

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7613-3]

Symposium on Recent Scientific Research Related to the Health Effects of Trichloroethylene**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice of public symposium.

SUMMARY: The National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), a part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Research and Development, is sponsoring a two-day public symposium on recently published scientific research related to the health effects of trichloroethylene (TCE). Eastern Research Group, Inc., (ERG) an EPA contractor, is organizing and convening the symposium. EPA's goal is to hear from the scientists who are at the forefront of TCE-related research.

The symposium will consist of a series of invited presentations by a number of researchers from a variety of scientific fields who have recently published scientific findings related to the health effects of TCE. Because of the volume of published research, and due to funding and timing limitations, this symposium necessarily presents selected important new scientific research. At the end of each speaker's presentation, there will be a limited period for related questions from the audience. The focus of this symposium is published primary research, and no summary or conclusions are being sought about the health risks of TCE.

Members of the public may attend the symposium as observers, and may participate in question periods. Space is limited, and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

A preliminary program agenda is available on the NCEA Web page at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/>. A transcript of the symposium will be made available on the NCEA Web page after the meeting.

DATES: The symposium will be held Thursday, February 26, 2004, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday, February 27, 2004, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The symposium will be held at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20036; telephone: (202) 347-3000. ERG, an EPA contractor, is organizing, convening, and conducting the symposium. To attend the symposium, please preregister by February 20, 2004. You may register on

line at <https://www.ergweb.com/projects/tce/register.htm> or call ERG's conference registration line at (781) 674-7374.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For symposium information, registration, and logistics, contact the ERG Conference Group at (781) 674-7272, 110 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, MA 02421; telephone: (781) 674-7272; facsimile: (781) 674-2906; e-mail: meetings@erg.com (referencing the TCE Symposium). For further information, the EPA contact is Dr. Weihsueh Chiu, telephone: (202) 564-7789; e-mail: chiu.weihsueh@epa.gov.

Dated: January 21, 2004.

Peter W. Preuss,

Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

[FR Doc. 04-1547 Filed 1-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[OPP-2003-0287; FRL-7341-2]

Thiram Risk Assessments; Notice of Availability**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of documents that were developed as part of EPA's process for making pesticide reregistration eligibility decisions and tolerance reassessments consistent with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA). These documents are the human health, and environmental fate and effects risk assessments, and related documents for thiram. Additionally, this notice starts a 60-day public comment period, during which the public is encouraged to provide information to help refine the risk assessments for thiram. Comments are to be limited to issues directly associated with thiram and raised by the risk assessment or other documents placed in the docket. By allowing access and opportunity for comment on the risk assessments, EPA is seeking to strengthen stakeholder involvement, and help ensure that the Agency's decisions under FQPA are transparent and based on the best available information.

DATES: Comments, identified by the docket ID number OPP-2003-0287 for thiram, must be received on or before March 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. Follow the detailed instructions as provided in Unit I. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Doty, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (703) 308-0122; fax number: (703) 308-8041; e-mail address: doty.craig@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. General Information****A. Does This Action Apply to Me?**

This action is directed to the public in general. This action may, however, be of interest to persons who are or may be required to conduct testing of chemical substances under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) or the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA); environmental, human health, and agricultural advocates; pesticide users; and the public interested in the use of pesticides. Since other entities may also 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 Copies of This Document and Other Related Information?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket identification (ID) number OPP-2003-0287. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA. This docket facility is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The docket telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

2. *Electronic access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document

electronically through the EPA Internet under the "Federal Register" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgrstr/>.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket ID number.

Certain types of information will not be placed in the EPA Dockets. Information claimed as CBI and other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute, which is not included in the official public docket, will not be available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. EPA's policy is that copyrighted material will not be placed in EPA's electronic public docket, but will be available only in printed, paper form in the official public docket. To the extent feasible, publicly available docket materials will be made available in EPA's electronic public docket. When a document is selected from the index list in EPA Dockets, the system will identify whether the document is available for viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in Unit I.B. EPA intends to work towards providing electronic access to all of the publicly available docket materials through EPA's electronic public docket.

For public commenters, it is important to note that EPA's policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket as EPA receives them and without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. When EPA identifies a comment containing copyrighted material, EPA will provide a reference to that material in the version of the comment that is placed in EPA's electronic public docket. The entire printed comment, including the copyrighted material, will be available in the public docket.

Public comments submitted on computer disks that are mailed or delivered to the docket will be transferred to EPA's electronic public docket. Public comments that are

mailed or delivered to the docket will be scanned and placed in EPA's electronic public docket. Where practical, physical objects will be photographed, and the photograph will be placed in EPA's electronic public docket along with a brief description written by the docket staff.

C. How and to Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket ID number in the subject line on the first page of your comment. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked "late." EPA is not required to consider these late comments. If you wish to submit CBI or information that is otherwise protected by statute, please follow the instructions in Unit I.D. Do not use EPA Dockets or e-mail to submit CBI or information protected by statute.

1. *Electronically.* If you submit an electronic comment as prescribed in this unit, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your comment. Also include this contact information on the outside of any disk or CD ROM you submit, and in any cover letter accompanying the disk or CD ROM. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. EPA's policy is that EPA will not edit your comment, and any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

i. *EPA Dockets.* Your use of EPA's electronic public docket to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving comments. Go directly to EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once in the system, select "search," and then key in docket ID number OPP-2003-0287. The system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or

other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

ii. *E-mail.* Comments may be sent by e-mail to opp-docket@epa.gov, Attention: Docket ID Number OPP-2003-0287. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly to the docket without going through EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

iii. *Disk or CD ROM.* You may submit comments on a disk or CD ROM that you mail to the mailing address identified in Unit I.C.2. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

2. *By mail.* Send your comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB) (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001, Attention: Docket ID Number OPP-2003-0287.

3. *By hand delivery or courier.* Deliver your comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, Attention: Docket ID Number OPP-2003-0287. Such deliveries are only accepted during the docket's normal hours of operation as identified in Unit I.B.1.

D. How Should I Submit CBI to the Agency?

Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI electronically through EPA's electronic public docket or by e-mail. You may claim information that you submit to EPA as CBI by marking any part or all of that information as CBI (if you submit CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM as CBI and then identify electronically within the disk or CD ROM the specific information that is 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

docket and EPA's electronic public docket. If you submit the copy that does not contain CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM clearly that it does not contain CBI. Information not marked as CBI will be included in the public docket and EPA's electronic public docket 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 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 your estimate.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternatives.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket ID number in the subject line on the first page of your response. It would also be helpful if you provided the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation related to your comments.

II. What Action Is the Agency Taking?

EPA is making available risk assessments that have been developed as part of the Agency's public participation process for making reregistration eligibility and tolerance reassessment decisions for pesticides consistent with FFDCA, as amended by FQPA. The Agency's human health, and environmental fate and effects risk assessments, and other related documents for thiram are available in the individual pesticide docket, OPP-2003-0287. As additional comments, reviews, and risk assessment modifications become available, these will also be docketed for thiram.

The Agency cautions that refinements to the thiram risk assessments may be appropriate pending comments received. Risk assessment documents reflect only the work and analysis conducted as of the time they were produced and it is appropriate that, as new information becomes available and/or additional analyses are performed,

the conclusions they contain may change.

EPA is providing an opportunity, through this notice, for interested parties to provide written comments and input to the Agency on the thiram risk assessments. Comments could address the availability of additional data to further refine the risk assessments, such as information on the extent and duration of use of products containing thiram. Comments could also address the Agency's risk assessment methodologies and assumptions applied to this specific chemical. Comments should be limited to issues raised within the risk assessment and associated documents. All comments should be submitted by March 26, 2004 using the methods in Unit I. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. Comments will become part of the Agency record for thiram.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Chemicals, Pesticides, Pests, Thiram.

Dated: December 23, 2003.

Debra Edwards,

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

[FR Doc. 04-1550 Filed 1-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-S

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7612-6]

Proposed Administrative Cashout *Deminimis* Settlement Under Section 122(g) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment for the NL Industries (Taracorp) Site.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 122(i) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. 9622(i), notice is hereby given of a proposed administrative settlement for recovery of past and projected future response costs concerning the NL Industries (Taracorp) Site, with the total of 78 settling parties listed in the Supplementary Information portion of this notice. The settlement requires the settling parties to pay \$1,960,888.51 to the Hazardous Substance Superfund.

The total cost of the cleanup is approximately \$63 million. This

number is the sum of EPA's past costs of approximately \$43 million, plus costs incurred by certain potentially responsible parties of approximately \$20 million. For purposes of settlement, site costs have been allocated approximately 50% to generators and 50% to owner/operators. Since all *deminimis* parties are generators, the *deminimis* percentage share of site costs is based on fifty percent of total site costs, or \$30 million. Total future site costs were assigned a premium of 20%. Payment amounts for each *deminimis* generator's percentage share of volume contributed to the site.

Under the terms of the settlement, the *deminimis* generators who sign the Consent Order agree to pay their respective settlement amounts. In exchange for those payments, the United States covenants not to sue or take administrative action pursuant to sections 106 and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9609 and 9607(a), relating to the Site. In addition, participating *deminimis* generators will be entitled to protection from contribution action or claims as provided by sections 113(f) and 122(g)(5) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9613(f) and 9622(g)(5), for all response costs incurred and to be incurred by any person at the Site.

For thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the Agency will accept written comments relating to the settlement. The Agency will consider all comments received and may modify or withdraw its consent to the settlement if comments received disclose facts or considerations which indicate that the settlement is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. The Agency's response to any comments received will be available for public inspection at EPA's Region 5 Office at 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before February 25, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The proposed settlement is available for public inspection at EPA's Record Center, 7th floor, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60604. A copy of the proposed settlement may be obtained from Larry L. Johnson, Associate Regional Counsel, U.S. EPA, Mail Code C-14J, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60604, telephone (312) 886-6609. Comments should reference the NL Industries (Taracorp) Site, and should be addressed to Larry L. Johnson, Associate Regional Counsel, U.S. EPA, Mail Code C-14J, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry L. Johnson, Associate Regional Counsel, U.S. EPA, Mail Code C-14J, 77