

ADDRESSES: Address written comments and requests to present oral testimony to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231. Attention: Stephen G. Kunin, Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Patent Policy and Projects, Crystal Park 2, Suite 910, or by fax to (703) 305-8825.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Magdalen Y. Greenlieff or John F. Gonzales, Special Program Examiners, Office of the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Patent Policy and Projects, at (703) 305-9285, or by mail marked to their attention and addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231.

Dated: February 9, 1995.

Bruce A. Lehman,

Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.

[FR Doc. 95-3742 Filed 2-14-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-M

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 265

Demands for Testimony or Records in Certain Legal Proceedings

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service proposes establishing a procedure for Postal Service response to subpoenas or other demands for Postal Service employees to testify about, or produce records concerning, Postal Service matters in private litigation or other proceedings in which the United States is not a party. This proposed rule should minimize the disruption of official duties caused by compliance with those demands, maintain Postal Service control over the release of official information, and otherwise protect the interests of the United States. This proposed rule would prohibit Postal Service employees from complying with those demands without the General Counsel's permission.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 17, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed or delivered to: Library, Attention Federal Register Comments, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 11800, Washington, DC 20260-1540. Copies of all written comments will be available for public inspection and photocopying between 8:15 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, in Room 11800 at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie A. Holvik, Attorney, (312) 765-5230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed rule provides that, in response to subpoenas or other demands for testimony or records concerning Postal Service matters in private litigation or other proceedings in which the United States is not a party, Postal Service employees may testify or produce records only if the General Counsel or the General Counsel's delegate authorizes compliance with the demand. In making this determination, the General Counsel or his or her delegate will consider whether compliance is in accordance with applicable laws, privileges, rules, authority, and regulations and would not be contrary to the interests of the United States.

Several federal agencies have enacted this type of regulation, including the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The courts have recognized the authority of federal agencies to limit compliance with demands in this manner. See, *United States ex. rel. Touhy v. Ragen*, 340 U.S. 462 (1951). Moreover, subpoenas by state courts, legislatures, or legislative committees that attempt to assert jurisdiction over federal agencies are inconsistent with the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution, and a federal regulation regarding compliance with those subpoenas reinforces this principle. See, *McCulloch v. Maryland*, 17 U.S. (4 Wheat.) 316 (1819); *United States v. McLeod*, 385 F.2d 734 (5th Cir. 1967).

This proposed rule would not apply to situations in which the United States is a party in a lawsuit. It also would not apply to instances in which an employee is requested to appear in legal proceedings unrelated to federal activities or the employee's duties at the Postal Service. Finally, the proposed rule would not apply to subpoenas or requests for information submitted by either House of Congress or by a congressional committee or subcommittee with jurisdiction over the matter for which the testimony or information is requested.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 265

Administrative practice and procedure, Government employees, Release of information.

For the reasons set out in this notice, 39 CFR part 265 is proposed to be amended as follows.

PART 265—RELEASE OF INFORMATION

1. The authority citation for part 265 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 39 U.S.C. 401, 403, 410, 1001, 2601; 5 U.S.C. 552; Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (Pub. L. 95-452, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 3).

2. Section 265.12 is added to read as follows:

§ 265.12 Demands for testimony or records in certain legal proceedings.

(a) *Scope and applicability of this section.* (1) This section establishes procedures to be followed if the Postal Service or any Postal Service employee receives a demand for testimony concerning or disclosure of:

(i) Records contained in the files of the Postal Service; or

(ii) Information relating to records contained in the files of the Postal Service; or

(iii) Information or records acquired or produced by the employee in the course of his or her official duties or because of the employee's official status.

(2) This section does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any person against the Postal Service.

(3) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(i) Any legal proceeding in which the United States is a party;

(ii) A demand for testimony or records made by either House of Congress or, to the extent of matter within its jurisdiction, any committee or subcommittee of Congress; or

(iii) An appearance by an employee in his or her private capacity in a legal proceeding in which the employee's testimony does not relate to the employee's official duties or the functions of the Postal Service; or

(iv) A demand for testimony or records submitted to the Postal Inspection Service (a demand for Inspection Service records or testimony will be handled in accordance with rules published at § 265.11).

(4) This section does not exempt a request from applicable confidentiality requirements, including the requirements of the Privacy Act. 5 U.S.C. 552a.

(b) *Definitions.* The following definitions apply to this section:

(1) *Adjudicative authority* includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(i) A court of law or other judicial forums, whether local, state, or federal; and

(ii) Mediation, arbitration, or other forums for dispute resolution.

(2) *Demand* includes a subpoena, subpoena duces tecum, request, order,

or other notice for testimony or records arising in a legal proceeding.

(3) *Employee* means a current employee or official of the Postal Service.

(4) *General Counsel* means the General Counsel of the United States Postal Service, the Chief Field Counsels, or an employee of the Postal Service acting for the General Counsel under a delegation of authority.

(5) *Legal proceeding* means:

(i) A proceeding before an adjudicative authority;

(ii) A legislative proceeding, except for a proceeding before either House of Congress or before any committee or subcommittee of Congress; or

(iii) An administrative proceeding.

(6) *Private litigation* means a legal proceeding to which the United States is not a party.

(7) *Records custodian* means the employee who maintains a requested record. For assistance in identifying the custodian of a specific record, contact the Records Officer, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC 20260-5240.

(8) *Testimony* means statements made in connection with a legal proceeding, including but not limited to statements in court or other forums, depositions, declarations, affidavits, or responses to interrogatories.

(9) *United States* means the federal government of the United States and any of its agencies, establishments, or instrumentalities, including the United States Postal Service.

(c) *Requirements for submitting a demand for testimony or records.* (1) Ordinarily, a party seeking to obtain records from the Postal Service should submit a request in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, and the Postal Service's regulations implementing the FOIA at 39 CFR 265.1 through 265.9 or the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 266 and the Postal Service's regulations implementing the Privacy Act at 39 CFR 266.1 through 266.9.

(2) A demand for testimony or records issued pursuant to the rules governing the legal proceeding in which the demand arises must:

(i) Be in writing;

(ii) Identify the requested record and/or state the nature of the requested testimony, describe the relevance of the record or testimony to the proceeding, and why the information sought is unavailable by any other means.

(iii) If testimony is requested, contain a summary of the requested testimony and a showing that no document could be provided and used in lieu of testimony.

(3) Procedures for service of demand are made as follows:

(i) Service of a demand for testimony or records (including, but not limited to, personnel or payroll information) relating to a current or former employee must be made in accordance with the applicable rules of civil procedure on the employee whose testimony is requested or the records custodian. The requester also shall deliver a copy of the demand to the District Manager, Customer Services and Sales, for all current employees whose work location is within the geographic boundaries of the manager's district, and any former employee whose last position was within the geographic boundaries of the manager's district. A demand for testimony or records must be received by the employee whose testimony is requested and the appropriate District Manager, Customer Services and Sales, at least ten (10) working days before the date the testimony or records are needed.

(ii) Service of a demand for testimony or records other than those described in paragraph (3)(i) of this section must be made in accordance with the applicable rules of civil procedure on the employee whose testimony is requested or the records custodian. The requester also shall deliver a copy of the demand to the General Counsel, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington DC 20260-1100, or the Chief Field Counsel. A demand for testimony or records must be received by the employee and the General Counsel or Chief Field Counsel at least ten (10) working days before the date testimony or records are needed.

(d) *Procedures followed in response to a demand for testimony or records.* (1) After an employee receives a demand for testimony or records, the employee shall immediately notify the General Counsel or Chief Field Counsel and request instructions.

(2) An employee may not give testimony or produce records without the prior authorization of the General Counsel.

(3)(i) The General Counsel may allow an employee to testify or produce records if the General Counsel determines that granting permission:

(A) Would be appropriate under the rules of procedure governing the matter in which the demand arises and other applicable laws, privileges, rules, authority, and regulations; and

(B) Would not be contrary to the interest of the United States. The interest of the United States includes, but is not limited to, furthering a public interest of the Postal Service and

protecting the human and financial resources of the United States.

(ii) An employee's testimony shall be limited to the information set forth in the statement described at paragraph (c)(2) of this section or to such portions thereof as the General Counsel determines are not subject to objection. An employee's testimony shall be limited to facts within the personal knowledge of the employee. A Postal Service employee authorized to give testimony under this rule is prohibited from giving expert or opinion testimony, answering hypothetical or speculative questions, or giving testimony with respect to privileged subject matter. The General Counsel may waive the prohibition of expert testimony under this paragraph only upon application and showing of exceptional circumstances and the request substantially meets the requirements of this section.

(4) The General Counsel may establish conditions under which the employee may testify. If the General Counsel authorizes the testimony of an employee, the party seeking testimony shall make arrangements for the taking of testimony by those methods that, in the General Counsel's view, will least disrupt the employee's official duties. For example, at the General Counsel's discretion, testimony may be provided by affidavits, answers to interrogatories, written depositions, or depositions transcribed, recorded, or preserved by any other means allowable by law.

(5) If a response to a demand for testimony or records is required before the General Counsel determines whether to allow an employee to testify, the employee or counsel for the employee shall do the following:

(i) Inform the court or other authority of the regulations in this section; and

(ii) Request that the demand be stayed pending the employee's receipt of the General Counsel's instructions.

(6) If the court or other authority declines the request for a stay, or rules that the employee must comply with the demand regardless of the General Counsel's instructions, the employee or counsel for the employee shall respectfully decline to comply with the demand, citing *United States ex rel. Touhy v. Ragen*, 340 U.S. 462 (1951), and the regulations in this section.

(7) The General Counsel may request the assistance of the Department of Justice or a U.S. Attorney where necessary to represent the interests of the Postal Service and the employee.

(8) At his or her discretion, the General Counsel may grant a waiver of any procedure described by this section, where waiver is considered necessary to

promote a significant interest of the United States or for other good cause.

(9) If it otherwise is permissible, the records custodian may authenticate, upon the request of the party seeking disclosure, copies of the records. No employee of the Postal Service shall respond in strict compliance with the terms of a subpoena duces tecum unless specifically authorized by the General Counsel.

(e) *Postal Service employees as expert witnesses.* No Postal Service employee may testify as an expert or opinion witness, with regard to any matter arising out of the employee's official duties or the functions of the Postal Service, for any party other than the United States, except that in extraordinary circumstances, the General Counsel may approve such expert testimony in private litigation. A Postal Service employee may not testify as such an expert witness without the express authorization of the General Counsel. A litigant must obtain authorization of the General Counsel before designating a Postal Service employee as an expert witness.

(f) *Substitution of Postal Service employees.* Although a demand for testimony may be directed to a named Postal Service employee, the General Counsel, where appropriate, may designate another Postal Service employee to give testimony. Upon request and for good cause shown (for example, when a particular Postal Service employee has direct knowledge of a material fact not known to the substitute employee designated by the Postal Service), the General Counsel may permit testimony by a named Postal Service employee.

(g) *Fees and costs.* (1) The Postal Service may charge fees, not to exceed actual costs, to private litigants seeking testimony or records by request or demand. The fees, which are to be calculated to reimburse fully the Postal Service for processing the demand and providing the witness or records, may include, among others:

(i) Costs of time spent by employees, including attorneys, of the Postal Service to process and respond to the demand;

(ii) Costs of attendance of the employee and agency attorney at any deposition, hearing, or trial;

(iii) Travel costs of the employee and agency attorney;

(iv) Costs of materials and equipment used to search for, process, and make available information.

(2) All costs for employee time shall be calculated on the hourly pay of the employee (including all pay, allowance, and benefits) and shall include the

hourly fee for each hour, or portion of each hour, when the employee is in travel, in attendance at a deposition, hearing, or trial, or is processing or responding to a request or demand.

(3) At the discretion of the Postal Service, where appropriate, costs may be estimated and collected before testimony is given.

(h) *Acceptance of service.* This section does not in any way abrogate or modify the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure regarding service of process.

An appropriate amendment to 39 CFR 265.1 to reflect these changes will be published if the proposal is adopted.

Stanley F. Mires,

Chief Counsel, Legislative.

[FR Doc. 95-3702 Filed 2-14-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[PA37-1-6370b; FRL-5144-3]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; SO₂: Conewango Township, Warren County Implementation Plan

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA proposes to approve the State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This revision provides for, and demonstrates, the attainment of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for sulfur oxides in the Conewango Township, Warren County nonattainment area. In the final rules section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the

Commonwealth's SIP revision as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial SIP revision and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this proposed rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this rule. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by March 17, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this action should be addressed to Thomas J. Maslany, Director, Air, Radiation, and Toxics Division (3AT00), U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107.

Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air, Radiation, and Toxics Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107; the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460; and, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources Bureau of Air Quality Control, P.O. Box 8468, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David J. Campbell, Air & Radiation Programs Branch (3AT11), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, phone: 215 597-9781.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the information provided in the direct final action of the same title which is located in the Rules and Regulations Section of this **Federal Register**.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q.

Dated: November 18, 1994.

Stanley L. Laskowski,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.

[FR Doc. 95-3681 Filed 2-14-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

40 CFR Part 180

[PP 0E3882 and PP 4E4286/P598; FRL-4932-3]

RIN 2070-AC18

Pesticide Tolerances for Metolachlor

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA proposes to establish tolerances for the combined residues of the herbicide metolachlor and its metabolites in or on the raw agricultural commodities celery and dry bulb onion.