

in the risk assessment. The Agency, recognizing the importance of phosphine to agriculture, the lack of viable alternatives, and the potential impacts of the initial set of mitigation measures on the continued use of the chemicals, committed to pursue an extensive stakeholder involvement process regarding these measures with the expressed intent to gather information on the impacts of the proposed measures and, most importantly, to explore possible alternative mitigation measures that would achieve risk reduction while maintaining the ability to continue to use phosphine and achieve the benefits derived from that use.

The Agency has conducted an intensive stakeholder involvement program to address the risk issues associated with the use of phosphine fumigants. This process began with a lengthy public comment period. Over 570 comments were received during the comment period which ended in March 1999. The main issues of contention were the 500 foot buffer zone, notification of local residents prior to fumigation, and the lowering of the exposure standard from 0.3 ppm to 0.03 ppm, each of which were proposed as mitigation measures in the RED.

Further, USDA commissioned a Phosphine Task Force in 1999, whose purpose was to work with the Agency and the agricultural community during the phosphine review process. EPA worked closely with the Phosphine Task Force to further discuss use of fumigants and related risk issues, and to explore other measures to further mitigate those risks.

In addition to the Phosphine Task Force, the Phosphine Coalition, a broad-based group consisting of over 80 registrants, fumigation companies, trade organizations and users, was formed in 1998 to address issues related to the reregistration of the phosphine fumigants. This group has worked with EPA, USDA, and the registrants on the phosphine issue. Among other activities, the Phosphine Coalition arranged fumigation demonstrations in the field where Agency personnel and the user community had productive interactions. This group has also figured prominently in technical discussions with the registrants and EPA on risk assessment and risk management issues, and has provided extensive feedback and valuable input to the Agency throughout the reregistration process and the development of the MOA. Meanwhile, EPA has also conducted outreach with state lead agencies including several presentations at

SFIREG and conference calls with interested state officials.

Based in large part on input and feedback received during this stakeholder process, EPA and the registrants have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement, the purpose of which is to implement mitigation measures to meaningfully reduce risks and gather information to better characterize risks to workers and bystanders. The following is a short summary of the main points in the agreement. The text of the entire agreement can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/REDS>.

1. Site Fumigation Management Plans
 - (a) Monitoring
 - (b) Notification of authorities
 - (c) Notification of bystanders in the event of a release
2. Development of guidance for plans as part of the label language.
3. Conducting Air monitoring Studies (worker and bystander)
4. Toxicology Studies or 0.01 ppm standard
5. 2 annual incident analyses reports
6. Financial and technical support for a training and certification improvement program.
7. Prohibition of in-transit aeration
8. Stricter definition of "under the supervision of a certified applicator"
9. Enhanced notification of receivers of fumigated rail cars and other containers
10. Two-person rule for fumigations requiring entry into a structure
11. Provision of safety material to residents having burrows treated

The MOA requires that registrants submit draft interim fumigation management plan guidance to the EPA by January 1, 2001 which has been completed. Draft label revisions are due to the EPA from the registrants no later than June 1, 2001. Further, the MOA requires the submission of the first annual incident analysis report and draft protocols/feasibility studies for the collection of monitoring data to the EPA by April 1, 2001. The training and certification improvement program required in the MOA will also begin in 2001.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, aluminum phosphide, magnesium phosphide, reregistration.

Dated: January 18, 2001.

Jack E. Housenger,

Acting Director, Special Review and Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs

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FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA-1354-DR]

Arkansas; Amendment No. 7 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster for the State of Arkansas, (FEMA-1354-DR), dated December 29, 2000, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 24, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Madge Dale, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3772.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster for the State of Arkansas is hereby amended to include the following areas among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the catastrophe declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of December 29, 2000: Greene County for Individual Assistance. Cleburne, Fulton, Marion, and Stone Counties for Individual Assistance (already designated for Public Assistance).

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 83.537, Community Disaster Loans; 83.538, Cora Brown Fund Program; 83.539, Crisis Counseling; 83.540, Disaster Legal Services Program; 83.541, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 83.542, Fire Suppression Assistance; 83.543, Individual and Family Grant (IFG) Program; 83.544, Public Assistance Grants; 83.545, Disaster Housing Program; 83.548, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)

Lacy E. Suiter,

Executive Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

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FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA-3161-EM]

Illinois; Emergency and Related Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of the Presidential declaration of an