

[OPP-181033; FRL 5591-1]

Chlorfenapyr; Receipt of Application for Emergency Exemption, Solicitation of Public Comment**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has received a specific exemption request from the Texas Department of Agriculture (hereafter referred to as the "Applicant") to use the pesticide chlorfenapyr (CAS 122453-73-0), formulated as Pirate 3SC, to treat up to 1.8 million acres of cotton to control the beet armyworm (BAW). The Applicant proposes 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 exemption.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 20, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Three copies of written comments, bearing the identification notation "OPP-181033," 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-181033]. 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 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Andrea Beard, Registration Division (7505W), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number and e-mail: Floor 6, Crystal Station #1, 2800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, (703) 308-8791; e-mail: beard.andrea@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 Applicant has requested the Administrator to issue a specific exemption for the use of chlorfenapyr on cotton to control beet armyworm. Information in accordance with 40 CFR part 166 was submitted as part of this request.

According to the Applicant, three primary factors have brought about this situation. These are: (1) the resistance to registered alternative pesticides causing control failures when these products are applied on cotton to control BAW; (2) the weather conditions consisting of mild winters and unusually dry hot weather were conducive to a BAW outbreak, and (3) BAW infesting cotton in unusually large numbers. Yield losses due to infestations of beet armyworms in cotton have ranged from 0 percent with light populations to 100 percent, due to the crop being completely devoured or the grower abandoning the field. Combining estimates from the Texas Agricultural Extension Entomologists from the various areas of infestation, at least 40 percent yield losses may occur on approximately 35 percent of the cotton acreage in the requested sites. These yield losses will result in significant economic losses for the cotton producers.

Under the proposed exemption, chlorfenapyr may be applied at a rate of 0.2 lb. a.i. per acre, with no more than 2 applications during the growing season, not to exceed the rate of 0.4 lb. a.i. per acre using ground or aerial equipment. If all 1.8 million acres are treated at this maximum rate, this could potentially result in a total use of

720,000 lb. a.i., or 239,907 gal. of product.

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 new chemical (i.e., an active ingredient not contained in any currently registered pesticide), [40 CFR 166.24 (a)(1)]. Such notice provides for opportunity for public comment on the application.

A record has been established for this notice under docket number [OPP-181033] (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 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 Texas Department of Agriculture.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests, Emergency exemptions.

Dated: February 25, 1997.

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

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[OPP-181032; FRL 5588-6]

Pyriproxyfen and Buprofezin; Receipt of Application for Emergency Exemptions, Solicitation of Public Comment

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has received specific exemption requests from the California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation (hereafter referred to as the "Applicant") to use the insect growth regulators pyriproxyfen (CAS 95737-68-1) and buprofezin (CAS 69327-76-0) to treat up to 100,000 acres of cotton to control the sweet potato, or silverleaf whitefly *Bemesia species*. In the case of pyriproxyfen, the Applicant proposes the first food use of an active ingredient. Buprofezin is an unregistered material, and its proposed use is thus use of a "new" 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 March 20, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Three copies of written comments, bearing the identification notation "OPP-181032," 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-181032]. 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 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Andrea Beard, Registration Division (7505W), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, D.C. 20460. Office location, telephone number and e-mail: Floor 6, Crystal Station #1, 2800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, (703) 308-8791; e-mail: beard.andrea@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 Applicant has requested the Administrator to issue specific exemptions for the use of pyriproxyfen and buprofezin on cotton to control the sweet potato, or silverleaf whitefly (SLW). Information in accordance with 40 CFR part 166 was submitted as part of this request.

The Applicant states that a new strain or possibly a new species, of whitefly, often referred to as the strain B of sweet potato whitefly, or silverleaf whitefly (SLW), has been a major pest of cotton in California since 1991. Since that time, it has steadily spread to new host plants and grown in population size each summer and fall. The SLW causes damage by feeding, and also through the production of honeydew, which encourages growth of sooty mold and other fungi, and leads to sticky cotton. When SLWs become numerous, their direct feeding lowers the yield. The SLW has also been implicated as a vector of virus. The Applicant claims

that adequate control of the SLW is not being achieved with currently registered products and alternative cultural practices.

The Applicant points out that the ability to adequately control this pest is further complicated because of the close proximity of these California cotton-growing areas to that of Arizona where large populations of whitefly have demonstrated resistance to available insecticidal control. It has also been demonstrated that there are whitefly populations in California with resistance problems to those being experienced in Arizona. The Applicant indicates that one application of either one or the other of the requested chemicals would not provide adequate control throughout the season, and since application of either would be limited to one, is requesting the use of both materials. The Applicant indicates that without adequate control of the SLW in cotton, significant economic losses will be suffered.

The Applicant proposes to apply pyriproxyfen at a rate of 0.054 lb. active ingredient (a.i.) per acre with a maximum of one application per crop season on up to 100,000 acres of cotton. The Applicant proposes to apply buprofezin at a rate of 0.35 lb., a.i. per acre with a maximum of one application per crop season on up to 100,000 acres of cotton. Therefore, use under these exemptions could potentially amount to a maximum total of 5,400 lbs. of pyriproxyfen and 35,000 lbs. of buprofezin.

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 in the Federal Register for an application for a specific exemption proposing the first food use of an active ingredient, or for use of a new (unregistered) chemical. Such notice provides for opportunity for public comment on the application.

A record has been established for this notice under docket number [OPP-181032] (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 Resource Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.