

III. Existing Stocks Provisions

The Agency has authorized registrants to sell or distribute product under the previously approved labeling for a period of 18 months after approval of the revision, unless other restrictions have been imposed, as in special review actions.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests, Product registrations.

Dated: March 27, 1997.

Linda A. Travers,

Director, Program Management Support Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5808-3]

Federal Information Processing Standards Waiver

ACTION: Notice of FIPS waiver.

SUMMARY: The Chief Information Officer for the Environmental Protection Agency has granted a waiver to the Agency to use the RSA cryptographical features provided in Lotus Notes in lieu of the Secure Hashing Standard (FIPS PUB 180-1), Digital Signature Standard (FIPS PUB 186), and Data Encryption Standard (FIPS PUB 46-2). This waiver is pursuant to section 111(d)(3) of the Federal Property and Services Act of 1949, as amended.

DATES: The waiver takes effect on March 21, 1997 and is valid until January 1, 1999. If the vendor incorporates Federal standards into the core product prior to January 1, 1999, EPA will end the waiver early at that time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Wohlleben, Office of Information Resources Management, 401 M Street SW (3401), Washington, DC 20460, 202-260-4465.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Federal Information Processing Standards publications (FIPS PUBS) for the Secure Hashing Standard (FIPS PUB 180-1), Digital Signature Standard (FIPS PUB 186), and the Data Encryption Standard (FIPS PUB 46-2) establish standards for generating digital signatures (which can be used to verify authenticity) and for the encryption of sensitive information transmitted and stored electronically. These FIPS publications also allow Federal agencies to waive them under certain circumstances:

A waiver may be granted if compliance with a standard would adversely affect the accomplishment of the mission of an operator of a Federal computer system; or compliance with a standard would cause a major financial impact on the operator which is not offset by Government-wide savings.

The Chief Information Officer for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has granted a waiver of FIPS PUBS 180-1, 186, and 46-2 to enable EPA to use the built-in cryptographical features of the groupware product Lotus Notes. The installed version of Lotus Notes, currently used by EPA, does not employ FIP standard cryptography. Rather it uses cryptography that enjoys widespread use in the private sector, domestically and internationally. This cryptography is Message Digest 2 (MD-2), the Rivest, Shamir, and Adelman (RSA) signature algorithm, and RC-4 symmetric encryption algorithm.

EPA determined that the cryptographic protection embedded in Lotus Notes provides an appropriate level of security to protect the unclassified information used, communicated, and stored by EPA. Upon reviewing RSA's cryptographic capabilities, Agency personnel have concluded that if properly implemented, Lotus Notes provides a full range of security functionality that fully satisfies Agency requirements.

The additional costs required to purchase and maintain FIPS-compliant products that provide equivalent security functionality as that provided by non-standard, but commercially acceptable cryptography found in Lotus Notes is a significant factor underlying the granting of this waiver. The acquisition costs for either software- or hardware-based products that implement existing Federal cryptographic standards are unnecessary. By using the cryptography embedded in Lotus Notes, EPA is able to avoid unnecessary costs, while utilizing security functionality widely accepted by the public and private sectors.

In accordance with FIPS requirements, notice of this waiver has been sent to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

Dated: March 21, 1997.

Alvin M. Pesachowitz,
Acting Assistant Administrator and Chief Information Officer.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5807-7]

Sole Source Aquifer Designation for the Columbia and Yorktown-Eastover Multiaquifer System

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In response to a petition from the Bi-County Ad Hoc Citizens Committee on Oversight, notice is hereby given that the Regional Administrator of Region III of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the Columbia and Yorktown-Eastover Multiaquifer System satisfies all determination criteria for designation as a sole source aquifer, pursuant to Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The following findings were made in accordance with the designation criteria: the Columbia and Yorktown-Eastover Multiaquifer System supplies more than 50% of the water needs for the communities within the service area boundaries; there are no viable alternative sources of sufficient supply; the boundaries of the designated area and the project review area have been reviewed and approved by the EPA; and, if contamination were to occur, it would pose a significant public hazard and a serious financial burden to the communities within the aquifer service area. As a result of this action, the EPA may review, suggest modifications to, or withhold funding for, any federally financially assisted projects proposed for construction within the Columbia and Yorktown-Eastover Multiaquifer System that may pose an adverse risk of ground water contamination.

DATES: This determination shall become effective May 9, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The data upon which these findings are based are available to the public and may be inspected during normal business hours at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—Region III, Water Protection Division, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara M. Smith, Drinking Water Branch, (215) 566-5786.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C., section 300h-3(e), states:

If the Administrator determines, on his own initiative or petition, that an area has an