risk to the U.S. general population. These degradation products are not of toxicological concern. The human body produces measurable quantities of H_2O_2 during metabolism and specifically for the destruction of pathogens by phagocytes. The body possess several systems for the removal of H_2O_2 including catalase and peroxidases including glutathione peroxidase.

Residues of H_2O_2 are not expected on treated commodities (whether raw agricultural commodities or processed) and the residues do not bioaccumulate in livestock and/or poultry that consume treated feedstuffs because H_2O_2 is highly reactive and short-lived due to the inherent instability of the peroxide bond (O-O bond). Because the peroxide bond is weak, transformation to water and oxygen is very highly favored thermodynamically (1993 RED). The degradation products of hydrogen peroxide are water and oxygen. Therefore, exposure of the pesticide chemical (from the use proposed in this petition) to the U.S. general population should not occur.

2. *Infants and children.* H_2O_2 naturally degrades to water and oxygen which would not pose a health risk to the U.S. population subgroup of infants and children. These degradation products are not of toxicological concern.

Residues of H_2O_2 are not expected on treated commodities (whether raw agricultural commodities or processed) and the residues are not expected to bioaccumulate in livestock and/or poultry that consume treated feedstuffs because H_2O_2 is highly reactive and short-lived due to the inherent instability of the peroxide bond (O-O bond). Because the peroxide bond is weak, transformation to water and oxygen is very highly favored thermodynamically (1993 RED). The degradation products of H_2O_2 are water and oxygen. Therefore, exposure of the pesticide chemical (from the use proposed in this petition) to the U.S. population subgroup of infants and children should not occur.

F. International Tolerances

The petitioner understands that there are no current established Maximum Residue Levels for H_2O_2.

G. Information on endocrine effects

H_2O_2 does not act like hormones or inhibit hormonal activity.

II. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this notice of filing, as well as the public version, has been established for this notice of filing under docket control number [PF–784] (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 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 number (PF–784) and appropriate petition number. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental Protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Food additives, Feed additives, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: December 16, 1997.

Frank Sanders,

Director, Antimicrobials Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 98–929 Filed 1–13–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–5949–8]

Gray PCB Site: Notice of Proposed Settlement

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of proposed settlement.

SUMMARY: Under section 122(g) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended 42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has agreed to settle claims for response costs at the Gray PCB Site, Hopkinsville, Christian County, Kentucky, with J. Trockman & Sons, Inc. EPA will consider public comments on the proposed settlements for thirty (30) days. EPA may withdraw from or modify the proposed settlements should such comments disclose facts or considerations which indicate the proposed settlement is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. Copies of the settlements are available from: Ms. Paula V. Batchelor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Atlanta Federal Center, Waste Programs Branch, Cost Recovery Section, 61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303–3104. 404–562–8887.

Written comments must be submitted to Mr. Ray Strickland at the above address on or before February 13, 1998.

Dated: December 5, 1997.

Richard D. Green,

Acting Director, Waste Management Division.

[FR Doc. 98–936 Filed 1–13–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–5949–9]

The Incidence and Severity of Sediment Contamination in Surface Waters of the United States

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of report to Congress.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) announces the public availability of a report to Congress, The Incidence and Severity of Sediment Contamination in Surface Waters of the United States. This report to Congress is required by the Water Resources Development Act of 1992. Section 501(b)(4) of the Act defines contaminated sediment as ''sediment containing chemical substances in excess of appropriate geochemical, toxicological or sediment quality criteria or measures; or otherwise considered to pose a threat to human health or the environment''. Section 503(a)(1) of the Act requires USEPA to compile existing information on the quantity, chemical and physical composition, and geographic location of pollutants in aquatic sediment, including the probable source of such pollutants and identification of those sediments which are contaminated. Section 503(a)(2) of the Act requires the Administrator of USEPA to report to Congress the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the survey required under section 503(a)(1), including recommendations for actions necessary to prevent contamination of aquatic

sediments and to control sources of contamination.

The full report to Congress comprises three currently available volumes, and one volume in preparation. Volume 1: National Sediment Quality Survey is a screening analysis to qualitatively assess the probability of associated adverse human or ecological effects at sampling stations based on a weight of evidence evaluation. Volume 2: Data Summary for Areas of Probable Concern (APC) includes sampling station location maps and chemical and biological summary data for APC watersheds. Volume 3: National Sediment Contaminant Point Source Inventory is a screening analysis to identify probable point source contributors of sediment pollutants. Volume 4: National Sediment Contaminant Nonpoint Source Inventory is a screening analysis to identify probable nonpoint source contributors of sediment pollutants (in preparation).

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of Incidence and Severity of Sediment Contamination in Surface Waters of the United States (Volume 1 EPA document number EPA 823–R–97–006; Volume 2 EPA document number EPA 823–R–97–007; Volume 3 EPA document number EPA 823–R–97–008) should be sent to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Center for Environmental Publications and Information, 11029 Kenwood Road, Building 5, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242; telephone: 513–891–6561, fax: 513–891–6685.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas M. Armitage or F. James Keating, Risk Assessment and Management Branch, Office of Science and Technology, Mail Code 4305, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460; telephone 202–260–7301.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Incidence and Severity of Sediment Contamination in Surface Waters of the United States describes the accumulation of chemical contaminants in river, lake, ocean, and estuary bottoms and includes a screening assessment of the potential for associated adverse effects to human and environmental health. EPA studied available data from 65% of the 2,111 watersheds in the continental U.S. and identified 96 watersheds that contain ''areas of probable concern''. In portions of these watersheds, environmental conditions may be unsuitable for bottom dwelling creatures, and fish that live in these waters may contain chemicals at levels unsafe for regular consumption. Areas of probable concern are located in regions affected by urban and agricultural runoff, municipal and industrial waste discharge, and other pollution sources. EPA recommends that resource managers fully examine the risks to human health and the environment in these watersheds. Authorities should take steps to ensure that major pollution sources are effectively controlled and that plans are in place to improve sediment conditions and to support long-term health goals.

Dated: January 8, 1998.

Robert Perciasepe,

Assistant Administrator for Office of Water.

[FR Doc. 98–940 Filed 1–13–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–5949–7]

Proposed Reissuance of the NPDES General Permit for the Western Portion of the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico; (GMG290000)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of proposed NPDES general permit reissuance.

SUMMARY: EPA Region 6 today proposes to reissue the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for the Western Portion of the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico (No. GMG290000) for discharges from new sources, existing sources, and new dischargers in the Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category (40 CFR part 435, subpart A). The existing permit published in the **Federal Register** at 61 FR 41609 on August 9, 1996 authorized discharges from exploration, development, and production facilities located in and discharging to Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico seaward of the outer boundary of the territorial seas off Louisiana and Texas. The discharge of produced water to that portion of the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Subcategory facilities located in the territorial seas off Louisiana and Texas was also authorized by that permit. As proposed, the permit will be reissued with few changes.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Regional Administrator, Region 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202–2733

Comments may also be submitted via EMAIL to the following address: turner.wilma@epamail.epa.gov

DATES: Comments must be received by March 16, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Wilma Turner, Region 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202–2733. Telephone: (214) 665–7516.

A complete draft permit and/or a fact sheet more fully explaining the proposal may be obtained from Ms. Turner. In addition, the Agency's current administrative record on the proposal is available for examination at the Region's Dallas offices during normal working hours after providing Ms. Turner 24 hours advanced notice. Additionally, a copy of the proposed permit, fact sheet, and this **Federal Register** Notice may be obtained on the Internet at: http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6wq/6wq.htm

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulated Entities

EPA intends to use the proposed permit to regulate oil and gas extraction facilities located in the Outer Continental Shelf of the Western Gulf of Mexico, e.g., offshore oil and gas extraction platforms, but other types of facilities may also be subject to the permit. To determine whether your (facility, company, business, organization, etc.) may be affected by today's action, you should carefully examine the applicability criteria in part I, section A.1 of the draft permit. Questions on the permit's application to specific facilities may also be directed to Ms. Turner at the telephone number or address listed above.

The expiring permit contains limitations conforming to EPA's Oil and Gas extraction, Offshore Subcategory Effluent Limitations Guidelines at 40 CFR part 435 and additional requirements assuring that regulated discharges will cause no unreasonable degradation of the marine environment, as required by section 403(c) of the Clean Water Act. Specific information on the derivation of those limitations and conditions is contained in the fact sheet. With the changes described below, EPA Region 6 proposes to retain those limitations and conditions in the reissued permit. It is, however, proposing minor wording changes to some of those requirements to enhance their clarity.

Region 6 proposes to authorize new discharges of seawater and freshwater to which treatment chemicals have been added, subject to limitations on free oil, concentration of treatment chemicals, and acute toxicity. These new permit limitations will apply technology based limitations to miscellaneous discharges to which treatment chemicals such as biocides and corrosion inhibitors have been added. They will also ensure that