

This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Home Energy Rating System (HERS) providers, Energy Star Home builders, Energy Star Home and control home buyers, energy suppliers (utility companies) of home buyers.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

1. Memorandum of Understanding: 533 each year for 3 years.
2. HERS providers (information from form already filled out by HERS provider in course of his/her business): 1st year—1,000; 2nd year—5,500; 3rd year—14,000.

3. Energy Star Home Builders: 1st year—600; 2nd year—200, 3rd year—200.

4. Energy Star Home and control home buyers (two groups): 686 from each group each year for 3 years.

5. Energy suppliers (utility companies) of these home buyers—see previous item: 686 from each group each year for 3 years.

Frequency of Response: Once for each respondent.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 3,198 hours.

Estimated Total non-labor Cost Burden: \$0.

Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the following addresses. Please refer to EPA ICR No 1879.01 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, Collection Strategies Division, Office of Environmental Information (OEI), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460;

and

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: February 15, 2000.

Oscar Morales,

Director, Collection Strategies Division.

[FR Doc. 00-4140 Filed 2-18-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6541-4]

Adequacy Status of Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets in Submitted State Implementation Plans for Transportation Conformity Purposes; Maryland; Phase II Plan for the Baltimore Ozone Nonattainment Area

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of adequacy status.

SUMMARY: EPA is announcing that the revised motor vehicle emissions budgets (hereafter referred to as "budgets") contained in the revised Phase II Plan for the Baltimore Ozone Nonattainment Area submitted by the State of Maryland as a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision are adequate for transportation conformity purposes. The State submitted the revised Phase II plan to EPA for parallel processing on December 3, 1999, and then formally submitted it on December 21, 1999. The Phase II SIP consists of the attainment demonstration and the two Post 99 Rate-of-Progress (ROP) plans (2002 and 2005) for the Baltimore nonattainment area. EPA has found the attainment budgets and the ROP budgets of the submitted revised Phase II SIP for the Baltimore area adequate for transportation conformity purposes.

DATES: The findings that the attainment and ROP budgets are adequate, made in a letter dated February 15, 2000 to the Maryland Department of the Environment, are effective on March 8, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul T. Wentworth, P.E., U.S. EPA, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19103 at (215) 814-2184 or by e-mail at: Wentworth.Paul@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Throughout this document the terms "we," "us," or "our" refer to EPA. The word "budgets" refers to the motor vehicle emission budgets for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). The word "SIP" in this document refers to the revised Phase II Plan for the Baltimore nonattainment area submitted to EPA by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for parallel processing on December 3, 1999 and

formally submitted on December 21, 1999. The Phase II Plan includes the attainment demonstration for the one-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone and the two Post 99 ROP plans (2002 and 2005) for the Baltimore nonattainment area.

On March 2, 1999, the D.C. Circuit Court ruled that the budgets contained in submitted SIPs cannot be used for transportation conformity determinations until EPA has affirmatively found them adequate. As a result of our findings, the attainment budgets and the ROP budgets contained in the submitted revised Phase II SIP for the Baltimore ozone nonattainment area may be used for future conformity determinations.

On April 29, 1998, MDE submitted its Phase II SIP for the Baltimore area. That Phase II SIP contained mobile source vehicle emissions budgets both for ROP and for attainment. On August 2, 1999, the availability of the Phase II SIP and the motor vehicle emission budgets was posted on EPA's conformity WEB site for the purpose of soliciting public comment. The comment period closed on August 31, 1999, and no comments were received. On October 26, 1999 EPA we sent a letter to MDE which constituted final Agency actions on the adequacy of the budgets contained in the Phase II SIP submitted on April 29, 1999. Those actions were EPA's findings that the budgets were not adequate.

On December 3, 1999, a revised Phase II plan with new attainment and ROP budgets was submitted as a SIP revision by MDE for parallel processing. The revised Phase II plan was formally submitted on December 21, 1999. On December 21, 1999, we posted the availability of the SIP and the motor vehicle emission budgets on our conformity website for the purpose of soliciting public comment on the adequacy of the mobile budgets. The comment period closed on January 20, 2000. EPA received comments from the University of Maryland School of Law on behalf of its client, an organization called the 1000 Friends of Maryland.

On February 15, 2000, we sent a letter to MDE which constituted final Agency actions on the adequacy of the budgets contained in the revised Phase II SIP. Those actions were EPA's findings that the attainment budgets and the ROP budgets are adequate for transportation conformity purposes. This is an announcement of adequacy findings that we already made on February 15, 2000. The effective date of these findings is March 8, 2000. These findings will also be announced on EPA's website: <http://www.epa.gov/oms/traq>, (once there, click on the

"Conformity" button, then look for "Adequacy Review of SIP Submissions for Conformity"). The website will contain a detailed analysis of our adequacy finding and our responses to the public comments received from the University of Maryland School of Law on behalf of its client, the 1000 Friends of Maryland. Transportation conformity is required by section 176 of the Clean Air Act. EPA's conformity rule requires that transportation plans, programs, and projects conform to SIPs and establishes the criteria and procedures for determining whether or not they do so. Conformity to a SIP means that transportation activities will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the NAAQS. The criteria by which we determine whether a SIP's budgets are adequate for conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4).

Please note that an adequacy finding is separate from EPA's completeness finding, and separate from EPA's finding whether or not the SIP is approvable. Even if we find a budget adequate, the SIP could later be disapproved. We describe our process for determining the adequacy of submitted SIP budgets in a guidance memorandum dated May 14, 1999 entitled "Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision". We followed this guidance in making our adequacy findings for the budgets contained in the revised Phase II submitted on December 3, 1999 and December 21, 1999 by MDE. You may obtain a copy of this guidance from EPA's conformity website referred to above or by calling the contact name listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401–7671q.

Dated: February 15, 2000.

Bradley M. Campbell,

Regional Administrator, Region III.

[FR Doc. 00-4122 Filed 2-17-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-34218; FRL-6492-2]

Organophosphate Pesticides; Availability of Revised Risk Assessments

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the revised risk assessments and related documents for two organophosphate pesticides, acephate and methamidophos. In addition, this notice starts a 60-day public participation period during which the public is encouraged to submit risk management ideas or proposals. These actions are in response to a joint initiative between EPA and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to increase transparency in the tolerance reassessment process for organophosphate pesticides.

DATES: Comments, identified by docket control numbers OPP-34164B for acephate and OPP-34166B for methamidophos, must be received by EPA on or before April 24, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by mail, electronically, or in person. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit III. of the "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION." To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control numbers OPP-34164B for acephate and OPP-34166B for methamidophos in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Angulo, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-8004; e-mail address: angulo.karen@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general, nevertheless, a wide range of stakeholders will be interested in obtaining the revised risk assessments and submitting risk management comments on acephate and methamidophos, including environmental, human health, and agricultural advocates; the chemical industry; pesticide users; and members of the public interested in the use of pesticides on food. As such, the Agency has not attempted to specifically describe all the entities potentially 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**.

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

A. Electronically. You may obtain electronic copies of this document and other related documents 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/>.

To access information about organophosphate pesticides and obtain electronic copies of the revised risk assessments and related documents mentioned in this notice, you can also go directly to the Home Page for the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/>.

B. In person. The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control numbers OPP-34164B for acephate and OPP-34166B for methamidophos. 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 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 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 PIRB telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

III. How Can I Respond to this Action?

A. 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 numbers OPP-34164B for acephate and OPP-34166B for methamidophos in the subject line on the first page of your response.

1. By mail. Submit comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental