result from exposure to AE F122006.

Under the most conservative, worst-case scenario, in which it is assumed that all rice commodities contain residues of AE F122006 at the proposed tolerance level, the potential exposures to the ''General U.S. Population'' and the most highly exposed adult subgroup, ''Non-Hispanic other Than Black or White,'' would utilize about 0.7% and 3.2%, respectively, of the proposed provisional RfD. In a more realistic scenario, in which the treated rice is assumed to represent only 10% of the rice consumed in the United States and is assumed to be blended with non-treated rice prior to consumption, the potential exposures to the ''General U.S. Population'' and ''Non-Hispanic Other Than Black or White'' subgroup would utilize about 0.1% and 0.3% of the proposed provisional RfD, respectively. For chronic exposures, there is generally no concern for exposures below 100% of the RfD because the RfD represents the level at or below which daily exposure over a lifetime would not pose

appreciable risks to human health. Therefore, these dietary exposures clearly would not pose a significant risk to the health of the overall U.S. population.

As previously indicated, there is no indication that AE F122006 is likely to be oncogenic. Nevertheless, an upper bound on the potential oncogenic risks was estimated using the hypothetical Q1* of 1.2 x 10^{-2} (mg/kg/day)$^{-1}$. Under the worst-case scenario in which all rice contained tolerance level residues of AE F122006, the theoretical 95% upper bound estimates of potential oncogenic risk for the overall ''U.S. Population'' and ''Non-Hispanic Other Than Black or White'' subgroup would be 1 x 10^{-7} and 5 x 10^{-7}, respectively. Taking into account the expected market share of AE F122006, the upper bounds on the potential oncogenic risks for these 2 groups would be 1 x 10^{-8} and 5 x 10^{-8}, respectively. Thus, regardless of the outcome of the ongoing oncogenicity studies, the potential oncogenic risks to the overall U.S. population from dietary exposure to AE F122006 following its use in rice are clearly negligible.

2. *Infants and children*. Data from rat and rabbit developmental toxicity studies and rat multigeneration reproduction studies are generally used to assess the potential for increased sensitivity of infants and children. The developmental toxicity studies are designed to evaluate adverse effects on the developing organism resulting from potential exposure during prenatal development. Reproduction studies provide information relating to reproductive and other effects on adults and offspring from potential prenatal and postnatal exposure to the pesticide.

FFDCA section 408 provides that EPA may apply an additional safety factor for infants and children to take into account possible increased sensitivity or based upon the completeness of the data base. No evidence of increased sensitivity to fetuses was noted in developmental toxicity studies in rats or rabbits. Although histopathology examinations from the 2-generation rat reproduction study have not yet been completed, there has been no indication of any reproductive effects or indication of increased sensitivity to the offspring. Furthermore, the proposed provisional RfD of 0.0013 mg/kg/day (which is derived from the NOAEL from the 90-day dog study and a 1,000-fold safety factor) is about 1,000-fold lower than the tentative (pending histopathology) NOAEL of 200 ppm (about 15 mg/kg/day) in the reproduction study. Thus, no additional safety factor to protect infants and children is deemed necessary.

According to the results of the dietary assessment, the population subgroup with the highest potential exposures to AE F122006 under scenarios previously described would be non-nursing infants (<1-year old). In the first, worst-case scenario, in which all rice and rice commodities contained residues of AE F122006 at the proposed tolerance levels, the potential dietary exposure to AE F122006 would utilize 4.5% of the proposed provisional RfD. Taking into account the fact that less than 10% of the rice consumed will be treated with AE F122006, the potential exposure to infants and children would utilize no more than 0.5% of the proposed provisional RfD. These values are substantially below the RfD and therefore would not pose an appreciable risk to human health.

Regardless of the outcome of the ongoing oncogenicity studies, the hypothetical upper bound estimate of potential oncogenic risk to infants and children under the worst-case exposure scenario was estimated to be approximately 7 x 10^{-7}. Under the more realistic scenario incorporating percent crop treated, the potential upper bound estimate of oncogenic risk would be no more than 7 x 10^{-8}. Thus, even under a worst-case scenario, the use of AE F122006 on rice would pose no more than a negligible risk of oncogenicity to infants and children.

F. International Tolerances

There are no Codex Alimentarius Commission (CODEX) maximum residue levels (MRLs) established for residues of AE F122006.

[FR Doc. 99–14362 Filed 6–8–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Farm Credit Administration Board; Regular Meeting

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: Farm Credit Administration.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b(e)(3)), of the forthcoming regular meeting of the Farm Credit Administration Board (Board).

DATE AND TIME: The regular meeting of the Board will be held at the offices of the Farm Credit Administration in McLean, Virginia, on June 10, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. until such time as the Board concludes its business.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vivian L. Portis, Secretary to the Farm Credit Administration Board, (703) 883–4025, TDD (703) 883–4444.

ADDRESSES: Farm Credit Administration, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102–5090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Parts of this meeting of the Board will be open to the public (limited space available), and parts of this meeting will be closed to the public. In order to increase the accessibility to Board meetings, persons requiring assistance should make arrangements in advance. The matters to be considered at the meeting are:

Open Session

A. Approval of Minutes

—May 13, 1999 (Open and Closed)

B. New Business

Regulation

—Leasing Authorities [12 CFR Parts 614, 616, 618, and 621]

***Closed Session**

C. Report

—OSMO Report

Dated: June 4, 1999.

Vivian L. Portis,

Secretary, Farm Credit Administration Board.

[FR Doc. 99–14694 Filed 6–7–99; 9:33 am]

BILLING CODE 6705–01–P

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, June 15, 1999 at 10 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

STATUS: This meeting will be closed to the public.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Compliance matters pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g.

Audits conducted pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g, § 438(b), and Title 26, U.S.C. Matters concerning participation in civil actions or proceedings or arbitration. Internal personnel rules and procedures or matters affecting a particular employee.

* * * * *

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, June 17, 1999 at 10 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. (Ninth Floor).

STATUS: This meeting will be open to the public.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Correction and Approval of Minutes.

Advisory Opinion 1999–12: Campaign

*Session Closed—Exempt pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(8) and (9).