respectively. The information submitted by the applicants will be kept on file at EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711 and will be available for inspection to the extent consistent with 40 CFR part 2 (EPA's regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act).

As a designated reference or equivalent method, each of these methods is acceptable for use by states and other air monitoring agencies under the requirements of 40 CFR part 58, Ambient Air Quality Surveillance. For such purposes, the method must be used in strict accordance with the operation or instruction manual associated with the method, the specifications and limitations (*e.g.*, sample period or measurement range) specified in the applicable designation method description (see identification of the methods above). Use of the method should also be in general accordance with the guidance and recommendations of applicable sections of the Quality Assurance Handbook for Air Pollution Measurement Systems, Volume II (EPA/600/R–94/038b). Vendor modifications of a designated reference or equivalent method used for purposes of part 58 are permitted only with prior approval of the EPA, as provided in part 53. Provisions concerning modification of such methods by users are specified under section 2.8 of appendix C to 40 CFR part 58 (Modifications of Methods by Users).

In general, a method designation applies to any sampler or analyzer which is identical to the sampler or analyzer described in the designation application. In some cases, similar samplers or analyzers manufactured prior to the designation may be upgraded (*e.g.*, by minor modification or by substitution of a new operation or instruction manual) so as to be identical to the designated method and thus achieve designated status at a modest cost. The manufacturer should be consulted to determine the feasibility of such upgrading.

Part 53 requires that sellers of designated reference or equivalent method analyzers or samplers comply with certain conditions. These conditions are given in 40 CFR 53.9 and are summarized below:

(a) A copy of the approved operation or instruction manual must accompany the sampler or analyzer when it is delivered to the ultimate purchaser.

(b) The sampler or analyzer must not generate any unreasonable hazard to operators or to the environment.

(c) The sampler or analyzer must function within the limits of the applicable performance specifications given in parts 50 and 53 for at least one year after delivery when maintained and operated in accordance with the operation or instruction manual.

(d) Any sampler or analyzer offered for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method must bear a label or sticker indicating that it has been designated as part of a reference or equivalent method in accordance with part 53 and show its designated method identification number.

(e) If such an analyzer has two or more selectable ranges, the label or sticker must be placed in close proximity to the range selector and indicate which range or ranges have been included in the reference or equivalent method designation.

(f) An applicant who offers samplers or analyzers for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method is required to maintain a list of ultimate purchasers of such samplers or analyzers and to notify them within 30 days if a reference or equivalent method designation applicable to the method has been canceled or if adjustment of the sampler or analyzer is necessary under 40 CFR 53.11(b) to avoid a cancellation.

(g) An applicant who modifies a sampler or analyzer previously designated as part of a reference or equivalent method is not permitted to sell the sampler or analyzer (as modified) as part of a reference or equivalent method (although he may choose to sell it without such representation), nor to attach a label or sticker to the sampler or analyzer (as modified) under the provisions described above, until he has received notice under 40 CFR 53.14(c) that the original designation or a new designation applies to the method as modified, or until he has applied for and received notice under 40 CFR 53.8(b) of a new reference or equivalent method determination for the sampler or analyzer as modified.

(h) An applicant who offers $PM_{2.5}$ samplers for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method is required to maintain the manufacturing facility in which the sampler is manufactured as an ISO 9001-registered facility.

(i) An applicant who offers $PM_{2.5}$ samplers for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method is required to submit annually a properly completed Product Manufacturing Checklist, as specified in part 53.

Aside from occasional breakdowns or malfunctions, consistent or repeated noncompliance with any of these conditions should be reported to: Director, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Human Exposure and Atmospheric Sciences Division (MD–77), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711.

Designation of these reference and equivalent methods is intended to assist the States in establishing and operating their air quality surveillance systems under part 58. Questions concerning the commercial availability or technical aspects of any of these methods should be directed to the appropriate applicant.

Receipt of New Reference Method Applications

EPA is also hereby announcing that it has received two new applications for reference method determinations under 40 CFR part 53. Publication of a notice of receipt of such applications is required by § 53.5.

The new applications were received from BGI Incorporated, 58 Guinan Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02154, for reference method determinations for that Company's Model PQ–100 PM10 Ambient Particulate Sampler (application received on May 4, 1998) and for its Model PQ–200 Ambient Fine Particle Sampler (application received on June 1, 1998). If, after appropriate technical study, the Administrator determines that either or both of these methods should be designated as reference methods, notice thereof will be published in a subsequent issue of the **Federal Register**.

Dated: July 23, 1998

Henry L. Longest II,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 98–20612 Filed 7–31–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP–50845; FRL–6021–4]

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 American Cyanamid Company of a notification (241-NMP-A) of intent to conduct small-scale field testing involving a microorganism, *Autographa californica* Multiple-embedded Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus (AcMNPV). This modified AcMNPV has been genetically-engineered to: (1) Express an insect-

specific pesticidal toxin, TxP-I, from the straw itch mite, *Pyemotes tritici*, and (2) prevent expression of the ecdysteroid UDP-glucosyltransferase gene. American Cyanamid Company intends to test this microbial pesticide on cotton and leafy vegetables to evaluate the control of Lepidopteran pests. The Agency has determined that this 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.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before September 2, 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. 119, Crystal Mall #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. 119 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 (7511C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: 9th Floor, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, (703–308–8683), e-mail: schneider.william@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

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

A Notification (241-NMP-A) was received from American Cyanamid Company. The proposed small-scale field trial involves the introduction of a baculovirus, *Autographa californica* Multiple-embedded Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus (AcMNPV) which has been genetically-engineered to express an insect-specific pesticidal toxin, TxP-I, from the straw itch mite, *Pyemotes tritici*. 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 1 to 2 days earlier than seen for the wild-type virus.

American Cyanamid has previously field tested the same baculovirus with the same EGT deletion engineered to express a different insect-specific toxin from a scorpion in 1995, 1996, and 1997. They have submitted characterization data for the TxP-I toxin and an oral toxicity study in mice in addition to comparative host range studies in susceptible and less-susceptible Lepidopteran species. The purpose of the proposed testing will be to evaluate the efficacy of the baculovirus against lepidopteran pests, including tobacco budworm (*Heliothis virescens*), the cotton bollworm (*Helicoverpa zea*), the beet armyworm (*Spodoptera exigua*), and the cabbage looper (*Trichoplusia ni*) on cotton and leafy vegetables. The total acreage for all sites will not exceed 10 acres per pest and, on completion of the test, the crops will be destroyed.

Following the review of this 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 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.

II. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this action, as well as the public version, has been established for this action under docket control number ''OPP–50845'' (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 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–50845.'' Electronic comments on this action may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection.

Dated: July 27, 1998.

Janet L. Andersen,

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

[FR Doc. 98–20604 Filed 7–31–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6133–5]

Agency Information Collection Activities; OMB Responses

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document announces the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) responses to Agency clearance requests, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et. Seq.). An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: