

**SUMMARY:** EPA is announcing a public technical briefing on June 18, 2002, to discuss the revisions to the preliminary organophosphate (OP) cumulative risk assessment. This technical briefing will provide the Agency with an opportunity to present revisions to the preliminary risk assessment in a public forum and answer clarifying questions. This briefing follows the January 15, 2002, technical briefing on the preliminary OP cumulative risk assessment. In addition, on June 19, 2002, EPA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will hold a public meeting of the CARAT Workgroup on Cumulative Risk Assessment/Public Participation Process.

**DATES:** The technical briefing will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2002, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Wednesday, June 19, 2002, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., EPA and the USDA will hold a public meeting of the CARAT Workgroup on Cumulative Risk Assessment/Public Participation Process.

**ADDRESSES:** The technical briefing will be held at the Holiday Inn Select, 480 King Street, Old Town Alexandria, VA. The telephone number for the hotel is (703) 549-6080. The hotel is located about 10 blocks from the King Street Metro Station. The CARAT Workgroup Meeting will be held at Crystal Mall #2, room 1110 (Fishbowl), 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. General Information**

*A. Does this Action Apply to Me?*

This action applies to the public in general. As such, the Agency has not attempted to specifically describe all the entities potentially affected by this action. The Agency believes that a wide range of stakeholders will be interested in technical briefings on organophosphate pesticides, 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. 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/fedrgrstr/>.

To access information about organophosphate pesticides, you can also go directly to the Home Page for the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/>. In addition, information about the cumulative process and the preliminary organophosphate cumulative risk assessment documents are found at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/cumulative>.

2. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record under docket control number OPP-2002-0045. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, 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.

**II. How Can I Request to Participate in this Meeting?**

This meeting is open to the public. Outside statements by observers are welcome. Oral statements will be limited to 3 to 5 minutes, and it is preferred that only one person per organization present the statement. Any person who wishes to file a written statement may do so immediately before or after the meeting. These statements

will become part of the permanent record and will be available for public inspection at the address listed in Unit I.

**List of Subjects**

Environmental protection, organophosphate pesticides.

Dated: May 1, 2002.

**Lois A. Rossi,**

*Director, Office of Pesticide Programs.*

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**BILLING CODE 6560-50-S**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[OPP-2002-0064; FRL-7177-6]

**Organophosphate Pesticides; Methidathion, Availability of Interim Reregistration Eligibility Decision Document**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of the Interim Registration Eligibility Decision (interim RED) document for the organophosphate pesticide (OP), methidathion. This interim decision was developed as part of the OP pilot public participation process that the EPA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are now using for involving the public in the reassessment of pesticide tolerances under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) and the reregistration of individual OPs under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

**DATES:** The interim RED document for methidathion is currently available in the OP Public Regulatory Docket under docket control number OPP-2002-0064.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carmen Rodia, Chemical Review Manager, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 306-0327; e-mail address: rodia.carmen@epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**I. General Information**

*A. 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 interim decision documents for methidathion, 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. Since other entities also may 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 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/>. 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/>. In addition, copies of the methidathion interim risk management decision documents released to the public may also be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/status.htm>.

2. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control number OPP-2002-0064. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, 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), Room 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202-4501, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

**II. What Action is the Agency Taking?**

EPA has assessed the risks of methidathion and reached an Interim Reregistration Eligibility Decision (interim RED) for this OP. Provided that

risk mitigation measures are adopted, methidathion fits into its own risk cup—its individual, aggregate risks are within acceptable levels. Methidathion is also eligible for reregistration, pending a full reassessment of the cumulative risk from all OP pesticides. Used on a variety of agricultural crops, predominantly alfalfa, citrus, and cotton, methidathion residues in food and drinking water do not pose risk concerns. Methidathion has no residential uses. EPA considered the mitigation proposal submitted by the technical registrant, as well as comments and mitigation ideas from other interested parties, and has decided on a number of label amendments (restrictions) to mitigate risks of concern posed by the uses of methidathion. With the implementation of these mitigation measures, methidathion's worker and ecological risks also will be below levels of concern for reregistration.

The methidathion interim RED was made through the OP pesticide pilot public participation process, which increases transparency and maximizes stakeholder involvement in EPA's development of risk assessments and risk management decisions. The pilot public participation process was developed as part of the EPA/USDA Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee, which was established in April 1998, as a subcommittee under the auspices of EPA's National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology. A goal of the pilot public participation process is to find a more effective way for the public to participate at critical junctures in the Agency's development of OP pesticide risk assessments and risk management decisions. EPA and USDA began implementing this pilot process in August 1998, to increase transparency and opportunities for stakeholder consultation.

EPA worked extensively with affected parties to reach the decisions presented in the interim RED, which concludes the pilot public participation process for methidathion. As part of the pilot public participation process, numerous opportunities for public comment were offered as the interim RED was being developed. The methidathion interim RED is issued in final, without a formal public comment period. The OP Public Regulatory Docket remains open; however, and any comments submitted in the future will be placed in the docket.

The revised risk assessments for methidathion were released to the public through a notice published in the **Federal Register** of December 8, 1999 (OPP-34213), (FRL-6399-2).

EPA's next step under the FQPA is to consider available information on the basis of cumulative risk encompassing all of the OP pesticides, sharing a common mechanism of toxicity. The tolerance reassessment decision for methidathion cannot be considered final until the cumulative risks for all of the OPs is considered. The Agency may need to pursue further risk management measures at that time.

**List of Subjects**

Environmental protection, chemicals, insecticides, acaricides, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: May 6, 2002.

**Lois Rossi,**

*Director Special Review and Reregistration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.*

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-7212-3]

**Water Quality Trading Policy; Proposed Policy**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** Today's notice invites comment on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) proposed Policy on Water Quality Trading ("proposed policy"). The purpose of the proposed policy is to signal EPA support for soundly designed water quality trading programs developed by States and Tribes. Another purpose is to propose program components that EPA believes are appropriate for trading programs to be soundly designed and to operate successfully. In addition, the proposed policy is intended to address issues left open and limitations encountered implementing projects under EPA's January 1996 Effluent Trading Policy and May 1996 draft Framework for Watershed-Based Trading (EPA 800-R-96-001).

Water quality trading is a voluntary, incentive-based approach to more efficiently protect and restore the nation's waters. The proposed policy addresses trading to maintain water quality in unimpaired waters, trading in impaired waters before development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and trading to meet TMDLs. While the focus is on nutrients and sediment, the policy also discusses the potential for trading other pollutants under certain circumstances.