set in the proposed tolerances. EPA will provide information on this method to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The method is available to anyone who is interested in pesticide residue enforcement from EPA's Field Operations Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

2. Nine-barley trials were conducted in eight states. Fifty-four one-time treated grain, hay, and straw samples (fed commodities) were analyzed. In addition, eighteen one-time treated forage samples were analyzed. Residues of difenoconazole in barley grown from seed treated with difenoconazole were below the LOQ in forage, hay, and straw (<0.05 ppm), and grain (<0.01 ppm). The feeding of difenoconazole-treated barley products to beef or dairy cattle will not require an increase in existing beef tissue or milk tolerances. Similarly, the feeding of difenoconazole-treated barley grain to poultry will not require increasing existing established poultry tissue and egg tolerances.

J. Environmental Fate

Since the Agency classifies seed treatment uses as ''indoor,'' the only environmental fate data requirement is hydrolysis. Difenoconazole is hydrolytically stable in solution at 25 °C at pH 5, 7, or 9.

II. Public Record

EPA invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice of filing. Comments must bear a notification indicating the docket control number [PF–703].

A record has been established for this notice under docket control number [PF–703] 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 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.

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 notice.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: February 4, 1997.

Stephen L. Johnson,

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 97–3930 Filed 2–18–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

[PF–699; FRL–5585–5]

Zeneca Ag Products; Pesticide Tolerance Petition Filing

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of filing.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the filing of a pesticide petition proposing the establishment of a regulation for residues of lambda-cyhalothrin and its epimer in or on rice. The names for lambda-cyhalothrin and its epimer are as follows: lambda-cyhalothrin, a 1:1 mixture of *(S)*-alpha-cyano-3-phenoxybenzyl-*(Z)*-(1R,3R)-3-(2-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoroprop-1-enyl)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate and *(R)*-alpha-cyano-3-phenoxybenzyl-*(Z)*-(1S,3S)-3-(2-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoroprop-1-enyl)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate. Epimer of lambda-cyhalothrin, a 1:1 mixture of *(S)*-alpha-cyano-3-phenoxybenzyl-*(Z)*(1S,3S)-3-(2-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoroprop-1-enyl)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate and *(R)*-alpha-cyano-3-phenoxybenzyl-*(Z)*-(1R,3R)-3-(2-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoroprop-1-enyl)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate. The summary was prepared by the petitioner, Zeneca Ag Products.

DATES: Comments, identified by the docket control number [PF–699], must be received on or before March 21, 1997.

ADDRESSES: By mail, submit written comments to: Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, bring comments to: Crystal Mall #2, Room 1132, 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 control number [PF–699]. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Additional information on electronic submissions can be found in Unit II. of this document.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this notice may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that information as ''Confidential Business Information'' (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 Room 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: By mail, George LaRocca, Product Manager, (PM 13), Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, 703-305-6100, e-mail: larocca.george@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has received a pesticide petition (PP–6F4769) from Zeneca Ag Products, 1800 Concord Pike, P.O. Box 15458, Wilmington, DE 19850-5458. The petition proposes, pursuant to section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a(d), to amend 40 CFR part 180 to establish tolerances for residues of the insecticide lambda-cyhalothrin in or on the raw agricultural commodities rice

grain at 1.0 parts per million (ppm), rice straw at 1.75 ppm, and in or on the processed commodity rice hulls at 5.0 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 supports granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition. EPA has determined the proposed analytical method is gas liquid chromatography with an electron capture detector. As required by section 408(d) of the FFDCA, as recently amended by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) Pub. L. 104-170, Zeneca Ag Products (Zeneca) included in the petition a summary of the petition and authorization for the summary to be published in the Federal Register in a notice of receipt of the petition. The summary represents the views of Zeneca; EPA as mentioned above, is in the process of evaluating the petition. As required by section 408(d)(3) of the FFDCA, EPA is including the summary as a part of this notice of filing. EPA may have made edits to the summary for the purpose of clarity.

I. Petiton Summary

A. Residue Chemistry

1. *Plant metabolism*. The metabolism of lambda-cyhalothrin has been studied in cotton, soybean, cabbage, and wheat plants. The studies show that the metabolism generally follows that of other pyrethroid insecticides. The ester linkage is cleaved to form cyclopropanecarboxylic acids and the corresponding phenoxybenzyl alcohol. Overall the studies show that unchanged lambda-cyhalothrin is the principal constituent of the residue on edible portions of these crops.

2. *Analytical method.* An adequate analytical method (gas liquid chromatography with an electron capture detector) is available for enforcement purposes.

3. *Magnitude of residues.* Sixteen field trials were carried out on rice during 1995 in the United States. The trials were conducted in the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Texas, and California. These states account for 100% of the production acres of rice in the United States. The number and geographical distribution of the trials agrees with the recommendation given in the ''EPA Residue Chemistry Guidance'' (1994). In these trials, the maximum combined residues of lambda-cyhalothrin and epimer were 0.88 ppm in or on rice grain and 1.62 ppm in or on rice straw. In addition, a single field trial was conducted during 1995 in the States of Mississippi and Arkansas for the purpose of determining if lambda-cyhalothrin residues in rice, concentrate in or on processed rice fractions. Data from these trials demonstrated that residues of lambda-cyhalothrin may concentrate up to 6.1 times in or on rice hulls but do not concentrate in rice bran or polished rice.

B. Toxicological Profile

The following toxicity studies have been conducted to support the request for a regulation for residues of lambda-cyhalothrin in or on rice.

1. *Acute toxicity.* Acute toxicity studies with the technical grade of the active ingredient lambda-cyahothrin: oral LD_{50} in the rat of 79 milligram/kilogram (mg/kg) (males) and 56 mg/kg (females), dermal LD_{50} in the rat of 632 mg/kg (males) and 696 mg/kg females, primary eye irritation study showed mild irritation, and primary dermal irritation study showed no irritation.

2. *Genotoxicity.* The following genotoxicity tests were all negative: a gene mutation assay (Ames), a mouse micronucleus assay, an *in vitro* cytogenetics assay, and a gene mutation study in mouse lymphoma cells.

3. *Reproductive and developmental toxicity.* i. A three-generation reproduction study in rats fed diets containing 0, 10, 30, and 100 ppm with no developmental toxicity observed at 100 ppm, the highest dose tested. The maternal no observed effect level (NOEL) and lowest observed effect level (LOEL) for the study are established at 30 (1.5 mg/kg/day) and 100 ppm (5 mg/kg/day), respectively, based upon decreased parental body weight gain. The reproductive NOEL and LOEL are established at 30 (1.5 mg/kg/day) and 100 ppm (5 mg/kg/day), respectively, based on decreased pup weight gain during weaning.

ii. A developmental toxicity study in rats given gavage doses of 0, 5, 10, and 15 mg/kg/day with no developmental toxicity observed under the conditions of the study. The developmental NOEL is greater than 15 mg/kg/day, the highest dose tested. The maternal NOEL and LOEL are established at 10 and 15 mg/kg/day, respectively, based on reduced body weight gain.

iii. A developmental toxicity study in rabbits given gavage doses of 0, 3, 10, and 30 mg/kg/day with no developmental toxicity observed under the conditions of the study. The maternal NOEL and LOEL are established at 10 and 30 mg/kg/day, respectively, based on decreased body weight gain. The developmental NOEL is greater than 30 mg/kg/day, the highest dose tested.

4. *Subchronic toxicity.* i. A 90-day feeding study in rats fed doses of 0, 10, 50, and 250 ppm with a NOEL of 50 ppm and a LOEL of 250 ppm based on body weight gain reduction.

ii. A 21-day study in rabbits exposed dermally to doses of 0, 10, 100, and 1,000 mg/kg/day, 6 hours/day, 5 days/week with a systemic NOEL >1,000 mg/kg/kg. There were no clinical signs of systemic toxicity at any dose level tested.

5. *Chronic toxicity.* i. A 12-month feeding study in dogs fed dose (by capsule) levels of 0, 0.1, 0.5, and 3.5 mg/kg/day with a NOEL of 0.1 mg/kg/day. The LOEL for this study is established at 0.5 mg/kg/day based upon clinical signs of neurotoxicity.

ii. A 24-month chronic feeding/carcinogenicity study with rats fed diets containing 0, 10, 50, and 250 ppm. The NOEL was established at 50 ppm and LOEL at 250 ppm based on reduced body weight gain. There were no carcinogenic effects observed under the conditions of the study.

iii. A carcinogenicity study in mice fed dose levels of 0, 20, 100, or 500 ppm (0, 3, 15, or 75 mg/kg/day) in the diet for 2 years. A systemic NOEL was established at 100 ppm and systemic LOEL at 500 ppm based on decreased body weight gain in males throughout the study at 500 ppm. The Agency has classified lambda-cyhalothrin as a Group D carcinogen (not classifiable due to an equivocal finding in this study). Zeneca concludes that no treatment-related carcinogenic effects were observed under the conditions of the study.

6. *Animal metabolism*. Metabolism studies in rats demonstrated that distribution patterns and excretion rates in multiple oral dose studies are similar to single-dose studies. There is an accumulation of unchanged compound in fat upon chronic administration with slow elimination. Otherwise, lambda-cyhalothrin was rapidly metabolized and excreted. The metabolism of lambda-cyhalothrin in livestock has been studied in the goat, chicken, and cow. Unchanged lambda-cyhalothrin is the major residue component of toxicological concern in meat and milk.

7. *Metabolite toxicology.* The Agency has previously determined that the metabolites of lambda-cyhalothrin are not of toxicological concern and need not be included in the tolerance expression. Given this determination, Zeneca concludes that there is no need to discuss metabolite toxicity.

C. Aggregate Exposure

1. *Dietary exposure*— i. *Food.* For the purposes of assessing the potential dietary exposure for all existing and pending tolerances for lambda-cyhalothrin, Zeneca has utilized available information on anticipated residues and percent crop treated. For all existing and pending tolerances the anticipated residue contribution (ARC) is estimated at 0.0002682 mg/kg/body weight (bwt)/day.

ii. *Drinking water.* Laboratory and field data have demonstrated that lambda-cyhalothrin and its degradates are immobile in soil and will not leach into groundwater. Other data show that lambda-cyhalothrin is virtually insoluble in water and extremely lipophilic. As a result, Zeneca concludes that residues reaching surface waters from field runoff will quickly adsorb to sediment particles and be partitioned from the water column. Zeneca concludes that together these data indicate that residues are not expected in drinking water.

2. *Non-dietary exposure.* Other potential sources of exposure are from non-occupational sources such as structural pest control and ornamental plant and lawn use of lambda-cyhalothrin. Zeneca has no data upon which to estimate exposure from these uses. However, given the extremely low vapor pressure of lambda-cyhalothrin (1.5×10^{-9} millimeters (mm) of mercury (Hg)) and the low use rates, it is anticipated that inhalation and dermal exposure from these uses Zeneca concludes will be insignificant.

D. Cumulative Effects

At this time, Zeneca cannot make a determination based on available and reliable information that lambda-cyhalothrin and other substances that may have a common mechanism of toxicity would have cumulative effects. Thus, Zeneca concludes that for purposes of this tolerance it is appropriate only to consider the potential risks of lambda-cyhalothrin in an aggregate exposure assessment.

E. Safety Determination

The acceptable reference dose (RfD) based on a NOEL of 0.1 mg/kg/bwt/day from the chronic dog study and a safety factor of 100 is 0.001 mg/kg/bwt/day. A chronic dietary exposure/risk assessment has been performed for lambda-cyhalothrin using the above RfD. Available information on anticipated residues and percent crop treated was incorporated into the analysis to estimate the ARC. The ARC is generally considered a more realistic estimate than an estimate based on tolerance level residues.

1. *U.S. population.* The ARC from established tolerances and the current and pending actions are estimated to be 0.0002682 mg/kg/bwt/day and utilize 26.82% of the RfD for the U.S. population.

2. *Infants and children.* The ARC for children, aged 1 to 6 years old, and non-nursing infants (subgroups most highly exposed) utilizes 57% and 65% of the RfD, respectively. Generally speaking, the Agency has no cause for concern if ARC for all published and proposed tolerances is less than the RfD.

F. International Tolerances

There are no Codex maximum residue levels (MRL) established for residues of lambda-cyhalothrin in or on rice.

II. Public Record

EPA invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice of filing. Comments must bear a notification indicating the docket control number [PF–699].

A record has been established for this notice under docket control number [PF–699] (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 public record is located in Room 1132 of the Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:

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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 notice.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: February 6, 1997.

Peter Caulkins,

Acting Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 97–3932 Filed 2–18–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Meeting of the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and summary agenda for a meeting of the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), and describes the functions of the Committee. Notice of this meeting is required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DATES AND PLACE: March 6–7, 1997. The White House Conference Center, Truman Room, Third Floor, 726 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500.

TYPE OF MEETING: Open.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE AND AGENDA: The PCAST will meet in an open session during the afternoon of Thursday, March 6, 1997, at approximately 1:30 p.m. The meeting will focus on concluding the Educational Technologies report, the FY98 budget briefings, and the kickoff of the 1997 PCAST Studies. This session will end at approximately 5:30 p.m.

The Committee will reconvene in open session on Friday, March 7, 1997, at approximately 9:30 a.m., for a general discussion among Committee members and other Executive Office staff about current activities of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For information regarding time, place, and agenda, please call Jeanie Hall at (202) 456–6100 prior to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 1997. Other questions may be directed to Angela Phillips Diaz, Executive Secretary for PCAST, or Andrea Razzaghi at (202) 456–6100. Please note that public seating for this meeting is limited, and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology was