

plan also includes adequate provisions for DOD cooperation with state agencies on issues of mutual concern.

Employees of commercial firms, contracting to apply pesticides for DOD components, will not be DOD certified but must be certified by the appropriate regulatory authority under the provisions of EPA-approved plans.

The DOD certification program will continue to be administered by the Armed Forces Pest Management Board within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Certification and recertification will require the taking and passing of a written examination. Recertification will be required every 3 years.

This notice announces EPA's approval of the revised DOD Pesticide Applicator Certification Plan.

Copies of the approved DOD plan are available for review at the following locations during normal business hours:

1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Room 1121, Arlington, VA 22202. Contact: Robert V. Bielarski, (703) 305-6708.

2. U.S. Department of Defense, Armed Forces Pest Management Board, Forest Glen Section, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC 20307-5001. Contact: Major Charles E. Cannon, (301) 295-7476/77.

3. Select U.S. Department of Defense installations. Contact Major Cannon at the aforementioned location for a list of locations.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Certified pesticide applicators.

Dated: April 18, 1997.

Lynn R. Goldman,

Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

[FR Doc. 97-11153 Filed 4-29-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-50829; FRL-5714-8]

Receipt of Notifications to Conduct Small-Scale Field Testing of Genetically Engineered Microbial Pesticides

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt of three notifications of intent to conduct small-scale field testing involving microorganisms which have

been genetically engineered to express pesticidal toxins. Two, from Dupont and American Cyanamid, respectively, involve baculoviruses expressing synthetic genes which encode for insect-specific toxins from the scorpion *Leiurus quinquestriatus hebraeus*, and the other, from the University of Wisconsin, involves various strains of nitrogen-fixing bacteria of the genera, *Rhizobium* and *Sinorhizobium*, containing a plasmid which has been engineered to express trifoliotoxin, an antibiotic derived from *Rhizobium* species, in order to inhibit the growth of competing soil bacteria. The Agency has determined that these notifications may be of regional and national significance. Therefore, in accordance with 40 CFR 172.11(a), the Agency is soliciting public comments on these notifications. **DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to EPA by May 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: By mail, submit written comments identified by the document control number [OPP-50829] and the appropriate file symbol to: Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Divisions (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.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by following the instructions under the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION unit of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William R. Schneider, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7501W), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: 5th Floor, CS #1, 2805 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, (703) 308-8683; e-mail: schneider.william@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA received three notifications of proposed small-scale field testing as follows. Notice of receipt of these notifications does not imply a decision by the Agency on these notifications.

1. A Notification (352-NMP-004) was received from DuPont Agricultural Products of Delaware. The proposed small-scale field trial involves the introduction of two baculoviruses, *Autographa californica* Multiple-embedded Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus (AcMNPV), and *Helicoverpa zea* Single-embedded Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus

(HzSNPV), which have been genetically engineered to express a synthetic gene which encodes for an insect-specific toxin from the venom of the scorpion *Leiurus quinquestriatus hebraeus*.

The purpose of the proposed testing will be to assess and compare the efficacy of these baculoviruses alone and in combination with each other against the tobacco budworm (*Heliothis virescens*), cotton bollworm (*Helicoverpa zea*), and beet armyworm (*Spodoptera exigua*), on cotton. The proposed program will be conducted in 1997, and the total acreage for all sites will not exceed 6 acres. The number of acres and site per state are: Alabama (0.24 acre), Georgia (0.24 acre), Louisiana (2 sites, 1.48 acres), Maryland (1.0 acre), Mississippi (3 sites, 0.18 acre), North Carolina (0.24 acre), South Carolina (0.36 acre), and Texas (3 sites, 1.16 acres). The total amount of baculovirus for all of the testing will not exceed 6E13 occlusion bodies. Extensive monitoring to gather persistence data will be conducted on the Louisiana site and effects on non-target beneficial arthropods will be studied at the Texas site. On completion of the test, the crops will remain standing for at least 1 week prior to destruction, except for the monitoring site. At the completion of the study, all plots will be oversprayed with wild-type virus.

2. A Notification (241-NMP-U) was received from American Cyanamid Company. The proposed small-scale field trial involves the introduction of a baculovirus, *Autographa californica* Multiple-embedded Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus (AcMNPV), which has been genetically engineered to express a synthetic gene which encodes for an insect-specific toxin from the venom of the scorpion *Leiurus quinquestriatus hebraeus*. This is the same construct that was previously field tested in 1995 and 1996.

The purpose of the proposed testing will be to evaluate the efficacy of the baculovirus against the tobacco budworm (*Heliothis virescens*) and cabbage looper (*Trichoplusia ni*) on cotton, tobacco, and leafy vegetables. The proposed program will be conducted in 1997, and the total acreage for all sites will not exceed 9.9 acres. Individual tests will be conducted in: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. The total amount of AcMNPV for all of the testing will not exceed 250 grams of active ingredient. On completion of the test, the crops will be destroyed. Ground spray equipment will be used and will be disinfected with

0.1% sodium hypochlorite following use.

3. A Notification (70721-NMP-R) was received from Eric Triplett of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The proposed small-scale field trial involves the introduction of a recombinant plasmid into various strains of the nitrogen-fixing bacteria *Rhizobium* and *Sinorhizobium*. The plasmid, pH2TFXPAR, has been genetically engineered to express a gene for trifoliotoxin that has pesticidal properties, i.e. it serves to inhibit the growth of competing soil bacteria. The trifoliotoxin gene is found naturally in various strains of *Rhizobium*. The plasmid was constructed to eliminate plasmid mobilization genes in order to reduce its ability to transfer into other strains of soil bacteria. The plasmid also contains a non-pesticidal gene, a hydrogenase which serves to enhance the nitrogen-fixing process.

The purpose of the proposed testing will be to evaluate the efficacy of the bacteria for yield enhancement, nodulation competitiveness, and plasmid stability by inoculating alfalfa, clover, and bean seeds. The proposed program will begin in 1997, and be followed for at least 2 years. The total acreage for all sites will not exceed 10 acres. All tests will be conducted in Wisconsin and all crops will be destroyed or used for analysis following the field tests.

Following review of these notifications and any comments received in response to this notice, EPA may approve the tests, ask for additional data, require additional modifications to the test protocols, or require EUP applications to be submitted. In accordance with 40 CFR 172.50, under no circumstances shall the proposed tests proceed until the submitters have received notice from EPA of its approval of such tests.

The official record for this notice, as well as the public version, has been established for this notice under docket control number "OPP-50829" (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 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The official rulemaking record is located at the address in "ADDRESSES" at the beginning of this document.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:
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. Comment 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 control number OPP-50829 and the appropriate file symbol. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection and Genetically engineered microbial pesticides.

Dated: April 21, 1997.

Janet L. Andersen,

Director, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 97-11021 Filed 4-29-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-66238; FRL-5598-1]

Voluntary Cancellation of Certain Pesticide Products

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice, pursuant to section 6(f)(1) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), announces EPA's receipt of requests from certain registrants to voluntarily cancel registrations of certain pesticide products containing methyl parathion (O,O-dimethyl-O-(p-nitrophenyl)phosphorothioate). These requests for voluntary cancellation are the result of an agreement between the Agency and the registrants to restrict the terms and conditions for the sale and use of certain methyl parathion products in the United States in order to curb illegal use. EPA is granting the requests for voluntary cancellation effective on publication of this notice. After publication of this notice, sale, distribution, and use of canceled methyl parathion products will only be permitted if such sale, distribution, or use is consistent with the terms of the Cancellation Order contained herein.

DATES: The cancellations shall become effective on April 30, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Wilhite, 7508W, Special Review and Reregistration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental

Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20046. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: Rm. 3WH2, Crystal Station, 2805 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. Telephone: 703-308-8586, e-mail: wilhite.mark@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is divided into two units. Unit I. includes: (1) Requests for voluntary cancellations resulting from an agreement to cancel certain methyl parathion products because of the risks associated with the widespread misuse and illegal diversion of these products; and, (2) the Cancellation Order granting the requests for cancellation and establishing requirements relating to distribution, sale, and use of existing stocks of canceled methyl parathion products. Unit II. contains the agreement in its entirety.

I. Voluntary Cancellations

A. Requests for Voluntary Cancellation

By an agreement dated December 30, 1996 (the "Agreement"), EPA and certain registrants of products containing methyl parathion agreed to change the packaging, formulation, and labeling of their products to prevent illegal diversion to indoor use. The Agreement is printed in its entirety in Unit II. of this notice. Methyl parathion is an acutely toxic organophosphate pesticide registered for outdoor agricultural uses only. Recently, EPA learned of a number of incidents in which methyl parathion products were illegally used in residences, day care centers, and churches posing potentially significant health risks and resulting in significant relocation and cleanup costs. In order to make the illegal diversion of methyl parathion to indoor use more difficult and unlikely, the registrant(s) agreed to recall unopened containers of certain methyl parathion end-use products; package certain methyl parathion products in returnable, refillable containers with a tamper-resistant mechanism; place a unique identification number that will remain on the label at all times to facilitate tracking in the distribution chain; and, add a stenching agent to these products. The registrants have also agreed to educate and remind distributors, sellers, agricultural users, and occupants of indoor areas of the risks of illegal indoor use and of the importance of using methyl parathion products only for their lawfully labeled uses.

As part of the Agreement, registrants agreed to submit applications for replacement registrations containing conditions requiring recall of canceled product; packaging product in closed-