

scientific and technical knowledge is being developed and used in stakeholder processes, and identifying strategies which might allow such knowledge to be better developed and used in such processes in the future. Based on information gained in these workshops and published information on the use of science in stakeholder processes, the SAB will finalize its Commentary (Improving Science-Based Environmental Stakeholder Processes) to the Administrator. The Commentary will provide advice to help Agency improve public involvement processes for environmental protection and the use of science in those processes.

At the March 22 teleconference, the SAB EC will be seeking public input on: (1) Whether the draft Commentary makes factual errors; (2) whether there is important evidence or published literature that the draft Commentary needs to better acknowledge or incorporate; and (3) suggestions for ways the draft Commentary may be improved. Given the fact-finding nature of this teleconference call, the SAB EC requests that members of the public seeking to provide oral comments provide a text of their comments in writing to the Designated Federal Officer, Dr. Angela Nugent by noon on March 19, 2001 via e-mail, fax or mail (see contact information below) so that she can plan the agenda.

Availability of Review Materials

The draft document, Improving Science-Based Environmental Stakeholder Processes will be posted on the SAB website www.epa.gov/sab (under the DRAFT REPORTS heading) seven business days in advance of the meeting or will be available from Mrs. Pozun (see previous contact information, above). The earlier Science Advisory Board Commentary on the Role of Science in 'New Approaches' to Environmental Decision Making that Focuses on Stakeholder Involvement, EPA-SAB-EC-COM-00-002, October 7, 1999 is available on the SAB website <http://www.epa.gov/sab> (under the REPORTS heading and then the FISCAL YEAR 2000 REPORTS subheading).

For Further Information

Any member of the public wishing further information concerning this meeting or wishing to submit brief oral comments must contact Dr. Angela Nugent, Designated Federal Officer, US EPA Science Advisory Board (Mail Code 1400A), Room 6450, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone (202) 564-4562; FAX (202) 501-0323; or via e-mail at

nugent.angela@epa.gov. Requests for oral comments must be *in writing* (e-mail, fax or mail) and received by Dr. Nugent no later than noon Eastern Time on March 19, 2001.

Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings

It is the policy of the Science Advisory Board to accept written public comments of any length, and to accommodate oral public comments whenever possible. *Oral Comments:* For this teleconference meeting, opportunities for oral comment will usually be limited to no more than five minutes per speaker. Deadlines for getting on the public speaker list for a meeting are given above. *Written Comments:* Although the SAB accepts written comments until the date of the meeting (unless otherwise stated), written comments should be received in the SAB Staff Office at least one week prior to the meeting date so that the comments may be made available to the committee for their consideration. Comments should be supplied to the appropriate DFO at the address/contact information noted above in the following formats: one hard copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via e-mail (acceptable file format: WordPerfect, Word, or Rich Text files (in IBM-PC/Windows 95/98 format). Those providing written comments and who attend the meeting are also asked to bring 25 copies of their comments for public distribution.

General Information

Additional information concerning the Science Advisory Board, its structure, function, and composition, may be found on the SAB Website (<http://www.epa.gov/sab>) and in The FY2000 Annual Report of the Staff Director which is available from the SAB Publications Staff at (202) 564-4533 or via fax at (202) 501-0323. Committee rosters, draft Agendas and meeting calendars are also located on our website.

Meeting Access

Individuals requiring special accommodation at this meeting, including wheelchair access to the conference room, should contact the Dr. Nugent at least five business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Dated: March 6, 2001.

Donald G. Barnes,

Staff Director, Science Advisory Board.

[FR Doc. 01-6176 Filed 3-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-181079; FRL-6766-3]

Acetamiprid; Receipt of Application for Emergency Exemption, Solicitation of Public Comment

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has received a specific exemption request from the Texas Department of Agriculture to use the pesticide acetamiprid (CAS No. 135410-20-7) to treat up to 1.8 million acres of cotton to control cotton aphid. The Applicant proposes the use of a new chemical which has not been registered by EPA. EPA is soliciting public comment before making the decision whether or not to grant the exemption.

DATES: Comments, identified by docket control number OPP-181079, must be received on or before March 27, 2001.

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-181079 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Barbara Madden, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 305-6463; fax number: (703) 308-5433; e-mail address: madden.barbara@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

You may be potentially affected by this action if you petition EPA for emergency exemption under section 18 of FIFRA. Potentially affected categories and entities may include, but are not limited to:

Categories	NAICS codes	Examples of potentially affected entities
State government	9241	State agencies that petition EPA for section 18 pesticide exemption

This listing is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide

for readers regarding entities likely to be regulated by this action. Other types of entities not listed in the table in this unit could also be regulated. 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. 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," "Regulations and Proposed Rules," 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-181079. 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 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-181079 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, 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 Hwy., 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-181079. 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 listed 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 proposed rule or collection activity.
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. Background

Under section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. 136p), at the discretion of the Administrator, a Federal or State agency may be exempted from any provision of FIFRA if the Administrator determines that emergency conditions exist which require the exemption. The Texas Department of Agriculture has requested the Administrator to issue a specific exemption for the use of acetamiprid on cotton to control cotton aphid. Information in accordance with 40 CFR part 166 was submitted as part of this request.

As part of this request, the Applicant asserts that the state of Texas is likely to experience non-routine infestations of aphids during the 2000 cotton growing season. The cotton aphid, *Aphis gossypii* Glover, has infested cotton acreage in Texas since 1916. However, by 1989 aphids were more difficult to control since they had developed resistance to available pesticides. Since 1994 the Texas Department of Agriculture has been granted emergency exemptions for the use of carbofuran to control cotton aphid. They are now requesting the use of acetamiprid as well. The applicant claims that, without a specific exemption of FIFRA for the use of acetamiprid on cotton to control cotton aphids, cotton growers in the state will suffer significant economic losses.

The Applicant proposes to make no more than four applications of acetamidrid per season formulated as a flowable liquid containing 70% active ingredient (a.i.). A maximum of 0.2 pound of a.i. will be applied per season. The state proposes to treat up to 1.8 million acres of cotton in Texas.

Applications will be made from March 1, 2001 to September 30, 2001. If all of the 1.8 million acres are treated with the maximum amount of acetamidrid proposed (0.2 pound a.i. per acre), then a maximum of 360,000 pound active ingredient would be applied.

This notice does not constitute a decision by EPA on the application itself. The regulations governing section 18 of FIFRA require publication of a notice of receipt of an application for a specific exemption proposing use of a new chemical (i.e., an active ingredient) which has not been registered by the EPA. The notice provides an opportunity for public comment on the application.

The Agency, will review and consider all comments received during the comment period in determining whether to issue the specific emergency exemption requested by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

List of Subjects

Environment protection, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: February 20, 2001.

Peter Caulkins,

Acting Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 01-5865 Filed 3-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-S

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-50882; FRL-6771-1]

Issuance of Experimental Use Permits

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has granted experimental use permits (EUPs) to the following pesticide applicants. An EUP permits use of a pesticide for experimental or research purposes only in accordance with the limitations in the permit.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460.

In person or by telephone: Contact the designated person at the following

address at the office location, telephone number, or e-mail address cited in each EUP: 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA.

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 conduct or sponsor research on pesticides, 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 action, consult the designated contact person listed for the individual EUP.

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

You may obtain electronic copies of this document from the EPA Internet Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. On the Home Page select "Laws and Regulations," "Regulations and Proposed Rules," 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/>.

II. EUPs

EPA has issued the following EUPs:
73815-EUP-1. Issuance. Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center, Biological Resources Division, USGS, P.O. Box 44, Hawaii National Park, HI 96718. This EUP allows the use of 3,000 pounds of the rodenticide diphacinone on 120 acres of forested area to evaluate the control of ramik green rodent bait for control of commensal rats and other introduced species. The program is authorized only in the State of Hawaii. The EUP is effective from February 2, 2001 to February 2, 2002. (Daniel Peacock; Rm. 223, Crystal Mall #2; telephone number: (703) 305-5407; e-mail address: peacock.dan@epa.gov).

72500-EUP-1. Issuance. Scimetrix, Ltd., P.O. Box 100, Nunn, CO 80648. This EUP allows the use of 150 pounds of the rodenticide warfarin on 150 acres of bare ground around ground squirrel or black-tailed prairie dog burrows in non-crop areas, rangeland, or pasture to evaluate the control of field rodent bait to control ground squirrels and black-tailed prairie dogs. The program is authorized only in the States of California, Colorado, and Montana. The EUP is effective from January 24, 2001 to January 24, 2002. (Daniel Peacock;

Rm. 223, Crystal Mall #2; telephone number: (703) 305-5407; e-mail address: peacock.dan@epa.gov).

Persons wishing to review these EUPs are referred to the designated contact person. Inquiries concerning these permits should be directed to the persons cited above. It is suggested that interested persons call before visiting the EPA office, so that the appropriate file may be made available for inspection purposes from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 136.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Experimental use permits.

Dated: February 22, 2001.

Peter Caulkins,

Acting Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 01-5864 Filed 3-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-S

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained