

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On October 25, 1999, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a notice in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 57421) proposing to amend its regulations to eliminate the special treatment given to a category of confidential business information (CBI). This category of information includes comments received from businesses to substantiate their claims of confidentiality for previously submitted information (a "substantiation"). Under EPA's current regulations (40 CFR 2.205 (c)), if a substantiation is properly marked as confidential when received by EPA (in accordance with 40 CFR 2.203(b)) and not otherwise possessed by EPA, the substantiation "will be regarded as entitled to confidential treatment and will not be disclosed by EPA without the [submitter's] consent, unless its disclosure is duly ordered by a Federal court, notwithstanding other provisions of this subpart to the contrary." EPA proposes to amend its regulations to remove this provision, so that substantiations will be treated in exactly the same way as other information requested under FOIA and claimed as confidential. EPA believes that the special treatment of substantiations under 40 CFR 2.205 (c) is not necessary to encourage businesses to submit sufficient information to support their confidentiality claims and that its CBI determination procedures (40 CFR part 2, subpart B) provide adequate safeguards to prevent the improper release of additional CBI contained in a submitter's substantiation. In addition, the removal of this provision will bring EPA into conformity with other Federal agencies which do not provide special treatment for substantiations.

As detailed in 64 FR 57421, EPA originally sought comments on the proposed rule by December 27, 1999. In response to requests from interested parties for additional time to analyze and comment on the proposed rule, EPA hereby extends the comment period for 30 days to January 26, 2000.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule must be submitted by January 26, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this proposed rule should be addressed to Rebecca Moser, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Information (Mail Code 2822), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. Documents related to this proposed rule will be available for public inspection and viewing by appointment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rebecca Moser, (202) 260-6780.

Dated: December 13, 1999.

Margaret N. Schneider,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Environmental Information.

[FR Doc. 99-33029 Filed 12-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Parts 141 and 142

[WH-FRL-6513-5]

RIN 2040-AA94

National Primary Drinking Water Regulations; Radon-222

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed radon in drinking water rule; notice of extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing notice to extend the public comment period for the proposed rule that would provide a multimedia approach to reducing radon risks in indoor air (where the problem is greatest), while protecting public health from the highest levels of radon in drinking water (40 CFR Parts 141 and 142). The proposed rule for radon in drinking water was published in the **Federal Register** on November 2, 1999 (64 FR 59246).

DATES: EPA must receive public comments, in writing, on the proposed regulations by February 4, 2000. Comments provided electronically will be considered timely if they are submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) February 4, 2000.

ADDRESSES: You may send written comments to the Radon-222, W-99-08 Comments Clerk, Water Docket (MC-4101); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460. Comments may be hand-delivered to the Water Docket, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; 401 M Street, SW., East Tower Basement, Washington, DC 20460. Comments may be submitted electronically to *ow-docket@epamail.epa.gov*. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII, WP6.1, or WP8 file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Electronic comments must be identified by the docket number W-99-08. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WP6.1, WP8, or ASCII format. Electronic comments on

this action may be filed online at many Federal Depository libraries.

Please submit a copy of any references cited in your comments. Facsimiles (faxes) cannot be accepted. EPA would appreciate one original and three copies of your comments and enclosures (including any references). Commenters who would like EPA to acknowledge receipt of their comments should include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The proposed rule and supporting documents, including public comments, are available for review in the Water Docket at the address listed previously. The Docket also has several of the key supporting documents electronically available as PDF files. For information on how to access Docket materials, please call (202) 260-3027 between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on radon in drinking water, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, phone (800) 426-4791. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline is open Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time. For technical inquiries regarding the proposed regulations, contact Sylvia Malm, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (mailcode 4607), 401 M Street, SW, Washington DC, 20460. Phone: (202) 260-0417. E-mail: *malm.sylvia@epa.gov*. For inquiries regarding the proposed multimedia mitigation program, contact Anita Schmidt, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (mailcode 6609J), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC, 20460. Phone: (202) 564-9452. E-mail: *schmidt.anita@epa.gov*. For general information on radon in indoor air, contact the Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON (1-800-767-7236).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 2, 1999, EPA published the proposed regulation for radon in drinking water, 40 CFR Parts 141 and 142 (64 FR 59246). The November 2 notice provided a deadline of 60 days from the date of publication for receipt of public comments. Since the publication date, EPA has received requests to extend the comment period to allow sufficient time for all parties potentially impacted by this proposal to consider and provide comprehensive comments. In response to these requests, EPA has decided to extend the public comment period by an additional 30 days to February 4, 2000.

The Agency is proposing a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) and National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) for radon-222 in public water supplies. Under the framework set forth in the 1996 amendments to the SDWA, EPA is also proposing an alternative maximum contaminant level (AMCL) and requirements for multimedia mitigation (MMM) programs to address radon in indoor air. Public water systems (PWS) are defined in the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This proposed rule applies to community water systems (CWS), a subset of PWSs. Under the proposed rule, CWSs may comply with the AMCL if they are in States that develop an EPA-approved MMM program or, in the absence of a State program, develop a State-approved CWS MMM program. This approach is intended to encourage States, Tribes, and CWSs to reduce the health risk of radon in the most cost-effective way. The Agency is also proposing a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for radon-222, to apply to CWSs in non-MMM States that choose not to implement a CWS MMM program. The proposal also includes monitoring, reporting, public notification, and consumer confidence report requirements for radon-222 in drinking water.

Dated: December 15, 1999.

Dana D. Minerva,

Acting Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-33031 Filed 12-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 165

[OPP-190001B; FRL-6396-7]

RIN 2070-AB95

Standards for Pesticide Containers and Containment; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On October 21, 1999 (64 FR 56918), EPA reopened the comment period on the proposed rule "Standards for Pesticide Containers and Containment" (59 FR 6712, February 11, 1994) to obtain comment on four specific issues. EPA is extending the comment period by 60 days until February 19, 2000. The comment period was initially scheduled to close on December 20, 1999. The October 21, 1999 notice solicited comments on potential changes that would reduce the scope of the container standards, add an exemption for certain antimicrobial pesticides, and adopt some of the Department of Transportation (DOT) hazardous materials regulations. That notice also requested comments on the definition for small business used to identify small pesticide formulators, agrichemical dealers and commercial pesticide applicators in the small entity impact analysis. These potential changes, if adopted in the final rule, would support EPA's goal of pollution prevention by promoting the use of refillable containers and would harmonize and promote consistency

within the Federal packaging standards by adopting the DOT standards. In addition, the changes would decrease the estimated economic impact by reducing the number of pesticide products subject to the container requirements compared to the original proposal.

DATES: Comments, identified by the docket control number OPP-190001B, must be received on or before February 19, 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. of the "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION." To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPP-190001B in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Fitz, Field and External Affairs Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 305-7385; fax number: (703) 308-3259; e-mail address: fitz.nancy@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

You may be potentially affected by this action if you are a pesticide formulator, agrichemical dealer, or an independent commercial applicator. However, the issues addressed in this action apply mainly to pesticide formulators. Potentially affected categories and entities may include, but are not limited to:

Categories	NAICS	SIC	Examples of Potentially Affected Entities
Pesticide formulators	32532	2879	Establishments that formulate and prepare insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, or other pesticides from technical chemicals or concentrates produced by pesticide manufacturing establishments. Some formulating establishments are owned by the large basic pesticide producers and others are independent.
Agrichemical dealers	44422	5191	Retail dealers that distribute or sell pesticides to agricultural users.
Independent commercial applicators	115112	0721	Businesses that apply pesticides for compensation (by aerial and/or ground application) and that are not affiliated with agrichemical dealers.

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 above could also be affected. The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes and the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes have been provided to assist you and others in

determining whether or not this action applies to certain entities. To determine whether you or your business is affected by this action, you should carefully examine the applicability provisions in Unit VII of the proposed rule published in the **Federal Register** of October 21, 1999 (64 FR 56918) and in §§ 165.100, 165.120, 165.122, 165.140, 165.141, and 165.142 of the original proposed rule

(59 FR 6712, February 11, 1994). If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed in the "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT" section.