20460. Such requests should: (1) Identify the product name and registration number and (2) specify the data or information desired.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 136.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests, Product registration.

Dated: June 10, 1997.

Janet L. Andersen,

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

[FR Doc. 97–16357 Filed 6–20–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[PF–745; FRL–5722–8]

Notice of Filing of Pesticide Petitions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initial filing of pesticide petitions proposing the establishment of regulations for residues of certain pesticide chemicals in or on various food commodities.

DATES: Comments, identified by the docket control number PF–745, must be received on or before July 23, 1997.

ADDRESSES: By mail submit written comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7506C), Office of Pesticides 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 ''SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.'' No confidential business information should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted as a comment 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. All written comments will be available for public inspection in Rm. 1132 at the address given above, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Jim Tompkins, Product Manager (PM) 25, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: Rm. 239, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, 703–305–5697, e-mail: miller.joanne@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has received pesticide petitions as follows proposing the establishment and/or amendment of regulations for residues of certain pesticide chemicals in or on various food commodities under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Comestic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a. EPA has determined that these petitions contain data or information regarding the elements set forth in section 408(d)(2); however, EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficiency of the submitted data at this time or whether the data supports granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

The official record for this notice of filing, as well as the public version, has been established for this notice of filing under docket control number PF–745 (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 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 PF–745 and appropriate petition number. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Agricultural commodities, Food additives, Feed additives, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: June 13, 1997.

James Jones,

Acting Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Summaries of Petitions

Petitioner summaries of the pesticide petitions are printed below as required by section 408(d)(3) of the FFDCA. The summaries of the petitions were prepared by the petitioners and represent the views of the petitioners. EPA is publishing the petition summaries verbatim without editing them in any way. The petition summary announces the availability of a description of the analytical methods available to EPA for the detection and measurement of the pesticide chemical residues or an explanation of why no such method is needed.

Monsanto Company

PP 6F4620

EPA has received a pesticide petition (PP 6F4620) from the Monsanto Company, 700 14th St., NW., Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005 pursuant to section 408(d) of FFDCA, as amended, 21 U.S.C. 346a(d), by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–170, 110 Stat. 1489) proposing to amend 40 CFR 180.479 by establishing tolerance for residues of the herbicide, halosulfuron-methyl: (methyl 5-[(4,6-dimethoxy-2-pyrimidinyl)amino] carbon-ylaminosul-fonyl-3-chloro-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carbo-xylate), in or on the raw agricultural commodity sugarcane, cane at 0.05 ppm. EPA has determined that the petition contains data or information regarding the elements set forth in section 408(d)(2); however, EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficieny of the submitted data at this time or whether the data supports granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

The proposed analytical method for determining residues is by gas chromatography with an electron-capture detection.

The following is a summary of the information submitted to EPA to support the establishment, under section 408(b)(2)(D) of the amended FFDCA, of a tolerance for halosulfuron-methyl in sugarcane. Halosulfuron-methyl is a selective herbicide for the control of annual broadleaf weeds and nutsedge in field corn, milo, turf,

sugarcane, sweet corn/popcorn and other crops which is effective at low use rates. It may be applied pre-emergent, pre-plant incorporated, or postemergent in field corn. Single or sequential postemergence application rates are effective in milo, turf, and sugarcane.

A. Plant Metabolism and Analytical Method

The metabolism of halosulfuron-methyl as well as the nature of the residues is adequately understood for purposes of the tolerances. Metabolism depends on the mode of application. Preemergent applications result in rapid soil degradation of halosulfuron-methyl followed by crop uptake of the resulting pyrazole moiety. The pyrimidine ring binds tightly to soil and is eventually converted to carbon dioxide by microbial degradation. In postemergent applications, little metabolism and translocation take place resulting in unmetabolized parent compound as the major residue on the directly treated foliar surfaces. Very low levels of residues are found in the grain. In the sugarcane residue study, no residues at or above the limit of quantitation of 0.05 parts per million (ppm) were observed even from samples obtained when the exaggerated rate (>10x) was applied.

An adequate analytical method, gas chromatography with an electron-capture detector, is available for enforcement purposes with a limit of detection that allows monitoring of food with residues at or above the levels set in these tolerances. The field corn and grain sorghum (milo) enforcement methodology has been submitted to the Food and Drug Administration for publication in the *Pesticide Analytical Manual, Vol. II* (PAM II). This method underwent independent laboratory validation and validation at the Beltsville laboratory. The Analytical Chemistry section of the EPA concluded that the method is adequate for enforcement. Analytical method is also available for analyzing meat by-products which also underwent successful independent laboratory and Beltsville laboratory validations.

B. Toxicological Profile of Halosulfuron-methyl

The toxicological data has been deemed complete by EPA. Data considered in support of the tolerance include:

1. Acute toxicological studies placing the technical-grade halosulfuron in Toxicity Category III.

2. A 90-day feeding study in rats resulted in a lowest-observed-effect-level (LOEL) of 497 milligrams/kilograms/day (mg/kg/day) in males and 640 mg/kg/day in females, and a no-observed-effect-level (NOEL) of 116 mg/kg/day in males and 147 mg/kg/day in females.

3. A 21-day dermal toxicity study in rats resulted in a NOEL of 100 mg/kg/day in males and greater than 1,000 mg/kg/day in females. The only treatment-related effect was a decrease in body weight gain of the 1,000 mg/kg/day group in males.

4. A 1-year chronic oral study in dogs resulted in a LOEL of 40 mg/kg/day based on decreased weight gain and a NOEL of 10 mg/kg/day for systemic toxicity.

5. A 78-week carcinogenicity study was performed on mice. Males in the 971.6 mg/kg/day group had decreased body weight gains and an increased incidence of microconcretion/mineralization in the testis and epididymis. No treatment-related effects were noted in females. Based on these results, a LOEL of 971.9 mg/kg/day was established in males and NOEL's of 410 mg/kg/day in males and 1,214.6 mg/kg/day in females were established. The study showed no evidence of carcinogenicity.

6. A combined chronic toxicity/carcinogenicity study in rats resulted in a LOEL of 225.2 mg/kg/day in males and 138.6 mg/kg/day in females based on decreased body weight gains, and a NOEL of 108.3 mg/kg/day in males and 56.3 mg/kg/day in females. The study showed no evidence of carcinogenicity.

7. A developmental toxicity study in rats resulted in a developmental LOEL of 750 mg/kg/day, based on decreases in mean litter size and fetal body weight, and increases in resorptions, resorptions/dam, post-implantation loss and in fetal and litter incidences of soft tissue and skeletal variations, and a developmental NOEL of 250 mg/kg/day. Maternal LOEL was 750 mg/kg/day based on increased incidence of clinical observations, reduced body weight gains, and reduced food consumption and food efficiency. The maternal NOEL was 250 mg/kg/day.

8. A developmental toxicity study in rabbits resulted in a developmental LOEL of 150 mg/kg/day, based on decreased mean litter size and increases in resorptions, resorptions/dam and post-implantation loss, and a developmental NOEL of 50 mg/kg/day. The maternal LOEL was 150 mg/kg/day based on reduced body weight gain and reduced food consumption and food efficiency. The maternal NOEL was 50 mg/kg/day.

9. A dietary two-generation reproduction study in rats resulted in parental toxicity at 223.2 mg/kg/day in males and 261.4 mg/kg/day in females in the form of decreased body weights, decreased body weight gains, and reduced food consumption during the premating period. Very slight effects were noted in body weight of the offspring at this dose. This effect was considered to be developmental toxicity (developmental delay) rather than a reproductive effect. No effects were noted on reproductive or other developmental toxicity parameters. The systemic/developmental toxicity LOEL was 223.2 mg/kg/day in males and 261.4 mg/kg/day in females; the systemic/developmental toxicity NOEL was 50.4 mg/kg/day in males and 58.7 mg/kg/day in females. The reproductive LOEL was greater than 223.2 mg/kg/day in males and 261.4 mg/kg/day in females; the reproductive NOEL was equal to or greater than 223.2 mg/kg/day in males and 261.4 mg/kg/day in females.

10. Bacterial/mammalian microsomal mutagenicity assays were performed and found not to be mutagenic.

11. Two mutagenicity studies were performed to test gene mutation and found to produce no chromosomal aberrations or gene mutations in cultured Chinese hamster ovary cells.

12. An *in vivo* mouse micronucleus assay did not cause a significant increase in the frequency of micronucleated polychromatic erythrocytes in bone marrow cells.

13. A mutagenicity study was performed on rats and found not to induce unscheduled DNA synthesis in primary rat hepatocytes.

14. A metabolism study in rats resulted in the administered dose being absorbed rapidly and incompletely. Most of the test article was eliminated by urine and feces within 72 hours, and appeared to be independent of dose and sex.

Threshold Effects

Chronic effects. Based on the complete and reliable toxicity data base, EPA has adopted a Reference Dose (RfD) value of 0.1 mg/kg body weight/day based on a NOEL of 10.0 mg/kg body weight/day from a one-year dog feeding study and an uncertainty factor of 100. EPA has concluded that the toxicity of the metabolite is lower compared to the parent compound and is not a residue of concern (see metabolite toxicity section below).

Acute effects. EPA has determined that the appropriate NOEL to use to assess safety in acute exposure is 50 mg/kg body weight/day from a developmental toxicity study in rabbits. EPA has concluded that the subpopulation of concern for this endpoint are females older than 13 years old.

Non-threshold Effects

Carcinogenicity. EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs' Health Effects Division's Carcinogenicity Peer Review Committee (CPRC) has classified halosulfuron-methyl in Group E (evidence of noncarcinogenicity for humans) under the Agency's ''Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment'' published in the **Federal Register** of September 24, 1986 (51 FR 33992). In its evaluation, CPRC gave consideration to body weight gain changes and changes in hematological and blood chemistry parameters in the 1-year feeding study in dogs. Hence, there are no non-threshold effects associated with the compound and cancer risk assessment is not appropriate.

Metabolite toxicity. The following toxicology studies were conducted with the metabolite, 3-chloro-1-methyl-5-sulfamoylpyrazole-4-carboxylic acid (3-CSA). Based on the toxicological data of the 3-CSA metabolite, EPA has concluded that it appears to be of lower toxicity compared to the parent compound and that it should not be included in the tolerance expression. The residue of concern is the parent compound only.

(1) A 90-day rat feeding study resulted in a LOEL in males of >20,000 ppm and a NOEL of ≥20,000 ppm (1,400 mg/kg/day). In females, the LEL is 10,000 ppm (772.8 mg/kg/day) based on decreased body weight gains and a NOEL of 1,000 ppm (75.8 mg/kg/day).

(2) A developmental toxicity resulted in a LOEL for maternal toxicity of >1,000 mg/kg/day based on the absence of systemic toxicity, a NOEL of ≥1,000 mg/kg/day. The developmental LOEL is >1,000 mg/kg/day and the NOEL is ≥1,000 mg/kg/day.

(3) The microbial reverse gene mutation did not produce any mutagenic effect while the mammalian cell gene mutation/chinese hamster ovary cells showed no clear evidence of mutagenic effect in the Chinese hamster ovary cells.

(4) The mouse micronucleus assay did not show any clastogenic or aneugenic effect.

C. Aggregate Exposure

1. *Dietary exposure*. For purposes of assessing the potential dietary exposure from food under the proposed tolerances, Monsanto has estimated aggregate exposure based on the Theoretical Maximum Residue Contribution (TMRC) from established tolerances, viz.; tolerances in or on the following raw agricultural commodities, field corn, grain at 0.1 ppm; field corn, forage at 0.3 ppm; field corn, fodder at 1.5 ppm; grain sorghum (milo) grain at 0.1 ppm; grain sorghum (milo) forage at 0.1 ppm; grain sorghum (milo) fodder/stover at 0.1 ppm; and meat and meat byproducts (cattle, goats, hogs, horses, and sheep) at 0.1 ppm as well as proposed tolerances, viz.; on sugarcane and sweet corn/popcorn (included in another submission under PP 6F4661). Field corn forage and fodder as well as sorghum forage and fodder/stover are fed to animals, thus exposure of humans to residues from these commodities might result if such residues are transferred to meat, milk, poultry, or eggs. However, based on the results of a animal metabolism study and the amount of halosulfuron-methyl expected in animal feed, Monsanto has concluded that there is no reasonable expectation that residues of halosulfuron-methyl will exceed existing tolerances in meat. EPA has concluded that regulation of animal commodities and poultry products are not required.

TMRC is obtained by multiplying the tolerance levels for each commodity by consumption data which estimates the amount of crops and related food stuff consumed by the U.S. population and various population subgroups. In conducting this exposure assessment, Monsanto has made very conservative assumptions, e.g., 100% of all commodities will contain halosulfuron-methyl residues and those residues would be at the level of their respective tolerances. This results in a large overestimate of human exposure. Even with these conservative assumptions, the potential dietary exposure to halosulfuron from consumption of products for which it is currently labeled and proposed represents only 0.6% of the RfD for the general population.

2. *Dietary (drinking water) exposure*. There is no Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) established for residues of halosulfuron-methyl nor is it listed for MCL development or monitoring in drinking water supplies under the Safe Drinking Water Act. It is not a target of EPA's National Survey of Wells for Pesticides. Monsanto is not aware of halosulfuron-methyl being detected in any wells, ponds, lakes, streams, etc. from its use in the United States. A Lifetime Health Advisory Level (HAL) calculated by EPA procedures may be used as a preliminary acceptable level in drinking water. The calculated level is 700 ppb assuming a 20% relative contribution from water which is high enough to provide ample margin of safety. In addition, EPA has concluded that potential levels of halosulfuron-methyl in soil and water do not appear to have toxicological effects on humans or animals. No effects were observed on a variety of animals at concentrations several orders of magnitude greater than would likely occur in soil, ground water, or surface water.

Based on the very low level of mammalian toxicity, lack of other toxicological concerns coupled with low use rates, Monsanto believes that there is reasonable certainty that no harm will result from dietary exposure to halosulfuron-methyl since dietary exposure to residues on food will use only a small fraction of the RfD and any contribution through drinking water is expected to be insignificant.

3. *Non-dietary exposure*. Halosulfuron-methyl is labeled for use on commercial and residential turf and other non-crop sites which could have minimal opportunity for exposure. The other uses which are agricultural including the proposed uses (sugarcane and sweet corn/popcorn) will not increase the non-occupational exposure appreciably, if at all. Any exposure to halosulfuron-methyl resulting from turf use will result from dermal exposure during application and will be limited because of low use rates. In the 21–day dermal study, no treatment related adverse effects were observed and the NOAEL was determined to be greater than the highest dose level tested, ≤1000 mg/kg. Halosulfuron-methyl is non-volatile with a vapor pressure of <1 x 10-7 mm Hg, hence, inhalation exposure during and after application will not add significantly to aggregate exposure. Based on the physical and chemical characteristics, low use rates, low acute toxicity and lack of other toxicological concerns, Monsanto believes that the risk posed by non-occupational exposure to halosulfuron-methyl is minimal.

D. Cumulative Effect

Halosulfuron-methyl belongs to the sulfonyl urea class of compounds. The mode of action of halosulfuron-methyl is the inhibition of the plant enzyme aceto lactase synthetase, which is essential for the production of required amino acid in the plant. Although other registered sulfonyl ureas may have similar herbicidal mode of action, there is no information available to suggest that these compounds exhibit a similar toxicity profile in the mammalian system that would be cumulative with halosulfuron-methyl. Thus, consideration of a common mechanism of toxicity is not appropriate at this time. Monsanto is considering only the potential risks of halosulfuron-methyl in its aggregate exposure assessment.

E. Determination of Safety for U.S. Population

1. *Chronic dietary exposure.* The Agency has concluded that the aggregate exposure to halosulfuron-methyl from the previously established tolerances is 0.00051 mg/kg of body weight/day for the general population utilizing 0.051% of the RfD. The exposure contribution from the proposed uses in sugarcane and sweetcorn/popcorn when combined with exposure from established tolerances is calculated to be 0.6% of the RfD over all U.S. population and considered to be minimal. 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. Toxicology data indicating low potential for mammalian toxicity and lack of other toxicity concerns plus the conservative assumptions used here support the conclusion that there is a ''reasonable certainty of no harm'' from aggregate exposure to halosulfuron-methyl residues from all anticipated dietary exposures and all other non-occupational exposures.

2. *Acute dietary exposure.* The detailed DRES acute exposure analysis conducted by EPA evaluates individual food consumption as reported by respondents in the USDA 77-78 Nationwide Food Consumption Survey (NFCS) and estimates the distribution of single day exposures through the diet for the US population and certain subgroups. Since the toxicological effect to which high end exposure is compared is developmental toxicity, EPA determined that the DRES subgroup of concern is females (13+ years) which approximates women of child-bearing age. The Margin of Exposure (MOE) is a measure of how closely the high end exposure comes to the NOEL, and is calculated as the ratio of the NOEL to the exposure (NOEL/exposure = MOE). For toxicological endpoints established based upon animal studies, the agency is generally not concerned unless the MOE is below 100. In this analysis, EPA used tolerance level residues to calculate the exposure of the highest exposed individual (females, 13+ year subgroup). High end exposure for this subgroup resulted in an MOE in excess of 30,000. EPA concluded that acute dietary exposure to halosulfuron-methyl does not represent a risk concern. Monsanto's calculation of the MOE which included proposed tolerances for sugarcane and sweet corn/popcorn was 24,732.

F. Safety Determination for Infants and Children

In assessing the potential for additional sensitivity of infants and children to residues of halosulfuron-methyl, 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, the NOEL for both maternal and developmental toxicity was considered to be 250 mg/kg/day. In a developmental toxicity study in rabbits, a NOEL for both developmental and maternal toxicity was considered to be 50 mg/kg/day. A dietary two-generation reproduction study in rats resulted in parental toxicity at 223.2 mg/kg/day in males and 261.4 mg/kg/day in females in the form of decreased body weights, decreased body weight gains, and reduced food consumption during the premating period. Very slight effects were noted in body weight of the offspring at this dose. This effect was considered to be developmental toxicity (developmental delay) rather than a reproductive effect. No effects were noted on reproductive or other developmental toxicity parameters. The systemic/developmental toxicity NOEL was 50.4 mg/kg/day in males and 58.7 mg/kg/day in females. The reproductive NOEL was equal to or greater than 223.2 mg/kg/day in males and 261.4 mg/kg/day in females. In all cases, the reproductive and developmental NOELs were greater than the NOEL on which the RfD was based, thus allowing for an additional margin of safety and indicating that halosulfuron-methyl does not pose any increased risk to infants or children.

Chronic analysis. Using the conservative dietary exposure assumptions described above, EPA has established that the TMRC for the most exposed subgroups is 0.0012 mg/kg body weight/day for nonnursing infants (less than 1 year old) and 0.0010 mg/kg body weight/day for children (1 to 6 years old), and that this aggregate exposure to residues of halosulfuron-methyl utilizes only 1.17 and 1.01 percent of the RfD, respectively when existing tolerances are considered. Monsanto's analysis included contribution from sugarcane and sweet corn/popcorn exposures and the additional amount of the RfD utilized was minimal (1.7 and 1.3%), respectively.

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 data base. Based on current toxicological data requirements, the data base relative to preand post-natal effects in children is complete. Further, the NOEL of 10 mg/kg/day from the 1-year feeding study in dogs, which was used to calculate the RfD (discussed above), is already lower than the NOELs from the reproductive and developmental studies with halosulfuron-methyl by a factor of at least 25- and 5-fold, respectively. Therefore, an additional safety factor is not warranted and an RfD of 0.1 mg/kg/day is appropriate for assessing aggregate risk to infants and children.

Therefore, based on complete and reliable toxicity data and the conservative exposure assessment, Monsanto concludes that there is reasonable certainty that no harm will result to infants and children from aggregate exposure to halosulfuron-methyl residues.

G. Estrogenic Effects

No specific tests have been conducted with halosulfuron-methyl 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 halosulfuron-methyl produces effects characteristic of the disruption of the estrogenic hormone.

H. International Tolerances

Maximum residue levels have not been established for residues of halosulfuron-methyl on corn, sorghum, sugarcane or sweet corn or any other food or feed crop by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

PP 6F4661

EPA has received a pesticide petition (PP 6F4661) from the Monsanto Company, 700 14th St., NW., Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005 pursuant to section 408(d) of FFDCA, as amended, 21 U.S.C. 346a(d), by FQPA (Pub. L. 104-170, 110 Stat. 1489) proposing to amend 40 CFR part 180.479 by establishing tolerance for residues of the herbicide, halosulfuron-

methyl: (methyl 5-[(4,6-dimethoxy-2-pyrimidinyl)amino] carbonylaminosulfonyl-3-chloro-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylate), in or on the raw agricultural commodity sweet corn, sweet corn (kernel plus cobs with husks removed) at 0.1 ppm, sweet corn forage at 0.5 ppm and sweet corn fodder/stover at 1.5 ppm and pop corn grain at 0.1 ppm and pop corn stover/fodder at 1.5 ppm. EPA has determined that the petition contains data or information regarding the elements set forth in section 408(d)(2); however, EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficieny of the submitted data at this time or whether the data supports granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

The proposed analytical method for determining residues is by gas chromatography with an electron-capture detection.

EPA, as mentioned above, is in the process of evaluating the petition. With one exception, the summary for PP 6F4661 is identical to the summary of PP 6F4620 as outlined above, therefore it is not restated. With regards to the exception, the sugarcane residues study discussed in the first paragraph, last sentence of Unit A of the PP 6F4620 summary was not included in the PP 6F4661 summary.

[FR Doc. 97–16355 Filed 6–20–97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–5845–8]

Notice of Availability of Waste Minimization Software and Documents

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability for public comment of a draft software package and other draft documents pertaining to priorities for waste minimization.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of a beta-test version of a software package which will prioritize chemicals according to their persistence, bioaccumulation, toxicity, and quantity; a draft list of chemicals derived from the software and ranked according to persistence, bioaccumulation, and toxicity; and a crosswalk identifying which RCRA waste codes are likely to contain these chemicals. These materials have been prepared in order to assist hazardous waste generators, government agencies, technical assistance centers, and others involved in waste minimization in making progress towards the goals of EPA's 1994 Waste Minimization National Plan, which calls for a fifty percent reduction in the presence of the most persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals in hazardous wastes by the year 2005.

DATES: Written comments will be received by August 7, 1997 to the addresses below.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and two copies of comments, referencing docket number F–97–MPCA–FFFFF, to: RCRA Docket Information Center, Office of Solid Waste (5305G), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters (EPA, HQ), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. Hand deliveries of comments should be made to the Arlington, VA, address listed below. Comments may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail through the Internet to: rcra-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Comments in electronic format should also be identified by the docket number F–97–MPCA–FFFFF. All electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

Commenters should not submit electronically any confidential business information (CBI). An original and two copies of CBI must be submitted under separate cover to: RCRA CBI Document Control Officer, Office of Solid Waste (5305W), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

Public comments and supporting materials are available for viewing in the RCRA Information Center (RIC), located at Crystal Gateway I, First Floor, 1235 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The RIC is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. To review docket materials, it is recommended that the public make an appointment by calling (703) 603–9230. The public may copy a maximum of 100 pages from any regulatory docket at no charge. Additional copies cost $0.15/page.

Copies of the software package and the documents cited in this notice can be obtained by calling the RCRA/Superfund/CERCLA Hotline at (800) 424–9346, TDD (800) 553–7672 (hearing impaired), or (703) 412–9810 in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Eastern time.

The software package and documents are also available in electronic format on the Internet, and can be obtained by accessing:

WWW: http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/minimize.
FTP: ftp.epa/gov
Login: anonymous
Password: your Internet address

Files are located in /pub/gopher/OSWRCRA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general questions pertaining to waste minimization, specific aspects of this notice, or information on public meetings to discuss comments, contact the RCRA/Superfund/EPCRA Hotline at the telephone numbers cited above, or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Solid Waste, Waste Minimization Branch, 401 M Street, SW., (5302W), Washington, DC 20460; telephone: (703) 308–8402, fax: (703) 308–8433.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

In November 1994, EPA released the Waste Minimization National Plan (National Plan, WMNP). The National Plan focuses on reducing the generation and subsequent release to the environment of the most persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals in hazardous wastes, and establishes three goals:

(1) To reduce, as a nation, the presence of the most persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals in hazardous wastes by 25 percent by the year 2000 and by 50 percent by the year 2005.

(2) To avoid transferring these chemicals across environmental media.

(3) To ensure that these chemicals are reduced at their source whenever possible, or, when not possible, that they are recycled in an environmentally sound manner.

Persistent chemicals do not readily break down once they are released into the environment. Bioaccumulative chemicals tend to accumulate in plant and animal tissues. Toxic chemicals have the potential to harm ecological systems or adversely impact human health (e.g., can cause cancer, reproductive, and mutagenic health effects). These three characteristics of chemicals are considered important determinants of the human health and environmental risks associated with environmental releases, or potential releases, or chemicals. Chemicals that are persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic, therefore, have the potential to accumulate in the environment and cause harm to human health and the environment, even when released in small amounts. The National Plan seeks a voluntary reduction of these chemicals in hazardous waste so as to reduce the potential for future harm to human health and the environment.