

development and reproduction. Acibenzolar-S-methyl is not a teratogenic hazard except at, or close to, the maximum tolerated dose. The chronic studies also showed no evidence of a long-term effect related to the endocrine system.

C. Aggregate Exposure

1. *Dietary exposure*—i. *Food*. For the purposes of assessing the potential dietary exposure under the proposed tolerances, Novartis has estimated aggregate exposure based upon the Theoretical Maximum Residue Concentration (TMRC) from the requested tolerances for the raw agricultural commodities: Leafy Vegetables (excluding spinach) at 0.25 ppm; Spinach at 1.0 ppm; and Fruiting Vegetables at 1.0 ppm. The TMRC is a "worst case" estimate of dietary exposure since it assumes 100% of all crops for which tolerances are established are treated and that pesticide residues are at the tolerance levels. In conducting this exposure assessment, Novartis has made very conservative assumptions -- 100% of all leafy vegetable and spinach, and fruiting vegetable commodities will contain acibenzolar-S-methyl residues at tolerance levels -- which result in an overestimate of human exposure. The RfD of 0.05 mg/kg/day is based on a 1-year feeding study in dogs with a NOAEL of 5 mg/kg/day and an uncertainty factor of 100. No additional modifying factor for the nature of effects was judged to be necessary as weight changes were the most sensitive indicators of toxicity in that study.

ii. *Drinking water*. Acibenzolar-S-methyl is rapidly degraded in the environment via photolysis and microbial degradation; aqueous and soil photolysis irradiated half-lives for acibenzolar-S-methyl are 0.6 hours and 24 hours, respectively. The aerobic metabolism half-life is 5.3 hours. Anaerobic aquatic metabolism half-lives are 4 days and 96 days for primary and secondary half-life, respectively. The leaching potential for acibenzolar-S-methyl is low (Koc = 492-3288). Dietary exposure to acibenzolar-S-methyl from water intake for the most sensitive subpopulation of children (1-6 years old), was calculated to be < 0.01% of the RfD, based on the GENECC model. Based on these data, Novartis does not anticipate exposure to residue of acibenzolar-S-methyl in drinking water.

2. *Non-dietary exposure*. Novartis believes that the potential for non-occupational exposure to the general public is unlikely except for potential residues in food crops discussed above. The proposed uses for acibenzolar-S-

methyl are for agricultural crops and the product is not used residentially in or around the home.

D. Cumulative Effects

Novartis believes that consideration of a common mechanism of toxicity is not appropriate at this time since there is no information to indicate that toxic effects produced by acibenzolar-S-methyl would be cumulative with those of any other chemicals. Acibenzolar-S-methyl is a plant activator and no other compounds in this class are registered in the United States. Consequently, Novartis is considering only the potential exposure to acibenzolar-S-methyl in its aggregate risk assessment.

E. Safety Determination

1. *U.S. population*. Using the conservative exposure assumptions described above and based on the completeness and reliability of the toxicity data base for acibenzolar-S-methyl, Novartis has calculated aggregate exposure levels for this chemical. Based on chronic toxicity endpoints, only 1.8% of the RfD will be utilized for the U.S. general population. Dietary exposure to acibenzolar-S-methyl from water intake for the most sensitive subpopulation of children (1-6 years old), was calculated to be < 0.01% of the RfD, based on the GENECC model. EPA usually has no concern for exposures below 100% of the RfD because the RfD represents the level at or below which daily aggregate dietary exposure over a lifetime will not pose appreciable risks to human health. Novartis concludes that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure to acibenzolar-S-methyl residues.

2. *Infants and children*. Embryotoxicity and fetotoxicity were apparent at maternally toxic doses of CGA-245704 technical in rats and rabbits. The lowest NOAEL for this effect was established in the 2-generation reproduction study at 25 mg/kg (200 ppm).

Using the same conservative exposure assumptions as employed for the determination in the general population, Novartis has calculated the utilization of RfD by aggregate exposure to residues of acibenzolar-S-methyl to be 0.4% for nursing infants less than 1 year old, 1.5% for non-nursing infants less than 1 year old, 3.2% for children 1-6 years old, and 2.5% for children 7-12 years old. Dietary exposure to acibenzolar-S-methyl from water intake for the most sensitive subpopulation of children (1-6 years old), was calculated to be < 0.01% of the RfD, based on the GENECC model. Novartis believes that under the

worst case assumptions which overestimate exposure to infants and children, there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result to infants and children from aggregate exposure to acibenzolar-S-methyl residues.

Additionally, CGA-245704 is not a reproductive toxin. Some signs of teratogenicity were found at, or close to, maternally toxic doses. No neurotoxic effects or oncogenic activity has been observed with CGA-245704. From these available toxicology data, no special susceptibility of infants or children is anticipated.

F. International Tolerances

Codex maximum residue levels (MRL's) have not been established for residues of CGA-245704 in or on raw agricultural commodities from the fruiting vegetable and leafy vegetable crop groups. Maximum residue levels of 0.1 ppm have been established for CGA-245704 on wheat in Switzerland and Hungary. Proposed CODEX MRLs of 1.0 ppm on tomatoes and 0.1 ppm on bananas, cereals, wheat, spring barley, and rice have been proposed.

[FR Doc. 99-4024 Filed 2-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION BILLING CODE: 6715-01-M.

DATE & TIME: Tuesday, February 23, 1999 at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.

STATUS: The Meeting Will be Closed to the Public.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Compliance matters pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g.

Audits conducted pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g, § 438(b), and title 26, U.S.C.

Matters concerning participation in civil actions or proceedings or arbitration.

Internal personal rules and procedures or matters affecting a particular employee.

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, February 24, 1999 at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. (Ninth Floor)

STATUS: The Hearing Will be Open to the Public.

MATTER BEFORE THE COMMISSION: 1996 Committee on Arrangements for the Republican National Convention.

DATE & TIME: Thursday, February 25, 1999 at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. (Ninth Floor)

STATUS: The Hearing Will be Open to the Public.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSES:

Correction and Approval of Minutes. Advisory Opinion 1999-01: Mark Greene.

Revising Revising the National Voting System Standards.

Report of the Audit Division on Clinton/Gore '96 Primary Committee, Inc.

Report of the Audit Division on Clinton/Gore '96 General Committee, Inc. and Clinton/Gore '96 General Election Legal and Accounting Compliance Fund.

Report of the Audit Division on the Dole for President Committee, Inc. (Primary).

Report of the Audit Division on the Dole/Kemp '96 and Dole/Kemp Compliance Committee, Inc. (General). Legislative Recommendations, 1999.

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments ("EFOIA").

Administrative Matters.

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION:

Mr. Ron Harris, Press Officer, Telephone: (202) 694-1220.

Majorie W. Emmons,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 99-4203 Filed 2-16-99; 3:10 pm]

BILLING CODE 6715-01-M

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in

writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act. Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than March 12, 1999.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of New York (Betsy Buttrill White, Senior Vice President) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045-0001:

1. *Lakeland Bancorp*, Oak Ridge, New Jersey; to merge with High Point Financial Corp., Branchville, New Jersey, and thereby indirectly acquire The National Bank of Sussex County, Branchville, New Jersey.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 11, 1999.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99-3885 Filed 2-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TIME AND DATE: 11:00 a.m., Monday, February 22, 1999.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202-452-3204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202-452-3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.federalreserve.gov> for an electronic announcement that not only

lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: February 12, 1999.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99-4048 Filed 2-12-99; 5:08 pm]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Prevention Activities for African American Populations

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Fiscal Year 1999 appropriation for CDC includes an increase in funds to support Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention activities predominantly for African American populations. CDC is proposing to award approximately \$15.5 million to fund three cooperative programs to address the needs of these populations: community-based organizations (CBO) program, minority organization technical assistance (MOTA) program, and community coalitions demonstration program to develop linkages among HIV, STD (sexually transmitted diseases), TB (tuberculosis), and substance abuse services. On the basis of demonstrated need and available funds, other disproportionately affected racial and ethnic minority populations may be considered for funding.

Under separate announcements, an additional \$500,000 will be awarded to CBOs in the Virgin Islands to provide HIV prevention services, and \$300,000 to Divinity Schools affiliated with Historically Black Colleges and Universities to develop HIV prevention training and curricula.

The purpose of this notice is to request comments on these proposed programs. After consideration of comments submitted, CDC will publish program announcements to solicit applications. A more complete description of the goals of these programs, the target applicants, availability of funds, program requirements, and evaluation criteria follows.

DATES: The public is invited to submit comments by March 4, 1999.