

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, PL 92463, EPA gives notice of a two-day meeting of the Ecosystems Information and Assessments Committee of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT). NACEPT provides advice and recommendations to the Administrator of EPA on a broad range of environmental policy issues, and this meeting is being held to discuss the Ecosystems Information and Assessments Committee agenda for the coming year. The Administrator has asked NACEPT to concentrate on ecosystem management and how long-term ecological, economic, and social needs can be integrated to achieve a community-based approach to environmental management.

The Ecosystems Information and Assessments Committee will concentrate on specific information and assessment issues required to support a successful community-based approach to environmental management. These issues will include discussion of the role of EPA in information access and dissemination to support community-based environmental management; discussion of information technologies available to support community-based environmental management; and discussion of the role of science in support of community-based environmental management; and discussion of appropriate methodologies in support of community-based environmental management.

The Ecosystems Information and Assessments Committee, as does NACEPT, comprises a representative cross-section of EPA's partners and constituents. However, in order to gain additional insights and perspectives from all interested parties as this committee begins its work, time has been allotted during the meeting for oral comments from the public. Any member of the public wishing to present oral comments on any of these issues can schedule an appointment by contacting Joe Sierra at the address and telephone numbers below, no later than Sept. 1, 1995. Due to time constraints, oral presentations will be strictly held to five minutes, and slots are limited. Available time slots will be allocated on a first-come first served basis to those scheduling a presentation in advance. Written comments will be accepted at any time prior to, or at, the meeting.

DATES: The two-day public meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 1995, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Thursday, September 14, 1995, from 8

a.m. to 3 p.m. On both days the meeting will be held at the Dupont Plaza Hotel, 1500 New Hampshire Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to: Joseph A. Sierra, DFO, Ecosystems Information & Assessments, Committee/NACEPT, Office of Cooperative Environmental Management, U.S. EPA (1601F), 401 M St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph A. Sierra, Designated Federal Official, Direct line (202) 260-6839, Secretary's line (202) 260-6891.

Dated: June 2, 1995.

Joseph A. Sierra,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 95-14342 Filed 6-9-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

[FRL-5220-2]

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meeting(s); Open Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) will meet on the dates and times described below. The subcommittees are not meeting at this time. All times noted are Eastern Daylight Time. All meetings are open to the public. Due to limited space, seating at the NEJAC meeting will be on a first-come basis. For further information concerning the public comment period meeting, please contact the individual listed below. Documents that are the subject of NEJAC reviews are normally available from the originating EPA office and are not available from the NEJAC. The meetings will occur at the Doubletree Hotel National Airport, 300 Army/Navy Drive, Arlington, VA, Phone: 703/416-4100, FAX: 703/416-4126.

The NEJAC will meet Tuesday, July 25, from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, July 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to discuss the role of the new council, follow-up on pending items from the January meeting, discuss future items to be addressed, and receive public comments from 11-12 a.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25 and from 11-12 a.m. on Wednesday, July 26.

Members of the public who wish to make a brief oral presentation at the meeting(s) should contact Patricia White of PRC Environmental Management, Inc. no later than July 10, 1995 in order to have time reserved on the agenda. In general, each individual or group

making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of five minutes. Written comments of any length (at least 35 copies) should be received no later than July 10, 1995, comments received after that date will be provided to the Council as logistics allow. They should be sent to PRC Environmental Management, Inc., 1505 PRC Drive, TM 220, McLean, VA 22102. Telephone number is (703)883-8880 or FAX (703) 556-2852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For hearing impaired individuals or non-English speaking attendees wishing to make arrangements for a sign language or foreign language interpreter, please call or fax Patricia White at (703) 8834-8880 or (703) 556-2852 (fax).

Dated: June 6, 1995.

Clarice E. Gaylord,

Designated Federal Official, National Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

[FR Doc. 95-14340 Filed 6-9-95; 8:45 am]

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[OPP-250106; FRL-4958-7]

Chlorothalonil; Request for an Exception to Worker Protection Standard Early Entry Prohibition for Hand Harvest of Cantaloupe and Squash

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Announcement of receipt of petition for an exception; request for comment.

SUMMARY: EPA's Worker Protection Standard (WPS) allows the Agency to grant exceptions to the entry restrictions contained in 40 CFR 170.112(e). The State of Delaware has petitioned the Agency to allow workers to enter chlorothalonil-treated cantaloupe and squash fields to perform hand labor harvesting before expiration of the 48-hour restricted entry interval (REI). The time period for this exception request is during the harvest season from July 1 through September 15, 1995. This Notice acknowledges receipt of the exception request and invites comments from the public on the request.

DATES: Comments, data, or evidence should be submitted on or before July 12, 1995.

ADDRESSES: The Agency invites any interested person to submit written comments identified by docket number "OPP-250106" to: By mail: Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington,

DC 20460. In person, bring comments to: Rm. 1132, Crystal Mall 2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments 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 number "OPP-250106." No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail. Electronic comments on this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

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 may be disclosed publicly by EPA without prior notice. All written comments will be available for public inspection in Rm. 1132 at the Virginia address given above from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Ager or Ameesha Mehta, Office of Pesticide Programs (7506C), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: Rm. 1121, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Mall #2, Arlington, VA, (703) 305-7371, ager.sara@epamail.epa.gov or mehta.ameesha@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. Early Entry Exceptions

In general, § 170.112 of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) prohibits agricultural workers from entering a pesticide-treated area during a restricted entry interval (REI). REIs are based on the toxicity of the active ingredient in the product. REIs are specified on the pesticide product label and typically range from 12 to 72 hours. Product-specific longer REIs have been set for a few pesticides.

The WPS currently contains the following exceptions to the general

prohibition against worker entry during the REI:

(1) Entry resulting in no contact with treated surfaces.

(2) Entry allowing short-term tasks (less than 1 hour) to be performed with personal protective equipment (PPE) and other conditions.

(3) Entry to perform tasks associated with agricultural emergencies.

Under these exceptions, workers engaging in early entry work are not permitted to engage in hand labor, which results in substantial contact with treated surfaces. The WPS defines hand labor as any agricultural activity performed by hand or with hand tools that causes a worker to have substantial contact with treated surfaces (such as plants or soil) that may contain pesticide residues.

Under § 170.112(e) of the WPS, EPA may establish additional exceptions to the Standard's provision of prohibiting early entry to perform routine hand labor tasks. EPA will grant or deny a request for an exception based on a risk-benefit analysis. This analysis takes into account both the added risks and the benefits from allowing early entry to perform hand labor tasks.

On June 10, 1994 (59 FR 30265), EPA granted an exception which allows, under specified conditions, early entry into pesticide-treated areas in greenhouses to harvest cut roses. In the **Federal Register** of May 3, 1995 (60 FR 21953), two additional exceptions were granted which allow early-entry to perform irrigation and limited contact tasks under specified conditions.

B. Chemical-Specific Information

Chlorothalonil is a wettable granular fungicide used to control Downey Mildew disease, and has been classified as a probable human (Category B₂) carcinogen. Chlorothalonil has eye irritation concerns and other delayed health effects (kidney effects). The REI has been set for 48 hours. The pre-harvest interval (PHI) for melons and squash is at 0-days. The PHI is the time duration that must elapse, in days, from the last day of application to the first day that a crop can be harvested. The Registration Eligibility Document (RED) is scheduled for completion this year and changes to the REI and the PHI may occur.

II. Summary of Delaware's Petition

The State of Delaware has petitioned under § 170.112(e) the Agency to allow early entry by workers into chlorothalonil-treated cantaloupe and squash fields to perform hand labor harvesting 24 hours after the spray application. Delaware's petition states

that if growers cannot harvest daily they will suffer substantial economic losses. The time period for the exception requested is from July 1 through September 15, 1995.

A. Need for Early Entry

According to the request, cantaloupe and squash are under severe disease pressure from Downey mildew in Delaware, and if unchecked, it can destroy the crop. The practice is to apply chlorothalonil every 7 days where Downy mildew is a problem. Delaware contends that considerable fruit could be damaged or lost during a 48-hour REI, due to the inability to harvest mature crops. The alternatives to chlorothalonil are Maneb or Penncozeb, both of which have a PHI of 5 days. Delaware states that rescheduling sprays would not be practical because the 7-day spray schedule is followed to protect against Downey mildew infection. Delaware contends that regardless of how a grower schedules sprays, there would be a 48-hour REI following a spray application, and weather and crop maturity may require harvest during that time. According to Delaware, the average plot size is 1 acre and requires 2 to 5 workers to harvest 1 hour per field. Workers would harvest several fields over an 8-hour day. Delaware also maintains that machine harvesting of cantaloupe or squash is not feasible. The State of Delaware is open to suggestions from the Agency for any means to mitigate possible eye hazards to harvest crews.

B. Proposed Terms of Exception

The State of Delaware has proposed the following protective measures:

1. No harvesting would be performed until 24 hours after application.

2. Growers harvesting cantaloupe and squash between 24 and 48 hours following the application of chlorothalonil would provide oral warnings to workers to avoid contacting their eyes with their hands and forearms or any clothing which may be in contact with the foliage during harvest. They would give this warning at the start of each workday.

3. Workers would be given instructions at the beginning of the workday to wash their hands, forearms, and faces after every 2 hours or at the conclusion of a period of picking if less than 2 hours.

4. To accommodate the increased use of water at the field decontamination site, the grower would provide 3 gallons of water or have running water available, as opposed to the recommended 1 gallon of water per worker.

The State of Delaware concludes that the costs of these measures are inconsequential when compared with the expected loss in the crop value without the exception.

C. Economic Impact

The exception request addresses 450 acres of cantaloupe and squash production, potentially affected by the Downey mildew disease. Based on Delaware's 1993 statistics, the revenue amount for cantaloupe is \$2,250 per acre. The inability to harvest in time would result in decreased revenue per acre. An estimated percentage of loss was not provided, but would be determined by estimating the amount of acreage expected to be lost due to inability to harvest mature fruit during the REI after application of chlorothalonil.

As the State of Delaware indicated, if the Agency were to grant the exception, in conjunction with the measures proposed by the State of Delaware, the agricultural employer would also be required to ensure that the protective measures in § 170.112(c)(3) through (c)(9) are met. These measures specify that the PPE required, daily for early entry, is provided, cleaned, and maintained for the worker; decontamination and change areas are provided; basic training and label-specific information is provided; and measures to prevent heat-related illness are implemented, when appropriate. The Agency may add additional specific measures based on comments received.

III. Comments and Information Solicited

The Agency desires more information and is therefore, interested in receiving a full range of comments on this proposed exception. In particular, the Agency welcomes comments supported by information, including evidence demonstrating whether the risks to workers would be acceptable, given the measures proposed, and whether the use of personal protective equipment, engineering controls, any additional decontamination procedures, and safety training in these circumstances would be feasible. The Agency is interested in any available data on how heat stress can be mitigated effectively, and whether there are any reports of chlorothalonil poisoning incidents involving harvesters. The Agency also would like comments regarding the appropriate time limit on activities performed during the REI. Comments on feasible alternative fungicides or integrated pest management practices that would make early entry for hand harvesting unnecessary, and their

associated costs are also solicited. The Agency would welcome any additional information concerning the economic impact (yield and/or price) on this industry of prohibiting hand harvesting during the full 48-hour REI for this fungicide. Information on average production life of squash and cantaloupe, and the stages of maturity required for different markets is further solicited.

In addition, the Agency requests comments on whether other States in which chlorothalonil is used on cantaloupe and squash would need a comparable exception. The States of Florida and Iowa have expressed a similar need for workers to enter chlorothalonil-treated cantaloupe and tomato fields to perform hand labor harvest before the expiration of the 48-hour REI. If Delaware's exception request is granted, the Agency may consider extending the exception beyond the State of Delaware, pending demonstration of need by other States. Interested parties have 30 days from the publication of this notice to comment.

A record has been established for this action under docket number "OPP-250106" (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 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in Rm. 1132 of the Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:

opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

The official record for this action, as well as the public version, as described above will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, EPA will transfer all comments received electronically into printed, paper form as they are received and will place the paper copies in the official record which will also include all comments submitted directly in writing. The official record is the paper record maintained at the address in "ADDRESSES" at the beginning of this document.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection,
Occupational safety and health,
Pesticides and Pests.

Dated: June 8, 1995.

Susan H. Wayland,

*Acting Assistant Administrator for
Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.*

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[OPPTS-42052R; FRL-4938-2]

RIN 2070-033

Solicitation of Testing Proposals for 1,6-Hexamethylene Diisocyanate for Negotiation of a TSCA Section 4 Enforceable Consent Agreement

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice invites manufacturers and processors of 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate (HDI) and other interested parties to develop and submit to EPA specific toxicity testing program proposals for this chemical. In addition, EPA is also interested in the development of a voluntary product stewardship program for HDI as a complement to the testing effort.

DATES: Written testing proposals must be received by August 11, 1995. EPA may extend the deadline for receipt of testing proposals upon a showing of good faith efforts to develop testing proposals by the initial deadline.

ADDRESSES: Submit three copies of written testing proposals to TSCA Docket Receipts (7407), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. NE-B607, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Submissions should bear the document control number (OPPTS-42052R; FRL-4938-2). The public docket supporting this action, including comments, is available for public inspection at the above address from 12 noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: nctic@epamail.epa.gov. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect in 5.1 file format or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number (OPPTS-42052R; FRL-4938-2). No CBI should be submitted through e-