

As part of this request, the Applicant asserts that the state of Arkansas is likely to experience a non-routine infestation of aphids during the 1996 cotton growing season. The applicant further claims that, without a specific exemption of FIFRA for the use of flowable carbofuran on cotton to control cotton aphids, cotton growers in much of the state will suffer significant economic losses. The applicant also details a use program designed to minimize risks to pesticide handlers and applicators, non-target organisms (both Federally-listed endangered species, and non-listed species), and to reduce the possibility of drift and runoff.

The applicant proposes to make no more than two applications at the rate of 0.25 lb. active ingredient [(a.i.)] (8 fluid oz.) in a minimum of 2 gallons of finished spray per acre by air, or 10 gallons of finished spray per acre by ground application. The total maximum proposed use during the 1996 growing season (June 1, 1996 until September 30, 1996) would be 0.5 lb. a.i. (16 fluid oz.) per acre. The applicant proposes that the maximum acreage which could be treated under the requested exemption would be 1 million acres. If all acres were treated at the maximum proposed rates, then 500,000 lbs. a.i. would be used.

This notice does not constitute a decision by EPA on the application itself. The regulations governing section 18 require publication of a notice of receipt of an application for a specific exemption proposing use of a chemical (i.e., an active ingredient) which has been the subject of a Special Review within EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, and the proposed use could pose a risk similar the risk assessed by EPA under the previous Special Review. Such notice provides for opportunity for public comment on the application.

A record has been established for this notice under docket number [OPP-181005] (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 Room 1132 of the Public Response and Program Resource 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 notice, 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. Accordingly, interested persons may submit written views on this subject to the Field Operations Division at the address above.

The Agency, accordingly, will review and consider all comments received during the comment period in determining whether to issue the emergency exemption requested by the Arkansas State Plant Board.

#### List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests, Emergency exemptions.

Dated: March 18, 1996.

Peter Caulkins,

*Acting Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.*

[FR Doc. 96-7446 Filed 3-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2323-012 and 2334-001]

#### **New England Power Company, Western Massachusetts Electric Company; Notice of Intention To Hold a Public Meeting for Discussion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Deerfield River**

March 21, 1996.

On February 29, 1996, the Commission staff mailed the Deerfield River Projects DEIS to the Environmental Protection Agency, resource and land management agencies, and interested organizations and individuals. This document evaluates the environmental consequences of the "Deerfield River Project, Offer of Settlement" and continuing the operation and maintenance of the existing Deerfield and Garners Falls Projects, in Massachusetts and Vermont.

The DEIS also evaluates the environmental effects of implementing the Deerfield River Project, Offer of Settlement; applicants' proposals supplemented with staff's recommended enhancement measures; and the no-action alternative.

A public meeting which will be recorded by an official stenographer, is scheduled on Tuesday April 9, 1996, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School at 26 Ashfield Road, Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, and Wednesday, April 10, 1996, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Wilmington High School in Wilmington, Vermont.

At the meetings, all interested person will have an opportunity to provide oral and written comments regarding the Deerfield River Projects DEIS for the Commission's public record.

For further information, please contact Mr. R. Feller (Telephone 202-219-2796), or Mr. Bob Bell (Telephone 202 219-2806), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Hydropower Licensing, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20426.

Lois D. Cashell,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-7349 Filed 3-26-96; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-181004; FRL 5356-8]

### **Dimethomorph; Receipt of Applications for Emergency Exemptions, Solicitation of Public Comment**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** EPA has received specific exemption requests from the North Carolina and Kentucky Departments of Agriculture (hereafter referred to as the "Applicants") to use the pesticide dimethomorph (CAS 110488-70-5) to treat up to 85,500 (NC) and 167,500 (KY) acres of tobacco to control metalaxyl - resistant blue mold. The Applicants propose the use of a new (unregistered) chemical; therefore, in accordance with 40 CFR 166.24, EPA is soliciting public comment before making the decision whether or not to grant the exemptions.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 11, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Three copies of written comments, bearing the identification notation "OPP-181004," should be submitted by mail to: Public Response

and Program Resource Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, 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 in 5.1 file format or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket number [OPP-181004]. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Additional information on electronic submissions can be found below in this document. Information submitted in any comment concerning this notice 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 provided by the submitter for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential may be disclosed publicly by EPA without prior notice. All written comments filed pursuant to this notice will be available for public inspection in Rm. 1132, Crystal Mall No. 2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** By mail: Libby Pemberton, Registration Division (7505W), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location and telephone number: Floor 6, Crystal Station #1, 2800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, (703) 308-8326; e-mail: pemberton.libby@epamail.epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C.136p), the Administrator may, at her discretion, exempt a state agency from any registration provision of FIFRA if she determines that emergency conditions exist which require such exemption. The Applicants have requested the Administrator to issue specific exemptions for the use of

dimethomorph on tobacco to control blue mold. Information in accordance with 40 CFR part 166 was submitted as part of these requests.

In 1995, a national epidemic of tobacco blue mold, caused by metalaxyl - resistant strains of the pathogen, occurred. Resistant strains are becoming more widely disseminated, a situation which is exacerbated with a protracted wet weather pattern. Previously, blue mold was controlled primarily by treatment with metalaxyl, with significant assistance from ferbam and mancozeb. A very high level of control was possible with these materials until metalaxyl - resistant strains appeared. Labeled pesticides made under ideal spray conditions but high disease pressure do not provide acceptable economic levels of control.

The Applicants state that presently, there are no fungicides registered in the U.S. that will provide adequate control of the metalaxyl - resistant strains of blue mold. The Applicants state that dimethomorph has been shown to be effective against these strains of blue mold. Dimethomorph holds current registrations throughout many European countries. The Applicants state that losses in 1995 were greater than \$70 million in Kentucky and \$9 million in North Carolina. To have another year of losses on this scale could mean bankruptcy for many of these farmers. Under appropriate conditions, it is possible that this disease could develop to epidemic proportions, causing major changes and losses to the U.S. tobacco industry.

The Applicants propose to apply dimethomorph at a maximum rate of 1.725 lbs. active ingredient (a.i.), [(2.5 lb. of product)] per acre, by ground with a maximum of 4 applications per crop, to a maximum of 85,500 acres of tobacco in North Carolina and 167,500 acres of tobacco in Kentucky.

This notice does not constitute a decision by EPA on the applications. The regulations governing section 18 require publication of a notice of receipt of an application for a specific exemption proposing use of a new chemical (i.e., an active ingredient not contained in any currently registered pesticide). Such notice provides for opportunity for public comment on the application.

A record has been established for this notice under docket number "OPP-181004" (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 Room 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.

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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 notice, 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. Accordingly, interested persons may submit written views on this subject to the Field Operations Division at the address above. The Agency, accordingly, will determine whether to issue the emergency exemptions requested by the North Carolina and Kentucky Departments of Agriculture.

#### List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests, Emergency exemptions.

Dated: March 18, 1996.

Peter Caulkins,  
*Acting Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.*

[FR Doc. 96-7447 Filed 3-26-96; 8:45 am]

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## FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY:** Federal Election Commission.

**FEDERAL REGISTER NUMBER:** 96-7072.

**PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED DATE & TIME:** Tuesday, March 26, 1996, 10:00 a.m.; Meeting Closed to the Public.

This Meeting Has Been Canceled.

**PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED DATE & TIME:** Thursday, March 28, 1996, 10:00 a.m.; Meeting Open to the Public.

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS ADDED TO THE AGENDA:** FEC FORM 5, Report of Independent Expenditures Made and Contributions Received.