

make corrections to its risk and resilience assessment or emergency response plan after certification.

Community water systems can access <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/americas-water-infrastructure-act-2018-risk-assessments-and-emergency-response-plans> to get updated information on the implementation of this section of the law, as well as further details on how to submit risk and resilience assessment and emergency response plan certifications.

#### G. Third-Party Standards

The EPA does not require water systems to use any designated standards, methods, or tools to conduct the risk and resilience assessments required under revised section 1433(a) or to prepare the emergency response plans required under revised section 1433(b). Rather, community water systems must conduct risk and resilience assessments and prepare emergency response plans in accordance with all the requirements of those sections.

Community water systems may use any standards, methods, or tools that aid the system in meeting the requirements of section 1433. However, regardless of the use of any standard, method, or tool, the community water system is responsible for ensuring that its risk and resilience assessment and emergency response plan fully address all requirements of the SDWA, as amended by the AWIA.

#### H. Five-Year Review, Revision, and Certification Requirement

Each community water system serving more than 3,300 persons must review its risk and resilience assessment at least once every five years to determine if it should be revised. Upon completion of such a review, the system must submit to the EPA a certification that it has reviewed its assessment and revised it, if applicable.

Further, each community water system serving more than 3,300 persons must revise, where necessary, its emergency response plan at least once every five years after the system completes the required review of its risk and resilience assessment. The emergency response plan must incorporate any findings of the risk and resilience assessment. Upon completion of such a review, but not later than six months after certifying the review of its risk and resilience assessment, the system must submit to the EPA a certification that it has completed its corresponding emergency response plan (which, in the context of a revision, means that it has reviewed its

emergency response plan and revised it, if applicable).

#### I. Final Disposition of Bioterrorism Act Vulnerability Assessments

Title IV of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (Bioterrorism Act) amended the Safe Water Drinking Act by adding new sections 1433 through 1435 pertaining to improving the security of the nation's drinking water infrastructure. Section 1433 of the Bioterrorism Act required each community water system serving a population greater than 3,300 persons to conduct a vulnerability assessment, certify completion of its assessment, and submit a written copy to the EPA where it would be stored in a secure location. These assessments are now more than 10 years old and are outdated. Pursuant to the EPA's Records Management Policy, the EPA can retire the certifications and assessments.

The EPA intends to destroy the vulnerability assessments using a process that conforms with the information protection requirements of section 1433 of the Bioterrorism Act. Under AWIA section 2013(b)(2), community water systems may request that the EPA return their vulnerability assessments in lieu of destruction. If utilities wish their vulnerability assessments returned, they may submit a letter to the EPA by email. Please email the request letter to [WSD-Outreach@epa.gov](mailto:WSD-Outreach@epa.gov) on utility letterhead and include the following information: utility name, PWS ID number, address, and point of contact information for the individual who will be responsible for receiving the vulnerability assessment.

To request the return of the vulnerability assessment prior to destruction, the community water system will need to make the request not later than the initial date by which the community water system must certify a risk and resilience assessment to the EPA as required under section 1433(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act as amended by section 2013 of the AWIA.

Dated: March 19, 2019.

**Jennifer L. McLain,**

*Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0258; FRL-9986-27]  
RIN 2070-ZA21

### Pesticides; Draft Guidance for Pesticide Registrants on Plant Regulator Label Claims, Including Plant Biostimulants; Notice of Availability

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Agency is announcing the availability of and seeking public comment on a draft guidance document entitled "Guidance for Plant Regulator Label Claims, Including Plant Biostimulants." Guidance documents are issued by the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) to inform pesticide registrants and other interested persons about important policies, procedures, and registration related decisions, and serve to provide guidance to pesticide registrants and OPP personnel. This draft guidance document is intended to clarify that products with label claims that are considered to be plant regulator claims are subject to regulation as a pesticide.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 28, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0258, by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

- *Mail:* OPP Docket, Environmental Protection Agency Docket Center (EPA/DC), (28221T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460-0001.

- *Hand Delivery:* To make special arrangements for hand delivery or delivery of boxed information, please follow the instructions at <http://www.epa.gov/dockets/contacts.html>.

Additional instructions on commenting or visiting the docket, along with more information about dockets generally, is available at <http://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

*For general information contact:* Prasad Chumble, Field and External Affairs Division (7506P), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania

Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (703) 347-8367; email address: [chumble.prasad@epa.gov](mailto:chumble.prasad@epa.gov).

For technical information contact: Russell Jones, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511P), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (703) 308-5071; email address: [jones.russell@epa.gov](mailto:jones.russell@epa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. Executive Summary

#### A. What action is the Agency taking?

EPA has developed a draft guidance document, entitled "Guidance for Plant Regulator Label Claims, Including Plant Biostimulants." This document is intended to provide guidance to EPA personnel and decisionmakers, and to pesticide registrants. EPA invites comment from prospective guidance users and other stakeholders concerning this draft guidance document.

#### B. What is the Agency's authority for taking this action?

This draft guidance document is issued under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. 136-136y. EPA regulations regarding pesticide registration and exemptions from registration are contained in 40 CFR parts 150 through 189. EPA also provides related non-binding guidance on its website at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides>.

#### C. Does this action apply to me?

This draft guidance may be of particular interest to those who are producers of products making labeling claims that are considered to be plant regulator claims by the Agency, thereby subjecting the products to regulation under FIFRA as pesticides. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes are provided to assist you and others in determining if this action might apply to certain entities. Potentially affected entities may include, but are not limited to:

- Pesticide and Other Agricultural Chemical Manufacturing (NAICS 32532), e.g., pesticide manufacturers or formulators of pesticide products, pesticide importers or any person or company who seeks to register a pesticide.

- Pesticide, Fertilizer, and Other Agricultural Chemical Manufacturing (NAICS 325300), e.g., establishments primarily engaged in manufacturing agricultural chemicals, including

nitrogenous and phosphoric fertilizer materials, mixed fertilizers, and agricultural and household pest control chemicals.

This listing is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be affected by this action. Other types of entities not listed in this unit could also be affected. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

#### D. What are the potential incremental economic impacts of taking this action?

The Agency anticipates that this guidance may reduce confusion, in both the regulated community and regulatory agencies, as to whether specific products are or are not subject to registration as a pesticide under FIFRA. Reducing uncertainty may reduce costs of bringing a product to market; in some situations, uncertainty could deter firms from developing products. To the extent this guidance clarifies what products must be registered and what products do not need to be registered, it will reduce the effort firms expend to determine the appropriate regulatory path. However, these impacts are likely to be small and intangible.

#### E. What should I consider as I prepare my comments for EPA?

1. *Submitting CBI.* Do not submit this information to EPA through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) or email. Clearly mark the part or all of the information that you claim to be CBI. For CBI information in a disk or CD-ROM that you mail to EPA, 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 claimed as CBI. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes 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. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

2. *Tips for preparing your comments.* When preparing and submitting your comments, see the commenting tips at <http://www.epa.gov/dockets/comments.html>.

### II. Overview

This draft guidance document provides guidance about plant regulator label claims, including plant biostimulant claims. Plant biostimulants (PBS) are a relatively new, but growing,

category of products containing naturally-occurring substances and microbes that are used to stimulate plant growth, enhance resistance to plant pests, and reduce abiotic stress. The increasing popularity of PBS arises from their ability to enhance agricultural productivity by stimulating natural processes in the plant and in soil using substances and microbes already present in the environment. PBS can promote greater water and nutrient use efficiency, but do not provide any nutritionally relevant fertilizer benefit to the plant. PBS products are becoming increasingly attractive for use in sustainable agriculture production systems and integrated pest management (IPM) programs, which in turn can reduce the use of irrigation water, as well as agrochemical supplements and fertilizers.

Statutory definitions for PBS currently do not exist in the United States or overseas and there is no applicable regulatory definition of PBS under FIFRA. The draft guidance does not address or attempt to provide a regulatory definition for "plant biostimulant." The Agency is seeking comment on this draft guidance. The Agency is also seeking comment on whether EPA should develop a definition for plant biostimulants, noting that the development of such a definition would require rulemaking.

In developing the draft guidance, EPA considered whether a PBS product, as understood by EPA, physiologically influences the growth and development of plants in such a way as to be considered plant regulators by the Agency and thereby triggering regulation under FIFRA as a pesticide. FIFRA section 2(u) includes plant regulators, defoliants, desiccants, and nitrogen stabilizers in its definition of a pesticide, so they are subject to federal registration as pesticides under FIFRA. In addition, FIFRA section 2(v) both defines plant regulator and explains which substances are excluded from the definition. Based on the plant regulator definition contained in FIFRA section 2(v), many PBS products and substances may be excluded or exempt from regulation under FIFRA depending upon their intended uses as plant nutrients (e.g., fertilizers), plant inoculants, soil amendments, and vitamin-hormone products. Other PBS products will not involve EPA oversight because they do not fit within the specific FIFRA definition of how a plant regulator functions. A key consideration is what claims are being made on product labels. This draft document is intended to provide guidance on identifying product label claims that are

considered to be plant regulator claims by the Agency, thereby subjecting the products to regulation under FIFRA as pesticides. Examples are provided of both claims that are considered plant regulator claims and claims that are not considered plant regulator claims.

As guidance, this document is not binding on the Agency or any outside parties, and the Agency may depart from it where circumstances warrant and without prior notice. While EPA has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the discussion in the draft guidance, the obligations of EPA and the regulated community are determined by statutes, regulations, or other legally binding documents. In the event of a conflict between the discussion in the draft guidance document and any statute, regulation, or other legally binding document, the draft guidance document would not be controlling.

### III. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Additional information about these statutes and Executive Orders can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/laws-and-executive-orders>.

#### A. Executive Order 12866: Regulatory Planning and Review and Executive Order 13563: Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) has determined that this draft guidance document qualifies as a significant guidance document under OMB's Final Bulletin for Agency Good Guidance Practices (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2007-01-25/pdf/E7-1066.pdf>). As such, the draft document was submitted to OMB for review under Executive Orders 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993) and 13563 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011). Any changes to the document made in response to OMB recommendations have been documented in the docket for this action as required by section 6(a)(3)(E) of Executive Order 12866.

#### B. Executive Order 13771: Reducing Regulations and Controlling Regulatory Costs

This action is not subject to the requirements for regulatory actions specified in Executive Order 13771 (82 FR 9339, February 3, 2017).

#### C. Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)

This guidance does not create paperwork burdens that require additional approval by OMB under the PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* The information collection activities associated with pesticide registration are already approved by OMB under

OMB Control No. 2070-0060. The corresponding information collection request (ICR) document is entitled "Application for New and Amended Pesticide Registration" (EPA ICR No. 0277.16). Clarifying which products are subject to pesticide regulations is not expected to have more than a de minimis impact on the number of products regulated annually and is not, therefore, expected to impact the estimated burdens.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*

Dated: March 21, 2019.

**Alexandra Dapolito Dunn,**

*Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.*

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### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OMB 3060-1181]

#### Information Collection Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission Under Delegated Authority

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or the Commission) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Comments are requested concerning: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees. The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the

PRA that does not display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

**DATES:** Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before May 28, 2019. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all PRA comments to Nicole Ongele, FCC, via email [PRA@fcc.gov](mailto:PRA@fcc.gov) and to [Nicole.Ongele@fcc.gov](mailto:Nicole.Ongele@fcc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information about the information collection, contact Nicole Ongele at (202) 418-2991.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**OMB Control Number:** 3060-1181.

**Title:** Study Area Boundary Data Reporting in Esri Shapefile Format, DA 12-1777 and DA 13-282.

**Form Number:** N/A.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Respondents:** Business or other for-profit entities and State, Local or Tribal Government.

**Number of Respondents and Responses:** 10 respondents; 10 responses.

**Estimated Time per Response:** 26 hours for submitting updates; less than 1 hour for recertification. Frequency of Response: On occasion and biennially reporting requirements.

**Obligation to Respond:** Mandatory. Statutory authority for this information collection is contained in 47 U.S.C. 254(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

**Total Annual Burden:** 171 hours.

**Total Annual Cost:** \$3,895.

**Privacy Act Impact Assessment:** No impact(s).

**Nature and Extent of Confidentiality:** No questions of a confidential nature are asked.

**Needs and Uses:** The Commission uses the study area boundary data collected through 3060-1181 to implement certain universal service reforms. The Universal Service Fund supports the deployment of voice and broadband-capable infrastructure in rural, high cost areas. High-cost support is granted to a carrier based on the characteristics of its "study area," the geographic area served by an incumbent local exchange carrier within a state. Therefore, complete and accurate study area boundary data are essential for calculating a carrier's costs and expenses, which in turn determine the amount of support that carrier can receive to serve high-cost areas. In December 2012, the Commission