

888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

D2. Agency Comments—Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-12634 Filed 5-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-50840; FRL-5789-2]

### 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 from DuPont Agricultural Products of a notification (352-NMP-A) of intent to conduct small-scale field testing involving baculoviruses, which have been genetically engineered to express synthetic genes which encode for an insect-specific toxin. The tests will be small-scale and will not involve more than a cumulative total of 10 acres per pest per year. Any food or feed crops shall be destroyed or consumed only by experimental animals. The Agency has determined that the notification may be of regional and national significance. Therefore, in accordance with 40 CFR 172.11(a), the Agency is soliciting public comments on this notification. Q02

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before June 12, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** By mail, submit written comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, deliver comments to: Rm. 1119, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit II. of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this document 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 submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public docket by EPA without prior notice. The public docket is available for public inspection in Rm. 1119 at the Virginia address given above, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William R. Schneider, PM 90, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511W), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: 5th floor CS1 2800 Crystal Drive, 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.

EPA received a notification from DuPont Agricultural Products of Delaware (352-NMP-A). The proposed small-scale field trials involve the introduction of genetically engineered isolates of nuclear polyhedrosis baculoviruses, which have been genetically engineered to express a synthetic gene which encodes for an insect-specific toxin. The purpose of the proposed testing will be to assess and compare the efficacy of formulated and unformulated genetically engineered constructs, formulated and unformulated wild type nuclear polyhedrosis baculoviruses, and various controls against agriculture pest insects. These tests are similar to testing previously approved by EPA in 1996 (notification 352-NMP-4) and 1997 (notification 352-NMP-5). Following review of DuPont's notification 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 an Experimental Use Permit application to be submitted. In

accordance with 40 CFR 172.50, under no circumstances shall the proposed tests proceed until the submitter has received notice from EPA of its approval of such tests.

## II. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this document, as well as the public version, has been established for this document under docket control number "OPP-50840" (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 Virginia 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 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number "OPP-50840." Electronic comments on this proposed rule may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

Dated: April 29, 1998.

**Kathleen F. Knox,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-12721 Filed 5-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00535; FRL-5786-8]

### Changes to Registration Priority System Involving Organophosphate (OP) Alternatives and Reduced Risk Candidates

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** EPA is soliciting comments on a draft, updated policy for the prioritization and expedited review of applications for significant OP alternative new active ingredients and new use registration applications for

conventional pesticides handled by the Registration Division (RD). This proposed policy would also change how reduce-risk candidates will be treated in the priority system. The proposal is available as a draft Pesticide Registration (PR) Notice entitled "Changes to Registration Priority System Involving Organophosphate (OP) Alternatives and Reduced Risk Candidates," which is available upon request as indicated under Unit IV.

**DATES:** Written comments, identified by the docket number [OPP-00535], must be received on or before June 12, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments identified by the docket control number OPP-00535 by mail to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20460. In person, bring comments directly to the OPP Docket Office, which is located in Room 119 of Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit IV of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this document 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 submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public docket by EPA without prior notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** By mail: Peter Caulkins, Environmental Protection Agency (7505C), 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location and telephone number: Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, 22202, (703) 305-5447, fax: (703) 305-6920, e-mail: caulkins.peter@epamail.epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This **Federal Register** notice announces the availability of the draft Pesticide Registration (PR) Notice and solicits comments on the proposed guidance.

**Electronic Availability:**

*Internet*  
Electronic copies of this document and the draft PR Notice also are available from the EPA Home page at

the **Federal Register** - Environmental Documents entry for this document under "Laws and Regulations" (<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>).

**Fax-on-Demand**

Using a faxphone call (202) 401-0527 and select item 6111 for a copy of this document and the PR Notice.

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of the proposed PR Notice is to update EPA's policy for the prioritization and expedited review of applications for significant OP alternative new active ingredients and new uses for conventional, primarily agricultural pesticides. This notice also changes how reduce-risk candidates will be treated in the priority system.

**II. Background**

The Office of Pesticide Programs' (OPP) Reduced-Risk Committee has screened five active ingredients (AIs) that are potentially significant alternatives for OPs. These five AIs have all passed the reduced-risk screen and have been placed into expedited review. Given how important it will be to have as many OP alternatives in the market as possible, OPP will use the reduced-risk screening mechanism to identify significant OP alternatives. If the Reduced-Risk Committee determines that a pending registration action is a potentially significant OP alternative, it could recommend that action for expedited review even if it does not qualify for reduced-risk status.

**III. Policy Change**

The proposed PR notice would amend the EPA's current priority scheme by making OP alternatives that pass the reduced-risk screen would be the second highest priority (#2) behind methyl bromide alternatives (#1). Also, any submission that is determined to be a significant OP alternative, which is not granted reduced-risk status, but is recommended by the Reduced-Risk Committee for expedited review, would become an Agency priority as well. Furthermore, any submission that passes the reduced-risk screen would become an Agency priority. An Agency priority does not count against a company's limit of five priorities.

**IV. Public Record and Electronic Submissions**

A record has been established for this action under docket number "OPP-00535" (including comments and data submitted electronically as described above). 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 Rm. 119 of the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

The official record for this action, 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 in writing. The official record is the paper record maintained at the address in ADDRESSES at the beginning of this document.

**V. Schedule for Finalizing the PR Notice**

EPA plans to issue and make effective the final PR Notice as soon as possible. We anticipate that the guidance will be made final and effective within the next 3 months.

**List of Subjects**

Environmental protection, Agricultural pesticides.

Dated: April 22, 1998.

**James Jones,**

*Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.*

[FR Doc. 98-12580 Filed 5-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[OPP-181063; FRL 5789-9]

**Carbofuran; 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 Mississippi Department of Agriculture, (hereafter referred to as the "Applicant") to use the pesticide flowable Carbofuran (Furadan 4F Insecticide/Nematicide) (EPA Reg. No. 279-2876) to treat up to 1 million acres of cotton in Mississippi, to control cotton aphids. The Applicant proposes the use of a chemical which has been the subject of a Special Review within EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs. The granular formulation of carbofuran was the subject of a Special