

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

Review between the years of 1986–1991, which resulted in a negotiated settlement whereby most of the registered uses of granular carbofuran were phased out. While the flowable formulation of carbofuran is not the subject of a Special Review, EPA believes that the proposed use of flowable carbofuran on cotton could pose a risk similar to the risk assessed by EPA under the Special Review of granular carbofuran. Additionally, in 1997 EPA denied requests made under provisions of section 18 for this use of flowable carbofuran. Therefore, in accordance with 40 CFR 166.24, EPA is soliciting public comment before making the decision whether or not to grant the exemption.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 28, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Three copies of written comments, bearing the identification notation "OPP-181063," should be submitted 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 to: Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instruction under "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION." No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted in any comment concerning this notice 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 may be included in the public record by EPA without prior notice.

The public docket is available for public inspection in Rm. 119, CM#2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** By mail: David Deegan, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number and e-mail: CM#2, 1921

Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, (703) 308-9358; e-mail:

deegan.dave@epamail.epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. 136p), the Administrator may, at her discretion, exempt a state agency from any registration provision of FIFRA if she determines that emergency conditions exist which require such exemption. The Applicants have requested the Administrator to issue a specific exemption for the use of carbofuran on cotton to control aphids. Information in accordance with 40 CFR part 166 was submitted as part of this request.

As part of this request, the Applicant asserts that the state of Mississippi is likely to experience non-routine infestations of aphids during the 1998 cotton growing season. The applicant further claims that, without a specific exemption of FIFRA for the use of flowable carbofuran on cotton to control cotton aphids, cotton growers in the state will suffer significant economic losses. The applicant details a use program designed to minimize risks to pesticide handlers and applicators, non-target organisms (both Federally-listed endangered species, and non-listed species), and to reduce the possibility of drift and runoff.

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. If all acres were treated at the maximum proposed rates, then 500,000 lbs. a.i. (125,000 gallons Furadan 4F Insecticide/Nematicide) would be used in Mississippi.

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-181063] (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-181063]. 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 Mississippi Department of Agriculture.

#### List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests, Emergency exemptions.

Dated: May 5, 1998.

#### James Jones,

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 98-12722 Filed 5-12-98; 8:45 am]

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Submitted to OMB for Review and Approval

May 7, 1998.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection(s), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a