production from a bermuda grass hay meadow. Annual grassy weed encroachment and resulting variable bermuda grass stands will reduce the quantity of hay produced and the overall quality. A hay field does not reach maximum hay production for 3 or 4 years after establishment depending on the degree of success in establishment. For the next 6 to 7 years, growers should receive maximum economic yield and return on their annual investments. The market will not accept bermuda grass hay contaminated with weeds or annual grasses. Bermuda grass stands often begin to decline after about 10 years due to diseases, insect problems, fertility imbalances, or environmental stresses. Establishment of a new stand of bermuda grass is the most cost effective way of maintaining maximum quality and quantity of hay. Atrazine and simazine, which traditionally provided control of these weeds, were voluntarily canceled in 1990. There are no currently registered effective herbicides for this use. Over a 5-year period, only the use of norflurazon provides a positive net return to the hay producer.

The Applicant proposes to make no more than one application of norflurazon manufactured by Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. as Zorial Rapid 80, EPA Reg. No. 100–848, at a rate of 0.5 - 1.2 lb active ingredient/Acre (.6 - 1.5 lb product/Acre) by ground to 60,000 acres of bermuda grass meadows between February 1 and July 31, 2002.

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 a use which has been requested in 3 or more previous years, and a petition for a tolerance has not yet been submitted to the Agency. 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 exemption requested by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: January 10, 2002.

Peter Caulkins,

Acting Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 02–1882 Filed 1–29–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–S

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7135–5]

Methods for Collection, Storage, and Manipulation of Sediments for Chemical and Toxicological Analyses: Technical Manual

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is publishing a technical manual containing recommendations for collecting, handling, and manipulating sediment samples for physiochemical characterization and biological testing. This technical manual provides a compilation of methods that are most likely to yield accurate, representative sediment quality data based on the experience of many monitoring programs and researchers.

Availability of Document: Copies of the complete document, titled Methods for Collection, Storage, and Manipulation of Sediments for Chemical and Toxicological Analyses: Technical Manual (EPA–823–B–01–002) can be obtained from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242, by phone at 1–800–490–9198 or on their Web site at *www.epa.gov/ncepihom/orderpub.html.* A pdf version of this document is available to be viewed or downloaded from the Office of Science and Technology's Web site on the Internet at *www.epa.gov/waterscience/cs.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Healy, EPA, Standards and Health Protection Division (4305), Office of Science and Technology, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; or call (202) 260–7812; fax (202) 260–9830; or e-mail *healy.richard@epa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background Information

Sediment contamination is a widespread environmental problem that can pose a threat to a variety of aquatic ecosystems. Sediment functions as a reservoir for common contaminants such as pesticides, herbicides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and metals such as lead, mercury, and arsenic. Contaminated sediments represent a hazard to aquatic life through direct toxicity as well as to aquatic life, wildlife and human health through bioaccumulation.

Assessments of sediment quality commonly include analyses of anthropogenic contaminants, benthic community structure, physicochemical characteristics and direct measures of whole sediment and pore water toxicity. Accurate assessment of environmental hazard posed by sediment contamination depends in large part on the accuracy and representativeness of these analyses. The methods described in this Manual provide sediment collection, storage, and manipulation methods that are most likely to yield accurate, representative sediment quality data (*e.g.,* sediment chemistry and toxicity) based on the experience of many monitoring programs and researchers. Information contained in this manual reflects the knowledge and experience of organizations that have developed internationally-recognized procedures and protocols. These organizations include:

- American Society for Testing and Materials,
- Puget Sound Estuary Program,
- Washington State Department of Ecology,
- US Environmental Protection Agency,
- US Army Corps of Engineers,
- National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and
- Environment Canada.

This manual provides technical support to those who design or perform sediment quality studies under a variety of regulatory and non-regulatory programs. The methods contained are widely relevant for anyone wishing to collect consistent, high quality sediment data. This manual is not guidance on how to implement any specific regulatory requirement but rather a compilation of technical methods on how to best collect environmental samples that most accurately reflect environmental conditions. This technical manual has no immediate or direct regulatory consequence. It does not impose legally binding requirements and may not apply to a particular situation depending on the circumstances. The EPA may change this technical manual in the future. EPA's Office of Science and Technology has reviewed and approved this technical manual for publication. Mention of trade names or commercial products constitutes neither endorsement by the EPA nor recommendation for use.

Dated: November 27, 2001.

Geoffrey H. Grubbs,

Director, Office of Science and Technology.

[FR Doc. 02–2236 Filed 1–29–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P