

to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR chapter 15.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.7 hours per response (OMB #2060-0095), and 0.5 hours per response (OMB #2060-0294) respectively. Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

OMB #2060-0095

Respondents/Affected entities: Individuals and businesses importing motor vehicles and motor vehicle engines.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 13,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.6 responses/year.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 15,800.

Estimated Total Annualized Costs Burden: \$ 1,266,000.

OMB #2060-0294

Respondents/Affected entities: Individuals and businesses importing compression-ignition nonroad engines and small spark-ignition nonroad engines, including those incorporated into nonroad equipment or vehicles.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,500.

Frequency of Response: 100 responses/year.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 76,370.50.

Estimated Total Annualized Costs Burden: \$ 93,765.00.

Dated: April 30, 2003.

Robert Brenner,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 03-11477 Filed 5-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7495-7]

Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Process for Exempting Critical Uses of Methyl Bromide

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of applications and information on alternatives.

SUMMARY: EPA is soliciting applications for the Critical Use Exemption from the phaseout of methyl bromide. This application process offers users of methyl bromide the opportunity to provide technical and economic information to support a "critical use" claim.

Methyl bromide is a chemical pesticide that has been identified under the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer* and the Clean Air Act, as an ozone-depleting substance. It is scheduled for complete phaseout by January 1, 2005. The Critical Use Exemption is designed to allow continued production and import of methyl bromide after the phaseout for those uses that have no technically and economically feasible alternatives. Because Critical Use Exemptions are exemptions from the January 1, 2005, methyl bromide phaseout, they will become effective after that date.

Applicants for the exemption are requested to submit technical and economic information to EPA for U.S. review. The U.S. will then create a

national nomination for review by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. EPA encourages users with similar circumstances of use to submit a single application. Please contact your state regulatory agency to receive information about their involvement in the process.

DATES: Applications for the Critical Use Exemption must be postmarked on or before August 6, 2003. The response period is now 90 days reflecting the clarifications and reduction of burden in the application.

ADDRESSES: Applications for the methyl bromide Critical Use Exemption should be submitted in duplicate (two copies) by mail to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs, Biological and Economic Analysis Division, Attention Methyl Bromide Review Team, Mail Code 7503C, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW., Washington, DC 20460 or by courier delivery (other than U.S. Post Office overnight) to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs, Biological and Economic Analysis Division, Attention Methyl Bromide Review Team, Crystal Mall II, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. Applicants are encouraged to send an electronic version of their application and/or attached documents along with their paper submission or sent via electronic mail to bromide.methyl@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

General Information: U.S. EPA Stratospheric Ozone Information Hotline, 1-800-296-1996.

Technical Information: Bill Chism, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs (7503C), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, 703-308-8136.

Economic Information: David Widawsky, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs (7503C), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, 703-308-8150.

Regulatory Information: Hodayah Finman, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Global Programs Division (6205J), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, 202-564-2651.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. What Do I Need To Know To Respond To This Request for Applications?

A. Who Can Respond to this Request for Information?

The Application Form may be submitted either by a consortium representing multiple users or by individual users who anticipate needing methyl bromide in 2005 and believe there are no technically and economically feasible alternatives. EPA encourages users with similar circumstances of use to submit a single application (for example, any number of pre-plant users with similar soil, pest, and climactic conditions can join together to submit a single application). In some instances, State agencies will assist users with the application process (see discussion of voluntary State involvement in part I.B. below).

In addition to requesting information from applicants for the Critical Use Exemption, this solicitation for information provides an opportunity for any interested party to provide EPA with information on methyl bromide alternatives (e.g. technical and/or economic feasibility research). The Application Form for the methyl bromide Critical Use Exemption and other information on research relevant to alternatives must be sent to the addresses specified above.

B. Who Can I Contact To Find Out if a Consortium Is Submitting an Application Form for My Methyl Bromide Use?

Please contact your local, State, regional or national commodity association to find out if they plan on

submitting an application on behalf of your commodity group.

Additionally, you should contact your State regulatory agency (generally this will be the State Department of Agriculture or State Environmental Protection Agency) to receive information about their involvement in the process. If your State agency has chosen to participate, EPA encourages all applicants to first submit their applications to the State regulatory agency, which will then forward them to EPA. The National Pesticide Information Center Web site is one resource available for identifying the lead pesticide agency in your State (<http://ace.orst.edu/info/npic/state1.htm>).

C. How Do I Obtain an Application Form for the Methyl Bromide Critical Use Exemption?

An Application Form for the methyl bromide Critical Use Exemption can be obtained either in electronic or hard-copy form. EPA encourages use of the electronic form. Applications can be obtained in the following ways:

1. PDF format at EPA Web site: www.epa.gov/ozone/mbr/;
2. Microsoft Excel and other electronic spreadsheet formats at EPA Web site: www.epa.gov/ozone/mbr/;
3. Mailed hard-copy ordered through the Stratospheric Ozone Protection Hotline at 1-800-296-1996;
4. Hard-copy format at Air Docket No. OAR-A2000-24. The docket is located in room B-102, EPA West Building, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington DC, 20460. The Docket Office is open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. A reasonable fee may be charged by EPA for copying docket materials.

D. What Alternatives Must Applicants Address When Applying for a Critical Use Exemption?

To support the assertion that a specific use of methyl bromide is "critical," applicants are expected to demonstrate that there are no technically and economically feasible alternatives available to the user of methyl bromide. The Parties to the Montreal Protocol have developed an "International Index" of Methyl Bromide Alternatives which lists chemical and non-chemical alternatives, by crop (http://www.epa.gov/ozone/mbr/alt_in.html). The chemicals and non-chemical practices included on this index were identified by the international technical advisory groups under the Montreal Protocol: the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee

(MBTOC) and the Technical and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP). The MBTOC and the TEAP determined that alternatives in the International Index have the "technical potential" to replace methyl bromide in at least one circumstance of use on the identified crop (Report of the Technical and Economic Assessment Panel, 1997) (http://www.teap.org/html/teap_reports.html). A corresponding U.S. Index of Alternatives (also listed by crop) has been developed by the U.S. government regarding chemical alternatives (<http://www.epa.gov/ozone/mbr>). This U.S. Index reflects whether chemical alternatives included in the International Index have been registered for use in the United States.

Applicants must address technical, regulatory, and economic issues that limit the adoption of "chemical alternatives" and combinations of "chemical" and "non-chemical alternatives" listed for their crop within the "U.S. Index" of Methyl Bromide Alternatives. Applicants must also address technical, regulatory, and economic issues that limit the adoption of "non-chemical alternatives" and combinations of "chemical" and "non-chemical alternatives" listed for their crop in the "International Index."

E. What Portions of the Applications Will Be Considered Confidential Business Information?

The person submitting information to EPA in response to this notice may assert a business confidentiality claim covering part or all of the information by placing on (or attaching to) the application, at the time it is submitted to EPA, a cover sheet, or a stamped or typed legend placed at the front of the application, employing language such as trade secret, proprietary, or company confidential. Allegedly confidential portions of otherwise non-confidential documents should be clearly identified by the applicant, and may be submitted separately to facilitate identification and handling by EPA. If the applicant desires confidential treatment only until a certain date or until the occurrence of a certain event, the notice should so state. Information covered by a claim of confidentiality will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth under 40 CFR part 2, subpart B; 41 FR 36902, 43 FR 40000, 50 FR 51661. If no claim of confidentiality accompanies the information when it is received by EPA, it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the applicant.

If you are asserting a business confidentiality claim covering part or all

of the information in the application, you must submit a non-confidential version that EPA can circulate to technical reviewers and can place in the public docket for reference by other interested parties. Under no circumstances shall the applicants claim confidentiality for the "Worksheet Six: Application Summary" portion of the application. These application information summary sheets will be posted on the EPA Web site (www.epa.gov/ozone/mbr) and included in Air Docket No. OAR-A2000-24. Please note, providing CBI may delay the ability of EPA to review your application.

F. Must I Submit a "Notice of Intent To Apply?"

EPA requests that people who plan to submit an application send a "notice of intent to apply" to the location listed in **ADDRESSES** above. EPA asks that you submit the "notice of intent to apply" as soon as you decide if you will be applying in 2003, but no later than 30 days before the application deadline. The "notice of intent to apply" can be a simple letter (or an email in the form *LASTNAME.FIRSTNAME@epa.gov* to one of the people listed under the section **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). The Agency is not requiring a "notice of intent to apply", but believes it will facilitate the organization of the application review process, and improve the U.S. government's ability to make arguments on behalf of sectors that demonstrate a critical need for methyl bromide.

G. What if I Submit an Incomplete Application?

If the EPA determines that an application is lacking sufficient information needed in order to be processed by the technical reviewers, applicants will be notified by telephone or in writing. If the required information is not submitted 30 days after the request, the application will not be processed. Reviewers may also call applicants for further elaboration about their application, even if it is complete.

H. What if I Already Applied in 2002?

The Parties to the Montreal Protocol will decide at the end of calendar year 2003 whether exemptions will be authorized for 2005 alone or for more than one year. If methyl bromide is only authorized by the Parties for 2005 alone, then EPA is requiring those who submitted applications in 2002 to provide updated data by filling out only those very limited portions of the application necessary to furnish any updated information to EPA. The data

required for updating applications will be noted is the following:

- Provide the 2002 price of methyl bromide (worksheet 2D-amount and price of methyl bromide alone);
- Provide quantity of methyl bromide used in 2002 (worksheet 2B regarding 2002 information);
- Address the technical and economic feasibility of using newly registered alternatives (provide information in worksheets 3A through 3C regarding alternatives newly registered/available since submission of application during 2002);
- Update research information about alternatives (update worksheet 4 as necessary, based on new studies);
- Update details in research plan to identify and test alternatives (follow new format and provide details in worksheet 4, as necessary); and
- Provide update on new techniques to minimize emissions (worksheet 4).

II. What Is the Legal Authority for the Critical Use Exemption?

A. What Is the Clean Air Act (CAA) Authority for Implementing the Critical Use Exemption to the Methyl Bromide Phaseout?

In October 1998, the U.S. Congress amended the Clean Air Act by adding CAA sections 604(d)(6), 604(e)(3), and 604(h) (section 764 of the 1999 Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 105-277; October 21, 1998)). The amendment requires EPA to conform the U.S. phaseout schedule for methyl bromide to the provisions of the Montreal Protocol for industrialized countries. Specifically, the amendment requires EPA to make regulatory changes to implement the following phaseout schedule:

- 25% reduction (from 1991 baseline) in 1999;
- 50% reduction in 2001;
- 70% reduction in 2003;
- 100% reduction in 2005.

EPA published regulations in the **Federal Register** on June 1, 1999 (64 FR 29240), and November 28, 2000 (65 FR 70795), instituting the phaseout reductions in the production and import of methyl bromide in accordance with the schedule listed above. Additionally, the 1998 amendment allowed EPA to exempt the production and import of methyl bromide from the phaseout for critical uses starting January 1, 2005, "to the extent consistent with the Montreal Protocol" (section 764 of the 1999 Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 105-277, October 21, 1998)(section 604(d)(6) of the Clean Air Act).

B. What Is the Montreal Protocol Authority for Granting a Critical Use Exemption After the Methyl Bromide Phaseout?

The Montreal Protocol provides an exemption to the phaseout of methyl bromide for critical uses in Article 2H, paragraph 5. The Parties to the Protocol included provisions for such an exemption in recognition that substitutes for methyl bromide may not be available by 2005 for certain uses of methyl bromide agreed by the Parties to be "critical uses".

In their Ninth Meeting (1997), the Parties to the Protocol agreed to Decision IX/6, setting forth the following criteria for a "critical use" determination:

- (a) That a use of methyl bromide should qualify as "critical" only if the nominating Party [e.g. U.S.] determines that:
 - (i) The specific use is critical because the lack of availability of methyl bromide for that use would result in a significant market disruption; and
 - (ii) There are no technically and economically feasible alternatives or substitutes available to the user that are acceptable from the standpoint of environment and health and are suitable to the crops and circumstances of the nomination.
 - (b) That production and consumption, if any, of methyl bromide for a critical use should be permitted only if:
 - (i) All technically and economically feasible steps have been taken to minimize the critical use and any associated emission of methyl bromide;
 - (ii) Methyl bromide is not available in sufficient quantity and quality from existing stocks of banked or recycled methyl bromide, also bearing in mind the developing countries need for methyl bromide;
 - (iii) It is demonstrated that an appropriate effort is being made to evaluate, commercialize and secure national regulatory approval of alternatives and substitutes, taking into consideration the circumstances of the particular nomination * * * Non-Article 5 Parties [e.g., the U.S.] must demonstrate that research programmes are in place to develop and deploy alternatives and substitutes. * * *

In the context of the phaseout program, the use of the term consumption may be misleading. Consumption does not mean the "use" of a controlled substance, but rather is defined as the formula: consumption = production + imports - exports, of controlled substances (Article 1 of the Protocol and section 601 of the CAA). Class I controlled substances that were produced or imported through the expenditure of allowances prior to their phaseout date can continue to be used by industry and the public after that specific chemical's phaseout under EPA's phaseout regulations, unless

otherwise precluded under separate regulations.

In addition to the language quoted above, the Parties further agreed to request the TEAP to review nominations and make recommendations for approval based on the criteria established in paragraphs (a)(ii) and (b) of Decision IX/6.

III. How Will the U.S. Implement the Critical Use Exemption?

A. When Will the Exemption Become Available to U.S. Users of Methyl Bromide?

Under the provisions of both the CAA and the Montreal Protocol, the Critical Use Exemption will be available to approved uses on January 1, 2005. Until that date, all production and import of methyl bromide (except for those quantities that qualify for the quarantine and preshipment exemption) must conform to the phasedown schedule

listed above (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section II A). For more information on the quarantine and preshipment exemption, please refer to 68 FR 238 (January 2, 2003).

B. What Is the Projected Timeline for the Critical Use Exemption Application Process?

There is both a domestic and international component to the Critical Use Exemption process. The following outline represents a projected timeline for the process:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| May 8, 2003 | Solicit applications for the methyl bromide Critical Use. |
| August 6, 2003 | Deadline for submitting Critical Use Exemption applications to EPA. |
| Late 2003 | U.S. government (EPA, Department of State, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other interested federal agencies) create U.S. Critical Use nomination package. |
| January 31, 2004 | Deadline for U.S. government to submit U.S. nomination package to the Protocol Parties. |
| Early 2004 | Review of the nominations packages for Critical Use Exemptions by the Technical and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) and Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC). |
| Early 2004 | EPA publishes proposed rule for allocating Critical Use Exemptions in the U.S. |
| Mid 2004 | Parties consider TEAP/MBTOC recommendations. |
| Late 2004 | Parties authorize Critical Use Exemptions for methyl bromide. |
| Late 2004 | EPA publishes final rule allocating Critical Use Exemptions in the U.S. |
| January 1, 2005 | Critical Use Exemption permits the limited production and import of methyl bromide beyond the phaseout date for specific uses. |

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7414, 7601, 7671–7671q.

Dated: April 30, 2003.

Robert Brenner,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 03–11476 Filed 5–7–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP–2003–0024; FRL–7308–3]

FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The June 3–5, 2003, Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel (FIFRA SAP) face-to-face meeting to review the effects of atrazine on amphibians has been rescheduled. Due to scheduling conflicts, the May 21st premeeting teleconference has been canceled. For further information, please notify the Designated Federal Official (DFO) listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or see the **Federal Register** of February 24, 2003 (68 FR 8593) (FRL–7291–9).

DATES: The new meeting date is June 17–20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Washington - National Airport, 1489 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The telephone number for the hotel is (703) 310–8980.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Lewis, DFO, Office of Science Coordination and Policy (7202M), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 564–8450; fax number: (202) 564–8382; e-mail addresses: lewis.paul@epa.gov.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: April 30, 2003.

Joseph J. Merenda,

Director, Office of Science Coordination and Policy.

[FR Doc. 03–11479 Filed 5–7–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–S

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7494–7]

Proposed CERCLA Section 122(h) Administrative Agreement for Recovery of Past Costs for the Nelson Galvanizing Superfund Site, New York City, Queens County, NY

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 122(i) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (“CERCLA”), 42 U.S.C. 9622(i), notice is hereby given by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), Region II, of a proposed administrative agreement pursuant to section 122(h) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(h), with John T. Sweeney, Nelson Foundry, Inc. and Nelson Galvanizing, Inc., for recovery of past response costs concerning the Nelson Galvanizing Superfund Site (“Site”) located at 11–02 Broadway, in the Long Island City area of Queens County, New York City, New York. The settlement requires the settling parties to pay \$244,000 in reimbursement of EPA’s past costs at the Site. The settlement includes a covenant not to sue the settling parties pursuant to section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9607(a), in exchange for their payment of monies. For thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, EPA will receive written comments relating to the settlement. EPA will consider all comments received and may modify or withdraw its consent to the settlement if comments received disclose facts or considerations that indicate that the proposed settlement is inappropriate, improper or inadequate. EPA’s response to any comments