

Office. Product-specific status inquiries may be made by telephone by calling toll-free 1-800-444-7255.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: July 9, 1997.

Linda A. Travers,

Director, Information Resources and Services Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 97-19389 Filed 7-22-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-50833; FRL-5731-8]

Receipt of a Notification to Conduct Small-Scale Field Testing of a Genetically Engineered Microbial Pesticide

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt of a notification (241-NMP-L) of intent to conduct small-scale field testing involving a microorganism, *Helicoverpa zea* single-embedded nuclear polyhedrosis virus (HzSNPV), which has been genetically engineered to (1) express an insect-specific pesticidal toxin, AaH IT1, from the scorpion *Androctonus australis* and (2) prevent expression of the ecdysteroid UDP-glucosyltransferase gene. American Cyanamid Company intends to test this microbial pesticide on cotton in seven states for control of the tobacco budworm and the cotton bollworm. The Agency has determined that these notifications may be of regional and national significance. Therefore, in accordance with 40 CFR 172.11(a), the Agency is soliciting public comments on these notifications.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to EPA by August 22, 1997.

ADDRESSES: By mail, submit written comments identified by the document control number [OPP-50833] and the appropriate file symbol to: Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Divisions (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, bring comments to: Rm. 1132, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by following

the instructions under the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION unit of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William R. Schneider, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7501W), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: 5th Floor, CS #1, 2805 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, (703) 308-8683; e-mail: schneider.william@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of receipt of this notification does not imply a decision by the Agency on this notification.

1. A Notification (241-NMP-L) was received from American Cyanamid Company. The proposed small-scale field trial involves the introduction of a baculovirus, *Helicoverpa zea* single-embedded nuclear polyhedrosis virus (HzSNPV), which has been genetically engineered to express a gene which encodes for an insect-specific pesticidal toxin, AaH IT1, from the venom of the scorpion *Androctonus australis*. In addition, the gene for ecdysteroid UDP-glucosyltransferase (EGT) has been replaced with the same gene containing a deletion so that this enzyme will not be produced in the infected insect larvae. When insects are infected with the naturally-occurring (wild-type) virus, EGT prevents the insect from molting, and the insect will continue to eat and grow without molting. In contrast, an insect infected with the engineered virus, will not eat or molt resulting in death one to two days earlier than seen for the wild-type virus.

2. American Cyanamid has previously field tested a different baculovirus engineered to express the same toxin and having the same EGT deletion in 1995 and 1996. The purpose of the proposed testing will be to evaluate the efficacy of the baculovirus against the tobacco budworm (*Heliothis virescens*) and the cotton bollworm (*Helicoverpa zea*) on cotton. The total acreage for all sites will not exceed 3.9 acres. Individual tests will be conducted in: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Texas. The total amount of HzSNPV for all of the testing will not exceed 100 grams of active ingredient. On completion of the test, the crops will be destroyed. Ground spray equipment will be used and will be disinfected with 0.1% bleach solution following use.

Following review of these notifications and any comments

received in response to this notice, EPA may approve the tests, ask for additional data, require additional modifications to the test protocols, or require EUP applications to be submitted. In accordance with 40 CFR 172.50, under no circumstances shall the proposed tests proceed until the submitters have received notice from EPA of its approval of such tests.

The official record for this notice, as well as the public version, has been established for this notice under docket control number [OPP-50833] (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 official rulemaking record is located at the address in "ADDRESSES" at the beginning of this document.

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. Comment 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 control number [OPP-50833] and the appropriate file symbol. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection and Genetically engineered microbial pesticides.

Dated: July 16, 1997.

Janet L. Andersen,

Director, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 97-19387 Filed 7-22-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-50831; FRL-5727-8]

Issuance of an Experimental Use Permit

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.