• Targeting under-represented audiences, including low-income and multi-cultural audiences, senior citizens, and other adults.

Additional considerations:

The Council is also looking for individuals who demonstrate the following:

• Strong leadership skills.
• Analytical ability.
• Ability to stand apart and evaluate programs in an unbiased fashion.
• Team players.
• Conviction to follow-through and to meet deadlines.
• Ability to review items on short notice.

DATES: Nominations of candidates to fill the existing vacancies on the Council must be submitted no later than February 15, 1997. Any interested person or organization may submit nominations of qualified persons. The nominations must include the following:

• Name/address/phone of nominating individual.
• 1–2 page resume of nominated candidate.
• Two (2) letters of support for the nominee.
• One (1) page statement of ''How the candidate is qualified.'' This must not exceed one (1) page and may be written by either the nominator or nominee.
• One (1) page statement by the nominee on his/her personal perspective on environmental education. This must not exceed one (1) page.

ADDRESSES: Submit nominations to Ginger Keho, Advisory Council Coordinator, Environmental Education Division, Office of Communications, Education and Public Affairs (1707), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, S.W.,Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ginger Keho at the above address, or call (202) 260–4129. E-mail address: keho.ginger@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council provides the Administrator with advice and recommendations on EPA implementation of the National Environmental Education Act. In general, the Act is designed to increase public understanding of environmental issues and problems, and to improve the training of environmental education professionals. EPA will achieve these goals, in part, by awarding grants and/or establishing partnerships with other Federal agencies, state and local education and natural resource agencies, not-for-profit organizations, universities, and the private sector to encourage and support environmental education and training programs. The Council is also responsible for preparing a national biennial report to Congress that will describe and assess the extent and quality of environmental education, discuss major obstacles to improving environmental education, and identify the skill, education, and training needs for environmental professionals.

Denise Graveline,

Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Communications, Education and Public Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96–31558 Filed 12–11–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

[PF–678; FRL–5576–2]

Clofencet; Pesticide Tolerance Petition Filing

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of Filing.

SUMMARY: This notice is a summary of a pesticide petition proposing the establishment of a regulation for residues of clofencet, [MON 21200], in or on wheat as a primary application; in or on the cereal grains group (excluding rice, wild rice and sweet corn) and soybeans as rotational crops; and in animal products. This summary was prepared by the petitioner, Monsanto Company.

DATES: Comments, identified by docket number [PF–678], must be received on or before January 13, 1997.

ADDRESSES By mail, submit written comments to Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, bring comments to: Rm. 1132 CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1 file format or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket number [PF–678]. Electronic comments on this proposed rule may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Additional information on electronic submissions can be found below in this document.

Information submitted as comments concerning this document may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that information as ''Confidential Business Information'' (CBI). CBI should not be submitted through e-mail. Information marked as CBI will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the comment that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential may be disclosed publicly by EPA without prior notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Robert J. Taylor, Product Manager (PM) 25, Registration Division, (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location and telephone number: Rm. 241, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, 703–305–6027, e-mail: taylor.robert@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has received a pesticide petition (PP 4F4346) from the Monsanto Company, 700 14th St., NW., Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005 proposing pursuant to section 408(d) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a(d), to amend 40 CFR part 180 by establishing tolerances for residues of the plant growth regulator (hybridizing agent) clofencet, [MON 21200], 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-ethyl-2,5-dihydro-5-oxo-4-pyridazinecarboxylic acid, potassium salt in or on the raw agricultural commodities from direct treatment with clofencet: wheat grain at 250 parts per million (ppm), wheat hay at 40 ppm, wheat straw at 50 ppm and wheat forage at 10 ppm. Secondary residues in the animal product commodities of cattle, goats, hogs, horses and sheep: fat at 0.04 ppm, kidney at 10 ppm, meat at 0.15 ppm, meat by-products (except kidney) at 0.5 ppm and milk at 0.02 ppm. Secondary residues in the animal product commodities of poultry: eggs at 1 ppm, fat at 0.04 ppm, meat at 0.15 ppm, and meat by-products at 0.2 ppm. Rotational crop tolerances in the raw agricultural commodities: soybeans at 30 ppm, soybean hay at 10 ppm and soybean forage at 10 ppm. The cereal grain crop group (except rice, wild rice and sweet corn) grown as rotational crops: grain at 20 ppm, straw at 4 ppm, forage at 4 ppm, stover (fodder) at 1 ppm and hay at 15 ppm. The proposed analytical method for primary and rotational crops includes derivatization of clofencet to its methyl ester followed by analysis via gas chromatography with electron

capture detection. For rotational crops, it is necessary to first hydrolyze clofencet-sugar conjugates to clofencet before proceeding with derivatization. The proposed method for animal tissues includes derivatization of clofencet to its methyl ester followed by analysis via HPLC with UV detection. For milk and eggs, analysis is achieved by extraction, concentration and direct analysis via HPLC with UV detection.

Pursuant to the section 408(d)(2)(A)(i) of the FFDCA, as amended, Monsanto has submitted the following summary of information, data and arguments in support of their pesticide petition. This summary was prepared by Monsanto and EPA has not fully evaluated the merits of the petition. EPA edited the summary to clarify that the conclusions and arguments were the petitioner's and not necessarily EPA's and to remove certain extraneous material.

I. Monsanto Petition Summary

1. *Clofencet uses.* Clofencet is the active ingredient in Genesis Chemical Hybridizing Agent (CHA), which is used in the production of hybrid wheat seed. Clofencet prevents normal pollen development in wheat without affecting female fertility. This allows for efficient cross-pollination of the treated female line by an untreated male pollinator line grown in close proximity, to produce hybrid wheat seed. By using this technique, hybrid wheat with greater yield potential, drought resistance and disease resistance may be produced. It is important to note that clofencet will not be sold directly to the wheat grower; rather it will be a tool utilized by specially trained seed company personnel to produce hybrid wheat seed which will ultimately be purchased by the wheat grower for planting.

The proposed use pattern of Genesis is a single postemergent application at the appropriate stage of growth, namely stages 7 to 9 (Feekes scale) or stages 32 to 39 (Zadoks scale). The maximum proposed application rate in the United States is 10 pounds active ingredient per acre. Due to seed production considerations, Genesis will not be applied to the same site in successive years. The maximum market penetration for Genesis will not exceed 0.2 to 1 percent of the total wheat acreage in the United States.

Genesis has been effective across a wide range of germplasm in all market classes of wheat. It has a wide crop-safety margin and the seed produced from treated females is of high quality. Wheat is the only crop for which Genesis is known to be commercially efficacious.

2. *Clofencet safety*. Monsanto has submitted over 40 separate mammalian and ecological toxicology studies in support of tolerances for clofencet. The following mammalian toxicity studies on clofencet (technical grade active ingredient (TGAI)) have been conducted: A rat acute oral toxicity study with an LD_{50} of 3,306 mg/kg/day.

A rat dermal toxicity study with an LD_{50} of >500 mg/kg/day.

A rat acute inhalation study with an LC_{50} of >3.8 mg/l (MON 21233 manufacturing use product).

A primary eye irritation study in the rabbit which showed moderate irritation.

A primary dermal irritation study in the rabbit which showed essentially no irritation.

A primary dermal sensitization study in guinea pigs which showed no sensitization.

An acute neurotoxicity study in the rat which showed no neurotoxic effects at any dose.

A subchronic (90–day) neurotoxicity study in the rat which showed no neurotoxic effects at any dose.

A 21–day dermal toxicity study in the rat which showed no toxic effects at any dose tested with a NOEL of 1,000 mg/kg/day.

A 90–day feeding study in dogs with a NOEL of 50 mg/kg/day based on histological findings in the thymus and testes.

A 90–day feeding study in the rat with a NOEL of 5,000 ppm in the diet based on decreased cumulative weight gain and slightly increased kidney weights.

A 24–month chronic feeding/oncogenicity study in the rat with a systemic NOEL of 1,000 ppm (47 and 58 mg/kg/day in males and females, respectively) based on hematology effects and histological findings in the lung and kidney. There was an equivocal oncogenic response in the liver and thyroid at 20,000 ppm, the highest dose tested.

An 18–month oncogenicity study in the mouse with a systemic NOEL of 3,000 ppm (453 and 642 mg/kg/day for males and females, respectively) based on decreased survival in the high dose group. A slightly increased incidence of histiocytic sarcomas were observed in female mice at 7,000 ppm, the highest dose tested.

A 12–month feeding study in the dog with a NOEL of 5 mg/kg/day based on histological changes in the testes/epididymis and thymus.

A teratology study in the rat with a maternal and developmental NOEL of 1,000 mg/kg/day, the highest dose level tested.

A teratology study in the rabbit with a maternal and developmental NOEL of 150 mg/kg/day based on excessive maternal toxicity (including mortality, abortions and excessive weight loss) and slight developmental effects including slight decreases in fetal weight and slight, non-statistically significant increased incidences in hydrocephaly and delayed ossification.

A two-generation reproduction study in the rat with a NOEL of 500 ppm (38 and 52 mg/kg/day for males and females, respectively) based on a decrease in pup viability during the first four days of lactation.

Several mutagenicity studies: Ames *Salmonella* Assay; CHO/HGPRT Point Mutation Assay; *In Vitro* Cytogenetics Assay in Human Lymphocytes; Mouse Micronucleus Assay; and *In Vivo/In Vitro* Hepatocyte DNA Repair Assay; all negative.

3. *Threshold effects — chronic effects.* Based on the available chronic toxicity data, EPA has established the Reference Dose (RfD) for clofencet at 0.005 milligrams (mg)/ kilogram (kg)/day. The RfD for clofencet is based on a 1–year feeding study in dogs with a No Observable Effect Level (NOEL) of 0.5 mg/kg/day and an uncertainty factor of 100.

Acute toxicity. Based on the available acute toxicity data, EPA has determined that clofencet does not pose any acute dietary risks.

4. *Non threshold effects—carcinogenicity.* Using the Guidelines for Carcinogenic Risk Assessment published September 24, 1986 (51 FR 33992), EPA has classified clofencet as Group ''C'' for carcinogenicity (possible human carcinogen - limited evidence of carcinogenicity in the absence of human data) based on the results of carcinogenicity studies in two species.

In a 24–month feeding study in rats, statistically significant increases in thyroid C-cell adenomas and combined adenoma/carcinoma were observed in male rats at the highest dose tested (20,000 ppm). There was also a statistically significant positive trend for these tumors, but the incidences were within or only slightly above that reported for historical controls. In addition, the tumors were mostly benign and occurred only at an excessive dose. The highest dose in this study was considered to be excessive in males, and adequate in female rats.

In an 18–month feeding study in mice, statistically significant increases in histiocytic sarcomas were observed in female mice at the highest dose tested (7,000 ppm) with a statistically significant positive trend. The incidence of these tumors also exceeded historical

controls. In male mice there were no statistically significant increases in tumors at any dose. The highest dose tested in both sexes was determined to have been adequate for assessing the carcinogenic potential of clofencet, without excessive toxicity.

The classification of Group ''C'' was based on the increase in histiocytic sarcomas in female mice. The thyroid C-cell tumors in male rats were considered to have occurred only at an excessive dose. There were no apparent genotoxicity concerns and little additional support for carcinogenicity based on SAR analysis; therefore, EPA's Carcinogenicity Peer Review Committee (CPRC) recommended that the RfD approach be used for quantitation of human risk.

5. *Aggregate exposure.* For purposes of assessing the potential dietary exposure under these tolerances, the EPA has estimated aggregate exposure based on the anticipated residue for clofencet on primary crop (PC) wheat grain at 96.8 ppm, rotational crop (RC) soybeans at 8.87 ppm, RC corn at 0.92 ppm, RC sorghum at 2.05 ppm and other RC cereal grains (except rice, wild rice and sweet corn) at 6.7 ppm. In addition, aggregate exposure from animal products were estimated from tolerance values of 0.02 ppm for milk, 0.15 ppm for meat, 0.04 ppm for fat, 10.0 ppm for kidney, 0.5 ppm for meat by-products (except kidney), 0.15 ppm for poultry meat, 0.2 ppm for poultry meat by-products, 0.04 ppm for poultry fat and 1.0 ppm for eggs. Estimated exposure is obtained by multiplying the anticipated residue or tolerance level residue by the consumption data which estimates the amount of food products consumed for each of the above commodities by various population subgroups. There are no other established (permanent) U.S. tolerances for clofencet, and there are no registered uses (section 3) for clofencet on food or feed crops in the United States.

In conducting this exposure assessment, the EPA has made very conservative assumptions. First, the reasonable assumption is made that 1 percent of the total wheat acreage will be sprayed with clofencet, but it is further assumed that all of this clofencet treated wheat - which is only intended for seed production - will enter the food chain. Monsanto estimates that a maximum of 10 percent of this seed will enter the food chain. Second, it is assumed that 100 percent of all labeled rotational crops will be planted on clofencet treated fields - even though only 1 percent of wheat fields will be treated with clofencet and, further, it is not possible to plant multiple crops on the same field. Third, full tolerance values are used for animal products rather than anticipated residues. These factors result in an overestimate of human exposure which should be taken in consideration when reviewing the calculated human dietary exposure values.

Other potential sources of exposure of the general population to residues of pesticides are residues in drinking water and exposure from non-occupational sources. Based on the available studies used in EPA's assessment of environmental risk, the mitigation measures volunteered by Monsanto and requested by the EPA and the unique and restricted use characteristics of the chemical, Monsanto does not anticipate exposure to residues of clofencet in drinking water. There are no established Maximum Concentration Level (MCL) for residues of clofencet in drinking water. Monsanto has not estimated non-occupational exposure for clofencet since the proposed registration for clofencet is limited to wheat seed production by certified hybrid seed technicians only. It will be a restricted use registration. Thus, the non-occupational exposure to the general population is expected to be negligible.

Monsanto also considered the potential for cumulative effects of clofencet and other substances that have a common mechanism of toxicity. Monsanto concluded that consideration of a common mechanism of toxicity is not appropriate at this time. First, clofencet is only one of two chemical hybridizing agents currently registered on wheat and the other one is owned by this petitioner and is not currently available commercially. Second, Monsanto does not have reliable information to indicate that toxic effects produced by clofencet would be cumulative with those of any other chemical compounds. Thus, Monsanto is considering only the potential risks of clofencet in its aggregate exposure assessment.

6. *Determination of safety for U.S. population— reference dose.* Using the conservative exposure assumptions described above and based on the completeness and reliability of the toxicity data, EPA has concluded that aggregate exposure to clofencet will utilize 7.6 percent of the RfD for the U.S. population. EPA generally has no concern for exposures below 100 percent of the RfD for the U.S. population because the RfD represents the level at or below which daily aggregate dietary exposure over a lifetime will not pose appreciable risks to human health. Monsanto concludes that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure to clofencet residues.

7. *Safety determination for infants and children.* In assessing the potential for additional sensitivity of infants and children to residues of clofencet, Monsanto considered data from developmental toxicity studies in the rat and rabbit and a 2-generation reproduction study in the rat. The developmental toxicity studies are designed to evaluate the potential for adverse effects on the developing organism resulting from exposure during prenatal development to the female parent. Reproduction studies provide information relating to effects from exposure to the chemical on the reproductive capability of both (mating) parents and on systemic toxicity.

In a developmental toxicity study in the rat, no developmental or maternal toxicity were observed up to a dosage of 1,000 mg/kg/day, the highest dose level tested and the limit dose for this species as specified in the Pesticide Assessment Guidelines. The NOEL was considered to be 1,000 mg/kg/day.

In a developmental toxicity study in the rabbit, severe maternal toxicity (mortality, abortion, decreased body weight gain and decreased food consumption) and equivocal developmental toxicity (possible lower fetal body weights, marginal increased incidence of fetal hydroencephalus and delayed ossification) were observed at 500 mg/kg/day, the highest dose level tested. The NOEL for both maternal and developmental toxicity was considered to be 150 mg/kg/day. The developmental effects observed in this study were considered to be secondary to the severe maternal stress.

In a 2-generation reproduction study in rats, pups from the 5,000 and 20,000 ppm dose levels had an increased incidence of pup mortality in both matings of the F1 generation during lactation days 1 to 4. The NOEL was considered to be 500 ppm (38 and 52 mg/kg/day for males and females, respectively). Although the increased incidence of pup mortality was significantly increased when compared to concurrent controls, the laboratory at which the study was conducted reports that their historical control incidence of pup survivability is less than is seen at other laboratories. A viral infection in the colony was suspected, but nothing was definitely proven. No effects on fertility were observed.

FFDCA Section 408 provides that EPA may apply an additional safety factor (up to 10) in the case of threshold effects for infants and children to account for pre- and post-natal toxicity and the completeness of the database. Based on

current toxicological data requirements, the database relative to pre- and post-natal effects in children is complete. Further, in the developmental toxicity study in the rabbit and the 2-generation reproduction study in the rat, the NOEL's are already an additional 30X and an average (male/female) of 9X, respectively, above the NOEL on which the RfD was established (5.0 mg/kg/day from a one-year feeding study in dogs). Based on all the above information, Monsanto concludes that an additional uncertainty factor is not warranted and that the RfD of 0.05 mg/kg/day is appropriate for assessing risk to infants and children.

Using the conservative dietary exposure assumptions described above, EPA has concluded that the percent of the RfD that will be utilized by aggregate exposure to residues of clofencet by children aged <1 (nursing) to age 12, ranges from 10.5 percent for children 7 to 12 years old up to 22.7 percent for non-nursing infants (<1 year old). Therefore, based on the completeness and reliability of the toxicity data and the conservative exposure assessment, Monsanto concludes that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result to infants and children from aggregate exposure to clofencet residues.

8. *Estrogenic effects.* No specific tests have been conducted with clofencet to determine whether the chemical may have an effect in humans that is similar to an effect produced by a naturally occuring estrogen or other endocrine effects. However, there were no significant findings in other relevant toxicity tests, i.e., teratology and multi-generation reproduction studies, which would suggest that clofencet produces these kinds of effects.

9. *Chemical residue.* The metabolism of clofencet in plants and animals is adequately understood for the purposes of these tolerances. There are no Codex maximum residues levels established for residues of clofencet on wheat or indicated rotational crops. There is a practical analytical method for detecting and measuring levels of clofencet in or on food with a limit of detection that allows monitoring of food with residues at or above the levels set in these tolerances. EPA will provide information on this method to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The method is available to anyone who is interested in pesticide residue enforcement from: By mail: Calvin Furlow, Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location and telephone number: Crystal Mall #2, Rm. 1128, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA 22202, (703) 305-5805.

Residues of clofencet have been found to concentrate slightly (<2×) in wheat shorts and bran, and in soybean hulls and meal. The EPA examined all relevant data and after consideration of the restricted use of the chemical for seed production only, the limited opportunity for this seed to enter commerce as grain and the dilution factors involved in making all of the above processed fractions (with the exception of wheat bran) ''ready to eat'', the EPA determined that no additional tolerances were necessary to cover these processed fractions. All of the proposed tolerance levels are adequate to cover residues likely to be present from the proposed use of clofencet. Therefore, no special processing to reduce the residues will be necessary

10. *Environmental fate.* Laboratory studies indicate that clofencet has the potential to persist in soil and be mobile. However, the results of field dissipation studies indicate that downward movement of clofencet is limited. In addition, the limited use of clofencet for hybrid wheat seed production only, the current practice of never using the same seed production field in two consecutive years and label mitigation measures agreed upon by Monsanto and the EPA, will further reduce the likelihood of clofencet appearing in ground or surface water.

II. Administrative Matters

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on this notice of filing. Comments must bear a notation indicating the document control number, [PF–678]. All written comments filed in response to this petition will be available, in the Public Response and Program Resources Branch, at the address given above from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays.

A record has been established for this notice of filing under docket number [PF–678] (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in Room 1132 of the Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:

opp=Docket@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as as ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

The official record for this filing of notice, as well as the public version, as described above will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, EPA will transfer all comments received electronically into printed, paper form as they are received and will place the paper copies in the official record which will also include all comments submitted directly in writing. The official rulemaking record is the paper record maintained at the address in ''ADDRESSES'' at the beginning of this document.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: December 4, 1996.

Stephen L. Johnson,

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 96–31555 Filed 12–11–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

[PF–677; FRL–5576–1]

Valent U.S.A. Corporation; Pesticide Tolerance Petition Filing

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of filing.

SUMMARY: This notice is a summary of a pesticide petition proposing to renew a time-limited tolerance for residues of the herbicide lactofen, 1-(carboethoxy)ethyl 5-[2-chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenoxy]-2-nitrobenzoate, and its associated metabolites containing the diphenyl ether linkage on the raw agricultural commodity (RAC) cottonseed at 0.05 part per million (ppm). This summary was prepared by the petitioner, Valent U.S.A. Corporation (Valent).

DATES: Comments, identified by the docket number [PF–677], must be received on or before, January 13, 1997.

ADDRESSES: By mail, submit written comments to Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW.,