

available at <http://www.epa.gov/scipoly/sap/1999/index.htm#july>.

IV. What Action is the Agency Taking?

EPA is announcing that Agrium U.S., Inc., South Ulster St., Suite 1400, Denver, CO 80237, has withdrawn its application to register a microbial pesticide containing *Burkholderia cepacia* strain Ral-3, as provided for in section 3(c)(7)(C) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA). *Burkholderia cepacia* strain Ral-3 is an active ingredient not included in any previously registered pesticide product. *Burkholderia cepacia* strain Ral-3 had been proposed as a microbial pesticide for commercial indoor application to seed and/or seedlings of conifers and deciduous trees.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: January 21, 2000.

Janet L. Andersen,

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

[FR Doc. 00-2954 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-50865; FRL-6488-4]

Plant-Pesticide Insect-Protected Soybean Experimental Use Permit; Receipt of Application

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt of application 524-EUP-OR from Monsanto Company, 700 Chesterfield Parkway North, St. Louis, Missouri 63198, requesting an experimental use permit (EUP) for the Cry1Ac protein and the genetic material necessary for its production (Vector PV-GMBT01) in soybean. The Agency has determined that this application may be of regional and national significance. Therefore, in accordance with 40 CFR 172.11(a), the Agency is soliciting comments on this application.

DATES: Comments, identified by docket control number OPP-50865, must be received on or before March 10, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments and data 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." To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPP-50865 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Alan Reynolds, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 605-0515; and e-mail address: reynolds.alan@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. This action may, however, be of interest to those persons who are or may be required to conduct testing of plant-pesticides under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), or the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Since other entities may also be interested, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be affected by this action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT."

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 OPP-50865. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, 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 Hwy., 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 OPP-50865 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, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., 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 OPP-50865. 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 under "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT."

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. Offer alternative ways to improve the notice.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the deadline in this document.
8. 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. Proposed Experimental Programs

The subject program proposes to test and evaluate genetically modified soybean that has been developed to provide control of velvetbean caterpillar (*Anticarsia gemmatilis*), stem borer (*Epinotia aporema*), and soybean looper (*Pseudoplusia includens*). Monsanto Company proposes to plant 66.5 acres of the plant-pesticide in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee on March 1, 2000. All plantings of soybean containing the Cry1Ac protein under this experimental program will be contained during the experimental program. No portion of the crop will be used for food or feed.

III. What Action is the Agency Taking?

Following the review of the Monsanto Company application and any comments and data received in response to this notice, EPA will decide whether to issue or deny the EUP request for this EUP program, and if issued, the conditions under which it is to be conducted. Any issuance of an EUP will be announced in the **Federal Register**.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection,
Experimental use permits.

Dated: January 21, 2000.

Janet L. Andersen,

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

[FR Doc. 00-2485 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6534-4]

Request for Qualifications and Preliminary Proposals for Communications, Outreach and Education

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a request for qualifications and preliminary proposals for organizations interested in assisting the Chesapeake Bay Program in its effort to provide the communications, outreach and education components of the Bay Program partnership. Applicants must be a non-profit organization, interstate agency, college or university institution. The organization must have conducted work within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Note, this is a request for proposals for the benefit of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership and not for direct benefit to EPA. Funding will be provided to an organization under the authority of the Clean Water Act, Section 117(a) and (b).

An original and 5 copies of proposals must be received by the US EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program by close of business March 3, 2000. The RFP is available at the following web-site: <http://www.epa.gov/r3chespk/> You may also request a copy by calling Robert Shewack at 410-267-9856 or by E-mail at: shewack.robert@epa.gov. All proposals must be received by EPA by close of business March 3, 2000. Any

late, incomplete or fax proposals will not be considered.

William Matuszeski,

Director, Chesapeake Bay Program.

[FR Doc. 00-2826 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The FDIC, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35). Currently, the FDIC is soliciting comments concerning an information collection titled "Applicant Background Questionnaire."

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 10, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments to Tamara R. Manly, Management Analyst (Regulatory Analysis), (202) 898-7453, Office of the Executive Secretary, Room 4058, Attention: Comments/OES, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20429. All comments should refer to "Applicant Background Questionnaire." Comments may be hand-delivered to the guard station at the rear of the 17th Street Building (located on F Street), on business days between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. [FAX number (202) 898-3838; Internet address: comments@fdic.gov].

A copy of the comments may also be submitted to the OMB desk officer for the FDIC: Alexander Hunt, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 3208, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tamara R. Manly, at the address identified above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposal To Add the Following Collection of Information

Title: Applicant Background Questionnaire.

OMB Number: new collection.