

The Applicant proposes to make no more than two applications of flowable carbofuran on cotton at the rate of 0.25 lb. active ingredient (a.i.) [(8 fluid oz.)] in a minimum of 2 gallons of finished spray per acre by air, or 10 gallons of finished spray per acre by ground application. The total maximum proposed use during the 1998 growing season June 1, 1998 until September 30, 1998 would be 0.5 lb. a.i. (16 fluid oz.) per acre. The applicant proposes that the maximum acreage which could be treated under the requested exemption would be 1 million acres, with approximately half of that acreage requiring a second application. If all the proposed acres were treated at the maximum proposed rate, then 375,000 lbs. a.i. would be used in Arkansas.

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 chemical (i.e., an active ingredient) which has been the subject of a Special Review within EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, and the proposed use could pose a risk similar to the risk assessed by EPA under the previous Special Review. Such notice provides for opportunity for public comment on the application.

The official record for this notice, as well as the public version, has been established for this notice under docket number [OPP-181061] (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 the paper record maintained 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. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect in 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket number [OPP-181061]. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

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 Arkansas State Plant Board.

#### List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests, Emergency exemptions.

Dated: April 23, 1998.

#### Peter Caulkins,

Acting Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 98-11761 Filed 5-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OW-FRL-6010-4]

#### Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the availability of EPA's Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy, an Agency workplan issued in support of EPA's regulatory and policy initiatives. The Strategy does not propose new regulation and is Agency guidance only. Also available for review is the Comment and Response Document.

EPA's Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy describes the cross-program policy framework in which EPA intends to promote consideration and reduction of ecological and human health risks posed by sediment contamination. The Strategy establishes four goals to manage the problem of contaminated sediment, and describes actions the Agency intends to take to accomplish those goals. The four goals are: (1) Prevent the volume of contaminated sediment from increasing; (2) reduce the volume of existing contaminated sediment; (3) ensure that sediment dredging and dredged material disposal are managed in an environmentally sound manner; and (4) develop scientifically sound sediment management tools for use in pollution prevention, source control, remediation, and dredged material management.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of EPA's Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy (EPA document number EPA 823-R-98-001) should be sent to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Center for Environmental Publications and Information, P.O. Box

42419, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242; telephone: 1-800-490-9198, fax: 513-489-8695. EPA's Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy may be viewed or downloaded from the Office of Science and Technology's homepage on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/OST/>. The Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy and Comment and Response Document are available for public inspection and copying from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Water Docket, East Tower Basement, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 4101, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Also available are related docket materials which include: the proposed Strategy, all public comments received on the Strategy as well as those received on an earlier proposal for discussion, and the proceedings of three national public forums held to discuss development of the Strategy. For an appointment to review Docket materials, call the Water Docket Clerk at 202-260-3027 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. As provided in 40 CFR Part 2, a reasonable fee may be charged for copying services.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jane M. Farris, Risk Assessment and Management Branch, Office of Science and Technology, Mail Code 4305, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460, Telephone: 202-260-8897.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** EPA accepted written comments on the proposed Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy for 90 days after publication of the notice of availability in the **Federal Register** on August 30, 1994, and publication of a notice of extension of comment period in the **Federal Register** on October 28, 1994. At the close of the comment period on November 30, 1994 through 1997, EPA's Office of Science and Technology within the Office of Water developed responses to comments received from 126 organizations. The Strategy and comment/response document have been reviewed and revised by four staff workgroups of the EPA Sediment Steering Committee who also drafted the proposed Strategy.

#### Executive Summary—EPA's Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy

##### *Reinventing Government to Streamline Decision-making*

Contaminated sediment poses ecological and human health risks in many watersheds throughout the United States. In these watersheds, sediment serves as a contaminant reservoir from which fish and bottom dwelling organisms can accumulate toxic compounds and pass them up the food

chain. Sediment contaminants can be passed to fish, birds, and mammals until they accumulate to levels that may be toxic. Such toxic effects may include neurological, developmental, and reproductive impacts. Toxic chemicals come from discharges from industrial waste and sewage; storm water runoff from waste dumps, city streets and farms; air pollutants contained in rainwater; contaminants in ground water; discharges to surface water; and from natural sources. The magnitude of the sediment contamination problem in the United States is evidenced in more than 2,100 State advisories that have been issued against consuming fish. Sediments were identified as a potential source of contamination at many of the sites where consumption of fish may pose health risks. EPA has studied sediment quality data from 1,372 of the 2,111 watersheds in the continental U.S. Of these, EPA has identified 96 watersheds that contain "areas of probable concern" where potential adverse effects of sediment contamination are more likely to be found.

More than ten Federal statutes provide authority to many EPA program offices to address the problem of contaminated sediment. This has resulted in fragmented, and in some cases duplicative, efforts to complete the necessary research, technology development, and pollution control activities required to effectively manage contaminated sediment. Often it has been difficult for EPA programs to agree even upon the fundamental question of whether sediment at a particular site poses ecological or human health risks. EPA's Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy was developed to streamline decision-making within and among the Agency's program offices by promoting and ensuring: the use of consistent sediment assessment practices, consistent consideration of risks posed by contaminated sediment, the use of consistent approaches to management of contaminated sediment risks, and the wise use of scarce resources for research and technology development.

#### *Goals of the Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy*

EPA's Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy describes actions that the Agency intends to take to accomplish the following four strategic goals: (1) Prevent the volume of contaminated sediment from increasing; (2) reduce the volume of existing contaminated sediment; (3) ensure that sediment dredging and dredged material disposal are managed in an

environmentally sound manner; (4) develop scientifically sound sediment management tools for use in pollution prevention, source control, remediation, and dredged material management.

#### *What the Strategy Does*

The Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy is comprised of six component sections: assessment, prevention, remediation, dredged material management, research, and outreach. In each section, EPA describes actions that the Agency intends to take to accomplish the four broad strategic goals.

In the assessment section of the Strategy EPA proposes that Agency program offices all use standard sediment toxicity test methods and chemical-specific sediment quality criteria to determine whether sediments are contaminated. Actions that EPA has taken to develop a biennial national inventory of sites and sources of sediment contamination (the National Sediment Quality Survey and National Sediment Inventory Database) are described in the assessment section of the Strategy. EPA plans to use the National Sediment Inventory Database (NSI) to identify sites that may be associated with adverse effects to human health and the environment. These assessment actions should enable EPA to focus on cleaning up the most contaminated waterbodies and ensuring that further sediment contamination is prevented. The National Sediment Quality Survey is a screening-level assessment of sediment quality data and sources of pollution that will be used by various EPA programs.

EPA's plan to stop sediment contaminants from reaching the environment is described in the prevention section of the Strategy. In order to regulate the use of pesticides and toxic substances that accumulate in sediment, EPA proposes the use of acute sediment toxicity tests to support registration of chemicals under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and the evaluation of chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). In the prevention section of the Strategy EPA also proposes: considering sediment contamination as a factor in determining which industries should be subject to new and revised effluent guidelines; using pollution prevention policies to reduce or eliminate sediment contamination resulting from noncompliance with permits; developing guidelines for design of new chemicals to reduce bioavailability and partitioning of toxic chemicals to sediment; and implementing point and

nonpoint source controls to protect sediment quality. EPA's prevention actions would minimize further contamination of sediment and reduce ecological and human health risks.

In the remediation section of the Strategy EPA proposes using multiple statutes to require contaminated sediment remediation by parties responsible for pollution. These statutes include the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), TSCA, the Rivers and Harbors Act, and the Oil Pollution Act. The Agency will consider whether a combination of pollution prevention and source controls will allow contaminated sediments to recover naturally without unacceptable impacts to human health and the environment. On a site-specific basis, cleanup programs intend to consider natural attenuation. EPA's remediation actions would clean up existing sediment contamination that adversely affects the Nation's waterbodies.

In the dredged material management section, EPA describes its commitment to continue to work with the Corps of Engineers to ensure that dredged materials are managed in an environmentally sound manner. Physical, chemical and biological test methods will continue to be used to guide disposal and management decisions.

In the research section of the Strategy, EPA proposes a program of investigative research that is needed to: develop and validate chemical-specific sediment criteria and other sediment assessment methods; improve EPA's understanding of the transfer of sediment contaminants through the food chain; and develop and evaluate a range of technologies for remediating contaminated sediments. EPA's proposed research program would support improved assessment, prevention, and remediation of contaminated sediment.

The outreach section of the Strategy describes actions that EPA intends to take to demonstrate, through public involvement, the Agency's commitment to, and accountability for, sediment management efforts. EPA plans to produce, and make available to the public, status reports on sediment management activities as part of the biennial updates of the National Sediment Quality Survey Reports.

### Next Steps Toward Implementation of a Federal Agency Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy

EPA intends to begin tracking activities of the Agency's program offices as they implement the Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy. Future updates of Agency-wide contaminated sediment activities will be included in the biennial National Sediment Quality Survey Report to Congress.

EPA's National Sediment Inventory is a screening-level assessment of sediment quality and sources of pollution that can be used in various programs. This data base can be used by Federal, State, and local agencies to target their pollution prevention and remediation efforts on the sites where sediment may be contaminated.

EPA's Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy will promote EPA and COE research to develop technologies for remediation of contaminated sediment under authority of the CWA, CERCLA, RCRA, TSCA, the Rivers and Harbors Act, the Oil Pollution Act, and WRDA.

Guidance provided in future updates of the Strategy will facilitate the coordination of dredged material management activities among Federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations. Coordination of dredged material management activities has been called for in the December 1994 action plan, "The Dredging Process in the United States: An Action Plan for Improvement," developed by the Federal Interagency Working Group on the Dredging Process (U.S. DOT, 1994). The Working Group was convened by the Secretary of Transportation in the Fall of 1993. The Group has held a series of outreach sessions throughout the country to solicit ideas on improving the dredging process. The Working Group identified important activities needed to improve the dredging process. These activities include: enhanced research and monitoring to improve dredged material disposal decision making, identification of opportunities to control sources of sediment contaminants, and effective education and communication with the public on the risks and impacts associated with dredged material disposal. Future updates of the Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy will address these issues.

### Listing of Actions Identified in EPA's Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy

EPA's Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy proposes that

Agency program offices take the following actions.

#### Assessment

All EPA program offices intend to use standard sediment testing methods to determine whether sediments are contaminated. The Office of Water (OW) intends to use standard sediment toxicity and bioaccumulation test methods for monitoring, interpretation of narrative water quality standards, and dredged material disposal testing. The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) and the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) intend to use standard sediment toxicity tests to assess the toxicity of pesticides when registering or re-registering these chemicals for use and for evaluating new and existing chemicals under TSCA. The Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (OERR) intends to use standard sediment toxicity and bioaccumulation test methods for Superfund Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies. The Office of Solid Waste (OSW) intends to use biological sediment toxicity test methods for site-specific risk assessments and monitoring at hazardous waste facilities.

Where appropriate, EPA program offices intend to use sediment quality criteria, when they are published, to assess contaminated sediment sites. All EPA programs conducting sediment monitoring intend to use the criteria to interpret sediment chemistry data. Upon publication, the criteria may be used along with appropriate test endpoints from chronic sediment bioassays to interpret the narrative state water quality standard of "no toxics in toxic amounts". National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits would be based on applicable water quality standards which may include the State's narrative standard. EPA intends to use the sediment criteria (as appropriate) with other information to make site-specific decisions concerning corrective action at hazardous waste facilities, and to assess Superfund sites. The Agency has begun to develop a more detailed "User's Guide for Multi-Program Implementation of Sediment Quality Criteria in Aquatic Ecosystems," describing how the Agency's programs intend to use these criteria. This document will be submitted for public review when it is drafted.

EPA program offices intend to use the NSI as a screening-level assessment tool of sediment quality and sources of pollution. The NSI can be used by the various EPA program offices to identify sites for further assessment. The inventory can be used to: identify

potentially contaminated sediment sites for consideration for remedial action; identify sites for further assessment that may be candidates for injunctive relief or supplemental enforcement projects; identify problem pesticides and toxic substances that may require further regulation or be evaluated for possible enforcement action; identify impaired waters for National Water Quality Inventory reports or possible development of Total Maximum Daily Loads; target watersheds for nonpoint source best management practices; and help select industries for effluent guidelines development.

#### Prevention

In order to regulate the use of pesticides that may accumulate to toxic levels in sediment, EPA intends to propose that acute sediment toxicity tests be included in procedures required to support registration, re-registration, and special review of pesticides likely to sorb to sediment. In fiscal year 1996, EPA proposed incorporating acute toxicity bioassays and spiking protocols into the Agency's pesticide assessment guidelines (40 CFR Part 158). To prevent other toxic substances from accumulating in sediment, EPA also intends to propose incorporating acute sediment toxicity tests and sediment bioaccumulation tests into routine chemical review processes required under TSCA. In addition, EPA intends to develop guidelines for design of new chemicals to reduce bioavailability and partitioning of toxic chemicals to sediment.

EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) plans to take action to prevent sediment contamination by negotiating, in appropriate cases of noncompliance with permits, enforceable settlement agreements to require source recycling and source reduction activities. The Office of Regulatory Enforcement within OECA also intends to monitor the progress of Federal facilities toward the goal of halving toxic emissions by the year 1999 and plans to monitor the reporting of toxic releases to the public.

OW and other EPA program offices intend to work with nongovernmental organizations and the States to prevent point and nonpoint source contaminants from accumulating in sediments. EPA intends to: (1) Promulgate new and revised technology-based effluent guidelines for industries that discharge sediment contaminants; (2) encourage the States to use biological sediment test methods and sediment quality criteria to interpret the narrative standard of "no toxics in toxic amounts;" (3) encourage

the States to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads for impaired watersheds specifying point and nonpoint source load reductions necessary to protect sediment quality; (4) use the NSI to identify point sources of sediment contaminants for potential permit compliance tracking after further evaluation using program-specific criteria to confirm sediment quality problems; (5) ensure that discharges from CERCLA sites and RCRA facilities subject to NPDES permits comply with future NPDES permit requirements to protect sediment quality; and (6) use the NSI to identify watersheds where technical assistance and grants could effectively be used to reduce nonpoint source loads of sediment contaminants.

#### Remediation

OW, OERR, and OECA intend to use the NSI to help target sites for further study which may lead to enforcement action requiring contaminated sediment remediation. EPA plans to use standard sediment toxicity, bioaccumulation tests, and site-specific field-based methods to identify potential sites for remediation, to assist in determining clean-up goals for contaminated sites, and to monitor the effectiveness of remedial actions. RCRA Corrective Action sites are generally determined by facilities seeking a RCRA permit, not by the program identifying contaminated areas, except in enforcement under 7003 orders.

#### Dredged Material Management

Guidance provided in future updates of the Strategy will facilitate the coordination of dredged material management activities among Federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

#### Research

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), through its Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP), intends to continue to collect new chemical and biological data on sediment quality. These data would be included in the Agency's NSI. ORD is developing: new biological methods to assess the ecological and human health effects of sediment contaminants, chemical-specific sediment quality criteria, methods to conduct sediment toxicity identification evaluations and methods to identify bioaccumulative chemicals in sediment. ORD intends to develop dredged material disposal fate and transport models, sediment wasteload allocation models, and technologies for remediation of contaminated sediment.

#### Outreach

EPA plans to undertake a program of outreach and technology transfer to educate target audiences about contaminated sediment risk management. Target audiences would include: other Federal agencies, State and local agencies, the regulated community, the scientific community, environmental advocacy groups, the news media, and the general public. EPA plans to provide technical and nontechnical information to these audiences by developing a range of outreach products. Future updates to the Strategy will be reported in biennial updates of the National Sediment Quality Survey Report to Congress.

Dated: April 30, 1998.

**Carol M. Browner,**

*Administrator.*

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BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-44648; FRL-5788-9]

#### TSCA Chemical Testing; Receipt of Test Data

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces EPA's receipt of test data on alkyl glycidyl ether (CAS No. 120547-52-6) and tertiary amyl methyl ether (TAME) (CAS No. 994-05-8). These data were submitted pursuant to enforceable testing consent agreements/orders issued by EPA under section 4 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Publication of this notice is in compliance with section 4(d) of TSCA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan B. Hazen, Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. E-543B, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, (202) 554-1404, TDD (202) 554-0551; e-mail: TSCA-Hotline@epamail.epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under 40 CFR 790.60, all TSCA section 4 enforceable consent agreements/orders must contain a statement that results of testing conducted pursuant to testing enforceable consent agreements/orders will be announced to the public in accordance with procedures specified in section 4(d) of TSCA.

#### I. Test Data Submissions

Test data for alkyl glycidyl ether were submitted by the Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. (SPI) Epoxy Resin Systems Alkyl Glycidyl Ether Task Force. The report was submitted pursuant to a TSCA section 4 enforceable testing consent agreement/order at 40 CFR 799.5000 and was received by EPA on March 18, 1998. The submission includes a final report entitled "In Vitro Mammalian Cell Gene Mutation Test with an Independent Repeat Assay." This chemical is used as an epoxy resin additive and as a modifier for other epoxides in flooring adhesives.

Test data for tertiary amyl methyl ether were submitted by the American Petroleum Institute (API), on behalf of the Tertiary Amyl Methyl Ether (TAME) Consortium. The report was also submitted pursuant to a TSCA section 4 enforceable consent agreement/order at 40 CFR 799.5000. EPA received the report on March 27, 1998. The submission includes a final report entitled "Two-Generation Reproductive Toxicity Evaluation of Inhaled Tertiary Amyl Methyl Ether (TAME) Vapor in CD (Sprague-Dawley) Rats." This chemical is widely seen as a possible additive to gasoline.

EPA has initiated its review and evaluation process for these data submissions. At this time, the Agency is unable to provide any determination as to the completeness of the submissions.

#### II. Public Record

EPA has established a public record for this TSCA section 4(d) receipt of data notice (docket number OPPTS-44648). This record includes copies of all studies reported in this notice. The record is available for inspection from 12 noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, in the TSCA Nonconfidential Information Center (also known as the TSCA Public Docket Office), Rm. B-607 Northeast Mall, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Requests for documents should be sent in writing to: Environmental Protection Agency, TSCA Nonconfidential Information Center (7407), 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460 or fax: (202) 260-5069 or e-mail: oppt.ncic@epamail.epa.gov.

**Authority:** 15 U.S.C. 2603.

#### List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Test data.