

Discussion of Proposal

The Coast Guard proposes to change the Code of Federal Regulations by revising § 117.993(b) and § 117.797(b). The proposed hours of operation were determined as a result of discussions between the Vermont Agency of Transportation, Grand Isle County residents, and the mariners located in Grand Isle County.

The proposed change will allow the bridge to open on signal on the hour and half hour from May 15 through October 15 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily. From May 15 to October 15 from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. the bridge shall open on signal after four hour advance notice is given by calling the number posted at the bridge. From October 16 to May 14 the bridge will open on signal after a 24 hour advance notice is given by calling the number posted at the bridge. This action is expected to help reduce traffic congestion created when the bridge opens on signal from May 15 to October 15.

Regulatory Evaluation

This proposed rule is not a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that Order. It has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under that Order. It is not significant under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Transportation (DOT) (44 FR 11040; Feb. 26, 1979). The Coast Guard expects the economic impact of this proposed rule to be some minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation under paragraph 10e of the regulatory policies and procedures of DOT is unnecessary. This conclusion is based on the fact that the bridge has been operating unofficially on this proposed schedule for several years and the Coast Guard has not received any comments or complaints to date regarding this operating schedule for the bridge. The Coast Guard believes this proposed rule will promulgate a more balanced schedule of operation and still meet the needs of navigation.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Coast Guard considers whether this proposed rule, if adopted, will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. "Small entities" include small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with

populations less than 50,000. Therefore, for the reasons discussed in the Regulatory Evaluation section above, the Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act that this proposed rule, if adopted, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. If, however, you think that your business or organization qualifies as a small entity and that this proposed rule will have a significant economic impact on your business or organization, please submit a comment (see ADDRESSES) explaining why you think it qualifies and in what way and to what degree this proposed rule will economically affect it.

Collection of Information

This proposed rule does not provide for a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Federalism

The Coast Guard has analyzed this proposed rule in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 12612 and has determined that this proposed rule does not have sufficient implications for federalism to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

Environment

The Coast Guard considered the environmental impact of this proposed rule and concluded that, under Figure 2-1, paragraph 32(e), of Commandant Instruction M16475.1C, this proposed rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation because promulgation of changes to drawbridge regulations have been found not to have a significant effect on the environment. A written "Categorical Exclusion Determination" is not required for this proposed rule.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR part 117

Bridges.

Regulations

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 33 CFR part 117 as follows:

PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 499; 49 CFR 1.46; 33 CFR 1.05-1(g); section 117.255 also issued under the authority of Pub. L. 102-587, 106 Stat. 5039.

2. Revise § 117.993(b) to read as follows:

§ 117.993 Lake Champlain.

* * * * *

(b) The draw of the US2 Bridge, mile 91.8, over Lake Champlain, between South Hero Island and North Hero Island, shall operate as follows:

(1) The draw shall open on signal on the hour and the half hour from May 15 through October 15 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

(2) The draw shall open on signal from May 15 through October 15 from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. if at least four hours notice is given by calling the number posted at the bridge.

(3) The draw shall open on signal from October 16 through May 14 if at least twenty four hours notice is given by calling the number posted at the bridge.

* * * * *

3. Revise § 117.797(b) to read as follows:

§ 117.797 Lake Champlain.

* * * * *

(b) The draw of the US2 Bridge, mile 91.8, over Lake Champlain, between South Hero Island and North Hero Island, shall operate as follows:

(1) The draw shall open on signal on the hour and the half hour from May 15 through October 15 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

(2) The draw shall open on signal from May 15 through October 15 from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. if at least four hours notice is given by calling the number posted at the bridge.

(3) The draw shall open on signal from October 16 through May 14 if at least twenty four hours notice is given by calling the number posted at the bridge.

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Dated: December 3, 1998.

R.M. Larrabee,

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard Commander,
First Coast Guard District.*

[FR Doc. 99-387 Filed 1-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 180

[OPP-300690A; FRL-6019-8]

RIN 2070-AC18

Certain Plant Regulators: Cytokinins, Auxins, Gibberellins, Ethylene, and Pelargonic Acid; Tolerance Exemptions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: EPA is reopening and extending by 30 days the original 60-day comment period associated with its October 23, 1998, proposal (63 FR 56882) to establish exemptions from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of the active ingredients cytokinins, auxins, gibberellins, ethylene, and pelargonic acid in or on all food commodities, when used as plant regulators on plants, seeds, or cuttings and on all food commodities after harvest. EPA also proposed to remove any existing crop-specific tolerances and/or exemptions from the requirement of a tolerance for the subject active ingredients as well as considering such tolerances to be reassessed as required by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA). EPA proposed the regulation on its own initiative to facilitate the addition of new crops, application rates, and uses to the labels of products containing the listed active ingredients when used as plant regulators. This 30-day extension is in response to requests from the public for additional time to comment on the Proposed Rule.

DATES: Comments, identified by the docket control number [OPP-300690A], must be received on or before February 8, 1999.

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, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA 22202.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit I 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: By mail: Denise Greenway, c/o Product Manager (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 fl., Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA 22202; (703) 308-8263; e-mail: greenway.denise@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the October 23, 1998, issue of the **Federal Register** (63 FR 56882)(FRL-6019-7) the Office of Pesticide Programs issued a Proposed Rule to amend 40 CFR part 180 by establishing exemptions from the requirement of a tolerance for the active ingredients cytokinins (specifically: aqueous extract of seaweed meal and kinetin); auxins (specifically: indole-3-acetic acid and indole-3-butyric acid); gibberellins [gibberellic acids (GA₃ and GA₄ + GA₇), and sodium or potassium gibberellate]; ethylene; and pelargonic acid, in or on all food commodities, when used as plant regulators on plants, seeds or cuttings and on all food commodities after harvest in accordance with good agricultural practices. EPA concurrently proposed the revision or revocation and removal of any existing crop-specific tolerances and/or exemptions from the requirement of tolerances for the listed active ingredients when used as plant regulators. In taking this action EPA will consider those tolerances and/or exemptions to be reassessed (Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 408(q) as amended by the FQPA of 1996). The 60-day comment period originally associated with the proposal, which expired on December 22, 1998, is being reopened and extended by 30 days in response to requests from the public for additional time to comment.

The Agency selected this group of plant regulators as the subject of the proposal due to their non-toxic mode of action, toxicity profile, low application rates, and the expectation that plant regulator uses will not significantly increase their intake above normally consumed levels. There are additional plant regulator active ingredients which may meet the selection criteria. The Agency may, in the future, propose a similar document addressing other candidate plant regulator active ingredients.

All of the subject active ingredients are currently registered plant regulators, with the exception of indole-3-acetic acid. The Agency discourages the establishment (or existence) of

tolerances, or exemptions from the requirement of a tolerance, for active ingredients for which there are no registered pesticide products. Therefore, any Final Rule subsequent to the proposal will not include indole-3-acetic acid (a naturally occurring analog of indole-3-butyric acid) in the tolerance exemption for auxins, unless during the comment period specific requests that it be included are received. Such requests must document the intention of the commenter to promptly submit upon publication of the Final Rule an application to register a plant regulator product containing indole-3-acetic acid as an active ingredient.

The Agency made the proposal upon its own initiative to facilitate the addition of new crops, application rates, and uses to the labels of products containing the listed active ingredients when used as plant regulators. A plant regulator is defined by EPA as “***any substance or mixture of substances intended, through physiological action, for accelerating or retarding the rate of growth or rate of maturation, or for otherwise altering the behavior of plants or the produce thereof***” (FIFRA sec. 2 (v)). Additionally, plant regulators are characterized by their low rates of application; high application rates of the same compounds often are herbicidal.

I. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this rulemaking, as well as the public version, has been established for this rulemaking under docket control number [OPP-300690A] (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. Comments 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-300690A]. Electronic comments on this

proposed rule may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

II. Regulatory Assessment Requirements

A. Certain Acts and Executive Orders

This action proposes exemptions from the tolerance requirement under FFDCA section 408(d). The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has exempted these types of actions from review under Executive Order 12866, entitled *Regulatory Planning and Review* (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993). In addition, this proposed action does not contain any information collections subject to OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, or impose any enforceable duty or contain any unfunded mandate as described under Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) (Pub. L. 104-4). Nor does it require any special considerations as required by Executive Order 12898, entitled *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994), or require OMB review in accordance with Executive Order 13045, entitled *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks* (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997).

In addition, under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Agency previously assessed whether establishing tolerances, exemptions from tolerances, raising tolerance levels or expanding exemptions might adversely impact small entities and concluded, as a generic matter, that there is no adverse economic impact. The factual basis for the Agency's generic certification for tolerance actions published on May 4, 1981 (46 FR 24950), and was provided to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

B. Executive Order 12875

Under Executive Order 12875, entitled *Enhancing Intergovernmental Partnerships* (58 FR 58093, October 28, 1993), EPA may not issue a regulation that is not required by statute and that creates a mandate upon a State, local or tribal government, unless the Federal government provides the funds necessary to pay the direct compliance costs incurred by those governments. If the mandate is unfunded, EPA must provide to OMB a description of the extent of EPA's prior consultation with representatives of affected State, local and tribal governments, the nature of their concerns, copies of any written communications from the governments,

and a statement supporting the need to issue the regulation. In addition, Executive Order 12875 requires EPA to develop an effective process permitting elected officials and other representatives of State, local and tribal governments "to provide meaningful and timely input in the development of regulatory proposals containing significant unfunded mandates."

Today's proposed rule does not create an unfunded Federal mandate on State, local or tribal governments. The rule does not impose any enforceable duties on these entities. Accordingly, the requirements of section 1(a) of Executive Order 12875 do not apply to this rule.

C. Executive Order 13084

Under Executive Order 13084, entitled *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments* (63 FR 27655, May 19, 1998), EPA may not issue a regulation that is not required by statute, that significantly or uniquely affects the communities of Indian tribal governments, and that imposes substantial direct compliance costs on those communities, unless the Federal government provides the funds necessary to pay the direct compliance costs incurred by the tribal governments. If the mandate is unfunded, EPA must provide OMB, in a separately identified section of the preamble to the rule, a description of the extent of EPA's prior consultation with representatives of affected tribal governments, a summary of the nature of their concerns, and a statement supporting the need to issue the regulation. In addition, Executive Order 13084 requires EPA to develop an effective process permitting elected and other representatives of Indian tribal governments "to provide meaningful and timely input in the development of regulatory policies on matters that significantly or uniquely affect their communities."

Today's proposed rule does not significantly or uniquely affect the communities of Indian tribal governments. This action does not involve or impose any requirements that affect Indian Tribes. Accordingly, the requirements of section 3(b) of Executive Order 13084 do not apply to this rule.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 180

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: December 29, 1998.

Janet L. Andersen,

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

[FR Doc. 99-429 Filed 1-7-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Refugee Resettlement

45 CFR Parts 400 and 401

RIN 0970-AB83

Refugee Resettlement Program: Requirements for the Public/Private Partnership Program for Refugee Cash Assistance; and Refugee Medical Assistance

AGENCY: Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would amend current requirements governing refugee cash assistance and refugee medical assistance and would establish the refugee cash assistance program as a public/private partnership between States and local resettlement agencies.

DATES: Comments must be received by March 9, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Toyo A. Biddle, Director, Division of Refugee Self-Sufficiency, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families, 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW., 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20447.

Agencies and organizations are requested to submit comments in duplicate. While we are soliciting comments on all aspects of the proposed rule, we would particularly appreciate your feedback on the time periods allowed for implementation.

Comments will be available for public inspection, beginning approximately one month after publication, at the above address on Monday through Friday of each week from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., except Federal holidays. Although we will not be able to acknowledge or respond to comments individually, in preparing the final rule, we will respond to comments in the preamble to the final rule.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Toyo Biddle, (202) 401-9250, or Barbara Chesnik, (202) 401-4558.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: