

on a final basis, to remand, or to disapprove such rates to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In Delegation Order No. 0204-172, effective November 24, 1999, the Secretary of Energy delegated the authority to confirm, approve and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Deputy Secretary.

Existing Department of Energy procedures for public participation in power rate adjustments are located at 10 CFR part 903 effective on September 18, 1985 (50 FR 37835). Since the proposed rates constitute a major rate adjustment as defined in 10 CFR 903.2, both a public information forum and a public comment forum will be held. After reviewing public comments, Western will recommend the proposed rate methodologies be approved on an interim basis by the Deputy Secretary.

Availability of Information

All brochures, studies, comments, letters, memorandums, and other documents made or kept by Western in developing the proposed rate methodologies will be made available for inspection and copying at the DSW office, located at 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona.

Regulatory Procedural Requirements

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*) requires Federal agencies to perform a regulatory flexibility analysis if a final rule is likely to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities and there is a legal requirement to issue a general notice of proposed rulemaking. Western has determined that this action does not require a regulatory flexibility analysis since it is a rulemaking that particularly applies to rates or services applicable to public property.

Environmental Compliance

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*); Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508); and DOE NEPA Regulations (10 CFR part 1021), Western has determined that this action is categorically excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement.

Determination Under Executive Order 12866

Western has an exemption from centralized regulatory review under Executive Order 12866; accordingly, no

clearance of this notice by the Office of Management and Budget is required.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

Western has determined that this rule is exempt from congressional notification requirements under 5 U.S.C. 801 because the action is a rulemaking of particular applicability relating to rates or services and involves matters of procedure.

Dated: May 15, 2000.

Michael S. HacsKaylo,

Administrator.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00651; FRL-6551-6]

Minimum Risk Pesticides Exempted Under FIFRA Section 25(b); Clarification of Issues; Notice of Availability

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice clarifies several aspects of the exemption for minimum risk pesticides by the FIFRA section 25(b) rule, including composition, labeling, food tolerances, and state regulation. It is being issued to answer questions frequently asked of EPA about such products. Registration (PR) Notice 2000-6, Entitled "Minimum Risk Pesticides Exempted under FIFRA Section 25(b); Clarification of Issues," provides guidance to the registrant concerning frequently asked questions regarding section 25(b) and is effective now but comments will be accepted for 30 days, after which the Agency may revise the notice.

DATES: Comments, identified by docket control number OPP-00651, must be received on or before June 23, 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.** To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPP-00651 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Steinwand (7511C), Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone

number: (703) 305-7973; fax number: (703) 308-7026; e-mail address: steinwand.brian@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does This Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. Although this action may be of particular interest to those persons who are interested in section 25(b) exempted products. 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 information in this notice, 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 the PR Notice from the Office of Pesticide Programs' Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/>. You can also go directly to the listings 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. *Fax on Demand.* You may request a faxed copy of the PR Notice Entitled "Minimum Risk Pesticides Exempted under FIFRA Section 25(b); Clarification of Issues," by using a faxphone to call (202) 401-0527 and selecting item 6130. You may also follow the automated menu.

3. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control number OPP-00651. 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 OPP-00651 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, 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, 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-00651. 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 notice.
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. Background

A. What Guidance Does This PR Notice Provide?

Except in very limited circumstances, any substance that makes a pesticidal claim must be registered by EPA before it can be legally sold or distributed. One such exemption to the registration requirement is for those pesticides under section 25(b) of FIFRA. In 1996, EPA exempted certain minimum risk pesticides from FIFRA requirements if they satisfy certain conditions. EPA exempted the products described in 40 CFR 152.25(g) in part to reduce the cost and regulatory burdens on businesses as well as the public for pesticides posing little or no risk, and to focus EPA's limited resources on pesticides which pose greater risk to humans and the environment. To qualify for an exemption as a minimum risk pesticide, each active ingredient in the pesticide product must be listed in 40 CFR 152.25(g)(1). In addition, 40 CFR 152.25(g)(2) provides that these

pesticide products may only contain minimal risk inert ingredients listed in List 4A. The PR Notice is intended to answer frequently asked questions regarding composition, labeling, food tolerances, and state regulation.

B. Why Is a PR Notice Guidance and Not a Rule?

The PR Notice discussed in this notice is intended to provide guidance to EPA personnel and decision-makers, and to the public. As a guidance document and not a rule, this policy is not binding on either EPA or any outside parties. Although this guidance document provides a starting point for EPA decisions, EPA will depart from this policy where the facts or circumstances warrant. In such cases, EPA will explain why a different course was taken. Similarly, outside parties remain free to assert that this policy is not appropriate for a specific pesticide or that the specific circumstances demonstrate that this policy should be abandoned.

EPA has stated in this notice that it will make available revised guidance after consideration of public comment, if necessary. Public comment is not being solicited for the purpose of converting this guidance document into a binding rule. EPA will not be codifying this policy in the Code of Federal Regulations. EPA is allowing comment so that it can make fully informed decisions regarding the content of this guidance.

The "revised" guidance will not be an unalterable document. Once a "revised" guidance document is issued, EPA will continue to treat it as guidance, not a rule. Accordingly, on a case-by-case basis EPA will decide whether it is appropriate to depart from the guidance or to modify the overall approach in the guidance. In the course of commenting on this guidance document, EPA would welcome comments that specifically address how the guidance document can be structured so that it provides meaningful guidance without imposing binding requirements.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: May 5, 2000.

Marcia E. Mulkey,

Director, Office of Pesticide Programs.

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