Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

2. *In person or by courier*. Deliver comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA. The PIRIB is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305–5805.

3. *Electronically*. Submit electronic comments by e-mail to: ''opp-docket@epa.gov,'' or you can submit a computer disk as described in this unit. Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. 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 standard computer disks in WordPerfect 6.1/8.0 or ASCII file format. All comments in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number OPP–34143B. Electronic comments may also be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

B. How Should I Handle CBI Information that I Want to Submit to the Agency?

Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. You may claim information that you submit to EPA in response to this document as CBI 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. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public version of the official record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public version of the official record without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person listed under ''FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.''

IV. What Action is EPA Taking in this Notice?

EPA is making available for public viewing the revised risk assessments and related documents for one organophosphate, dimethoate. These documents have been developed as part of the pilot public participation process that EPA and USDA are now using for involving the public in the reassessment of pesticide tolerances under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), and the reregistration of individual organophosphate pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The pilot public participation process was developed as part of the EPA-USDA Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC), which was established in April 1998, as a subcommittee under the auspices of EPA's National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology. A goal of the pilot public participation process is to find a more effective way for the public to participate at critical junctures in the Agency's development of organophosphate risk assessments and risk management decisions. EPA and USDA began implementing this pilot process in August 1998, to increase transparency and opportunities for stakeholder consultation. The documents being released to the public through this notice provide information on the revisions that were made to the dimethoate preliminary risk assessments, which where released to the public on September 9, 1998 (63 FR 48213) (FRL–6030–2) through a notice in the **Federal Register**.

In addition, this notice starts a 60-day public participation period during which the public is encouraged to submit risk management proposals or otherwise comment on risk management for dimethoate. The Agency is providing an opportunity, through this notice, for interested parties to provide written risk management proposals or ideas to the Agency on the pesticides specified in this notice. Such comments and proposals could address ideas about how to manage dietary, occupational, or ecological risks on specific dimethoate use sites or crops across the United States or in a particular geographic region of the country. To address dietary risk, for example, commenters may choose to discuss the feasibility of lower application rates, increasing the time interval between application and harvest (''pre-harvest intervals''), modifications in use, or suggest alternative measures to reduce residues contributing to dietary exposure. For occupational risks, for example, commenters may suggest personal protective equipment or technologies to reduce exposure to workers and pesticide handlers. For ecological risks, commenters may suggest ways to reduce environmental exposure, e.g., exposure to birds, fish, mammals, and other non-target organisms. EPA will provide other opportunities for public participation and comment on issues associated with the organophosphate tolerance reassessment program. Failure to participate or comment as part of this opportunity will in no way prejudice or limit a commenter's opportunity to participate fully in later notice and comment processes. All comments and proposals must be received by EPA on or before February 14, 2000 at the addresses given under the ''ADDRESSES'' section. Comments and proposals will become part of the Agency record for the organophosphate specified in this notice.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Chemicals, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: December 8, 1999.

Jack E. Housenger,

Acting Director, Special Review and Reregistration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 99–32651 Filed 12–15–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[PF–901; FRL–6393–4]

Notice of Filing a Pesticide Petition to Establish a Tolerance for Certain Pesticide Chemicals in or on Food

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initial filing of a pesticide petition proposing the establishment of regulations for residues of certain pesticide chemicals in or on various food commodities.

DATES: Comments, identified by docket control number PF–901, must be received on or before January 18, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by mail, electronically, or in person. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit I.C. of the ''SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION'' section. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number PF–901 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Driss Benmhend, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308–9525; and

e-mail address:
benmhend.driss@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

You may be affected by this action if you are an agricultural producer, food manufacturer or pesticide manufacturer. Potentially affected categories and entities may include, but are not limited to:

Categories	NAICS	Examples of potentially affected entities
Industry	311 32532	Food manufacturing Pesticide manufacturing

This listing is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be affected by this action. Other types of entities not listed in the table could also be affected. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes have been provided to assist you and others in determining whether or not this action might apply to certain entities. If you have questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed in the ''FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT'' section.

B. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of this Document and Other Related Documents?

1. *Electronically.* You may obtain electronic copies of this document, and certain other related documents that might be available electronically, from the EPA Internet Home Page at http://www.epa.gov/. To access this document, on the Home Page select ''Laws and Regulations'' and then look up the entry for this document under the ''**Federal Register**--Environmental Documents.'' You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/.

2. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control number PF–901. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received during an applicable comment period, and other information related to this action, including any information claimed as confidential business information (CBI). This official record includes the documents that are physically located in the docket, as well as the documents that are referenced in those documents. The public version of the official record does not include any information claimed as CBI. The public version of the official record, which includes printed, paper versions of any electronic comments submitted during an applicable comment period, is available for inspection in the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305–5805.

C. How and to Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments through the mail, in person, or electronically. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number PF–901 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

1. *By mail.* Submit your comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

2. *In person or by courier.* Deliver your comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The PIRIB is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305–5805.

3. *Electronically.* You may submit your comments electronically by E-mail to: *''opp-docket@epa.gov,''* or you can submit a computer disk as described above. Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Electronic submissions will be accepted in Wordperfect 6.1/8.0 or ASCII file format. All comments in electronic form must be identified by docket control number PF–901. Electronic comments may also be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

D. How Should I Handle CBI That I Want to Submit to the Agency?

Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. You may claim information that you submit to EPA in response to this document as CBI 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. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public version of the official record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public version of the official record without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person identified in the ''FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT'' section.

E. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.

2. Describe any assumptions that you used.

3. Provide copies of any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.

4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at the estimate that you provide.

5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.

6. Make sure to submit your comments by the deadline in this notice.

7. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, be sure to identify the docket control number assigned to this action in the subject line on the first page of your response. You may also provide the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation.

II. What Action is the Agency Taking?

EPA has received a pesticide petition as follows proposing the establishment and/or amendment of regulations for residues of certain pesticide chemical in or on various food commodities under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Comestic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a. EPA has determined that this petition contains data or information regarding the elements set forth in section 408(d)(2); however, EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficiency of the submitted data at this time or whether the data supports granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Agricultural commodities, Feed additives, Food additives, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: December 2, 1999.

Janet L. Andersen,

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

Summary of Petition

The petitioner summary of the pesticide petition is printed below as required by section 408(d)(3) of the FFDCA. The summary of the petition was prepared by the petitioner and represents the views of the petitioner. The petition summary announces the availability of a description of the analytical methods available to EPA for the detection and measurement of the pesticide chemical residues or an explanation of why no such method is needed.

Agrotol International

9F6065

EPA has received a pesticide petition (9F06065) from Agrotol International, 7322 Southwest Freeway, Suite 1400, Houston, TX 77074, proposing, pursuant to section 408(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a(d), to amend 40 CFR part 180 to establish an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for the biochemical pesticide phosphorous acid.

Pursuant to section 408(d)(2)(A)(i) of the FFDCA, as amended, Agrotol International has submitted the following summary of information, data, and arguments in support of their pesticide petition. This summary was prepared by Agrotol International and EPA has not fully evaluated the merits of the pesticide petition. The summary may have been edited by EPA if the terminology used was unclear, the summary contained extraneous material, or the summary unintentionally made the reader conclude that the findings reflected EPA's position and not the position of the petitioner.

A. Product Name and Proposed Use Practices

Agtrol International has applied for registrations of two products containing phosphorous acid as the sole active ingredient (a.i). One product, Phosphorous Acid Technical, is a manufacturing-use product containing the a.i at 71%. This product is intended for use in formulating fungicidal products for application to terrestrial food crops. The other product, Agri-Phos Agricultural Fungicide, is an end-use product containing the 56.2% mono- and dibasic sodium, potassium and ammonium salts of phosphorous acid (36.3% phosphorous acid). This product is a fungicide intended for application to terrestrial food crops, i.e., avocado, Brassica crops, caneberry, citrus, curcubit crops, ginseng, grape, hops, leafy vegetables, onions (dry bulb), pineapple, pome fruit, strawberry, and tomato.

B. Product Identity/Chemistry

1. *Identity of the pesticide and corresponding residues—plant metabolism*. Phosphorous acid is rapidly degraded in the environment to yield hydrogen and phosphite ions. Release of hydrogen ions will increase the pH of the plants surface, which will be moderated by the amount of neutralizing ions present, the buffering capacity, and the amount of dilution possible. Phosphite ions are available for uptake by plants usually in the form of ammonium, calcium, and potassium and sodium phosphites (phosphite salts).

2. *Magnitude of residue at the time of harvest and method used to determine the residue*. Magnitude of residue Agtrol has requested a waiver for all residue chemistry data requirements because phosphorous acid *per se* is not expected to be found in or on raw agricultural commodities (RAC). Phosphorous acid sprayed on plants is expected to dissociate rapidly releasing hydrogen and phosphite ions. The ions are available for uptake by plants usually in the form of ammonium, calcium and potassium and sodium phosphites (phosphite salts). Many phosphite salts are generally recognized as safe (GRAS). See 21 CFR 182.3616, 182.3637, 182.3739, 182.3766, 182.3796, and 184.1764. Moreover, natural means are expected to moderate the accumulation of these ions on plants.

3. *Analytical method*. Agtrol International has not submitted a practical analytical method for the detection and measurement of pesticide chemical residues. Phosphorous acid *per se* is not expected to be found in or on RACs, because once this chemical is released into the environment it dissociates rapidly to form hydrogen and phosphite ions.

C. Mammalian Toxicological Profile

1. *Acute toxicity*. Phosphorous acid is of high acute toxicity through the oral, dermal, and inhalation routes of exposure. Phosphorous acid is corrosive to eyes and skin. However, results of studies conducted on Agri-Phos Agricultural Fungicide, the end-use product for which Agtrol International has applied for registration, demonstrate that this product has a low order of toxicity. The acute oral LD_{50} in the rat was greater than 5,000 milligrams per kilograms (mg/kg) of bodyweight. The acute dermal LD_{50} in the rat was greater than 5,000 mg/kg of bodyweight. The acute inhalation LC_{50} in the rat was greater than 2.06 milligrams per liter (mg/L). The product was found slightly irritating to the skin of guinea pigs and produced irritation to the eyes or rabbits that cleared within 48 hours. The product was not positive in guinea pigs for skin sensitization.

2. *Developmental/reproductive effects, chronic effects and carcinogenicity*. There is adequate information available from literature sources to characterize the toxicity of phosphorous acid. Phosphorous acid can affect human health through inhalation of mist, ingestion, and contact with the skin and eyes. It will cause corrosive effects (burns or irreversible damage) to the eyes, skin, throat, digestive tract, upper respiratory tract and nose. Signs of overexposure to this chemical are severe burning of eyes and skin, possible nausea and vomiting, coughing, burning and tightness of the chest and shortness of breath. Based on corrosiveness and then current use patterns for the mineral acids, EPA did not require these studies as part of the Reregistration Eligibility Decision on Mineral Acids (EPA 738-R-029; December 1993).

3. *Endocrine disruption*. Phosphorous acid does not belong to a class of chemicals known or suspected of having adverse effects on the endocrine system. Further, Agtrol International is not aware of any evidence that phosphorous acid has any effect on endocrine function. Last, there is no evidence that phosphorous acid bioaccumulates in the environment.

D. Aggregate Exposure

1. *Dietary exposure—i. Food*. No dietary exposure is expected. When phosphorous acid is applied to growing crops in the environment it rapidly dissociates to form hydrogen and phosphite ions.

ii. *Drinking water—drinking water exposure*. No significant exposure is expected to result from phosphorous acid because it is likely to be biodegraded in the terrestrial and aquatic environments to hydrogen and phosphite ions. The effects on humans resulting from anticipated concentrations to these ions due to

agricultural uses will be moderated by natural means. Moreover, there is no potential for either ion to be significantly accumulated by the biota. Phosphorous acid is not regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act; therefore; no maximum contaminant level (MCL) has been established for it.

2. *Non-dietary exposure.* The primary non-pesticidal uses of phosphorous acid are industrial in closed production systems. There are no residential, indoor, school, or day care uses proposed for this product. The proposed use pattern is for agricultural food crops. Therefore, there is no potential for non-occupational exposure to the general population.

E. Cumulative Exposure

Agri-Phos Agricultural Fungicide may share a common metabolic mechanism with other salts of phosphorous acid (such as calcium); however, due to their limited use, these other salts are not expected to pose significant contributions to the cumulative effects from the agricultural fungicidal use of Agri-Phos Agricultural Fungicide.

F. Safety Determination

1. *U.S. population.* Aggregate exposure to phosphorous acid is expected to be minimal. There is very little potential for exposure to phosphorous acid in drinking water and from non-dietary, non-occupational exposures. This chemical will be applied to agricultural food crops by commercial applicators. Once released into the environment, the chemical rapidly dissociates to form hydrogen and phosphite ions. The hydrogen ions affect pH, but this is moderated by natural means. Many phosphite salts are GRAS. See 21 CFR 182.3616, 182.3637, 182.3739, 182.3766, 182.3796, and 184.1764. Therefore, the health risk to humans is negligible based on the low toxicity of these ions and a low application rate for the a.i, and one can conclude that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure to phosphorous acid.

2. *Infants and children.* Aggregate exposure to phosphorous acid is expected to be minimal. There is very little potential for exposure to phosphorous acid in drinking water and from non-dietary, non-occupational exposures. This chemical will be applied to agricultural food crops by commercial applicators. Once released into the environment, the chemical rapidly dissociates to form hydrogen and phosphite ions. The hydrogen ions affect pH, but this is moderated by natural means. Many phosphite salts are GRAS. See 21 CFR 182.3616, 182.3637, 182.3739, 182.3766, 182.3796, and 184.1764. Therefore, the health risk to humans is negligible based on the low toxicity of these ions and a low application rate for the a.i, and one can conclude that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result to infants and children from aggregate exposure to phosphorous acid residues.

G. Effects on the Immune and Endocrine Systems

Phosphorous acid does not belong to a class of chemicals known or suspected of having adverse effects on the immune and endocrine systems. Further, Agtrol International is not aware of any evidence that phosphorous acid has any effect on immune and endocrine functions. Last, there is no evidence that phosphorous acid bioaccumulates in the environment.

H. Existing Tolerances

No tolerances have been established for residues of phosphorous acid in RACs and or processed food/feed. Disodium phosphate, monoammonium phosphate, diammonium phosphate and potassium phosphate have been exempted from the requirement of a tolerance under 40 CFR part 180.1001.

I. International Tolerances

No maximum residue levels (MRLs) have been established for phosphorous acid by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CODEX).

[FR Doc. 99–32654 Filed 12–15–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisitions of Shares of Banks or Bank Holding Companies

The notificants listed below have applied under the Change in Bank Control Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) and § 225.41 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.41) to acquire a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the notices are set forth in paragraph 7 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(7)).

The notices are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notices also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing to the Reserve Bank indicated for that notice or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Comments must be received not later than December 30, 1999.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (JoAnne F. Lewellen, Assistant Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, P.O. Box 291, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. James G. Sneer Revocable Living Trust, Mountain Lake, Minnesota, with James G. Sneer as trustee; to acquire 79.9 percent of the voting shares of Farmers State Corporation, Mankato, Minnesota, and thereby indirectly acquire United Prairie Bank-Jackson, Jackson, Minnesota; United Prairie Bank-Madison, Madison, Minnesota; United Prairie Bank-New Ulm, New Ulm, Minnesota; Green Lake State Bank, Spicer, Minnesota; United Prairie Bank-Slayton, Slayton, Minnesota; and United Prairie Bank, Mountain Lake, Minnesota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 10, 1999.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99–32549 Filed 12–15–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–F

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 (12 U.S.C. 1843). 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