

will perform the necessary studies or assessments for evaluating requests for Transmission Service as set forth in the Tariff. Any facility construction or interconnection necessary to provide transmission service will be subject to Southwestern's Requirements for Interconnection, which are available upon request, and will require that funds necessary for such construction be submitted in advance to Southwestern, subject to Southwestern's authority to receive such funds.

Based on a reasonable level of risk, Southwestern has marketed the maximum practical amount of power from each of its projects, leaving little flexibility for provision of additional power services. Changes in water conditions frequently affect the ability of hydroelectric projects to meet obligations on a short-term basis. The unique characteristics and limitations of the hydroelectric resource caused by changing water conditions may limit Southwestern's ability to provide certain generation-related services, including some Ancillary Services and any redispatching which may require the use of Federal hydro resources.

Southwestern is committed to providing comparable open-access transmission service to any Eligible Customer without discrimination, as has been its practice throughout its history. However, nothing in the Tariff shall alter, amend, or abridge the statutory and regulatory obligations of Southwestern to market Federal Power to Federal Customers and to repay the Federal investment in the projects and facilities from which Southwestern markets power and energy.

Southwestern will provide Firm and Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service and, if practicable, Network Integration Transmission Service, consistent with the Tariff. The specific terms and conditions for providing transmission service to an Eligible Customer will be set forth in a Service Agreement.

[FR Doc. 97-25333 Filed 9-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5898-6]

Public Meeting on Drinking Water Issues

Notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding a workshop for purposes of information exchange on issues related to developing a national estimate of

waterborne disease occurrence. The purpose of the workshop will be to provide a brief review of the Safe Drinking Water Act mandate to develop a national estimate; review and discuss current approaches to developing the national estimate; review and discuss planned and ongoing epidemiological studies and the goals and methodologies of these studies; and discuss approaches for enhancing these studies as well as identifying additional studies that might be useful in improving the national estimate. Experts in epidemiology, biostatistics, public health and related fields will be invited to the workshop to offer their insight.

The meeting will take place on October 9, 1997, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and October 10, 1997 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., at the Washington National Airport Hilton at 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. The agenda will include discussion of methods for assessing rates of waterborne disease and the economic impact of those diseases. Discussion is expected to focus on the extent to which planned and ongoing studies can be used in developing a national estimate and other potentially viable approaches to developing this national estimate.

EPA is inviting interested members of the public to participate in the meeting, which continues a series of public meetings that the Agency has been holding since last year on issues related to the development of regulations to control pathogens and disinfection byproducts in drinking water. As with all previous meetings in this series, EPA is maintaining an open door policy to allow members of the public to attend. To assist EPA in managing limitations on conference room seating, members of the public who are interested in attending are requested to contact Valerie Blank of EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. Members of the public who are interested in additional information about this or other meetings in this series or who would like to be included on the mailing list to receive notice of further meetings in this series are also requested to contact Ms. Blank, who can be reached at 401 M Street, SW, 4607, Washington, DC 20460, (202) 260-8376, blank.valerie@epamail.epa.gov.

Dated: September 19, 1997.

Elizabeth Fellows,

Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

[FR Doc. 97-25504 Filed 9-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-00224; FRL-5746-4]

Notice of Public Meeting on Establishing a Program for Lead-Based Paint Hazard Evaluation and Reduction Products

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA is announcing a public meeting on September 29, 1997, in Arlington, VA, to take suggestions from a cross-section of stakeholders on the development of a program to carry out the testing and registration of lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction products as required under Section 405(f) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA, 15 U.S.C. Section 2685(f)). **DATES:** The meeting will take place on Monday, September 29, 1997, beginning promptly at 6:00 p.m. and continuing until 8:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Crystal Gateway Marriot Hotel, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Darlene Watford, National Program Chemicals Division, (7404), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC. 20460, telephone: (202) 260-3989, fax: (202) 260-0001, e-mail: watford.darlene@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On October 28, 1992, the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, became law. Title X amended TSCA by adding a new Title IV, the purpose of which is to reduce the hazards from lead in paint and coatings used in housing, public and commercial buildings, and other structures. Section 405(f) of TSCA stipulates that EPA establish testing criteria, testing protocols, and performance characteristics as necessary to ensure to the greatest extent possible that lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction products introduced into commerce are effective for the intended use described by the manufacturer.

Several states have already begun to pass lead laws and regulations which establish lead prevention programs, as well as the infrastructure necessary to support such programs. Many of these programs specify a set of performance standards that must be met by lead

hazard control products to be included on a state's list of registered products, and certified lead abatement contractors must use only products that have been registered in the state. Although most of these state programs are similar, there are some significant differences. As a result, some manufacturers of lead hazard control products fear that registration of their products will be very costly if they have to be tested and approved by each state using different criteria. A federal program could provide a minimal set of consistent requirements to evaluate lead hazard control products, and could be utilized by many, if not all, state and local agencies.

Under section 405(f), EPA plans to establish a national program that provides a mechanism to develop testing protocols, criteria, and performance characteristics for lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction products. EPA wishes to activate section 405(f) by obtaining feedback and information from interested parties concerning their suggestions on establishing the program.

II. Participants

Any and all stakeholders (e.g., individuals, or representatives of organizations, state and local governments, or academia) are invited to attend as members of the audience.

III. Draft Approach to Establishing Program

Section 405(f) stipulates that EPA shall establish "appropriate testing criteria, testing protocols, and performance characteristics as are necessary to ensure to the greatest extent possible and consistent with the purposes and policy of this Title [TSCA Title IV], that lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction products introduced into commerce . . . are effective for the intended use described by the manufacturer." In general, a product is to be evaluated by subjecting it to a set of standard test methods according to a given protocol. The results of these tests will be compared to performance-based testing criteria established to measure the product's effectiveness in accurately and precisely evaluating lead levels or minimizing the user's exposure to lead-based paint hazards. If a product meets the testing criteria, it will be approved for use as described by the manufacturer and recognized as an EPA-approved product.

EPA is initiating the process of developing a Lead-Based Paint Hazard Evaluation and Reduction Program (LBPHERP) that will define the

requirements of and create, an organization to administer the program. The program will also identify the specific classes of products that are currently used for lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction, and develop criteria and requirements for testing these products.

EPA plans to focus its efforts on hazard evaluation and reduction products that are used in renovation and remodeling activities. A priority will be placed on products that homeowners will use; however, products used by certified abatement professionals may be covered where applicable and practical. Lead-based paint hazard products that may require testing and registration under section 405(f) include: chemical spot test kits, electrochemical lead paint and/or dust analyzers, encapsulants, chemical paint removers, household cleaners; respirators; mechanical grinders or blasters with shrouds, and HEPA vacuums. At present, most of these products do not have a complete set of test methods, testing protocols, testing criteria, and defined performance characteristics to determine whether the product is effective for its intended use as a lead hazard evaluation or reduction product.

Various Federal agencies, quasi-governmental groups, and private agencies were contacted to solicit input and possible involvement in implementing section 405(f). In addition, test methods and protocols that have been developed are being evaluated to determine if they satisfy EPA testing requirements. Based on this preliminary investigation, it was determined that no single national organization or agency currently addresses the requirements of section 405(f) with respect to the wide variety of products that could potentially fall within the scope of this program. Also, the current state of development of test protocols and testing criteria for these products varies significantly across the classes of products identified.

The ultimate goal of the LBPHERP is to provide regulators, industry, and consumers with a nationally recognized means to reliably assess lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction products. Accomplishing this goal will require that products are tested against a set of accepted standards, and that only those products which meet the predetermined performance criteria be considered EPA-registered products. Pursuant to section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995, Pub. No. 104-113, Voluntary Consensus Boards will be used to develop standards for those

products for which test methods or protocols do not yet exist. Once standard test methods and protocols and testing criteria are established, product registration can occur. The registration of a product is intended to confirm that the product conforms to specified standards, and provides the user with explicit or implicit information about the characteristics and performance of the product.

EPA has determined that certain key elements must be considered when establishing the LBPHERP. These elements focus on keeping government costs to a minimum; ensuring that guidelines support existing Title X rules and programs such as section 402, section 403, section 404, and section 1,018; requiring the use of accredited third-party laboratories for product testing; and making results easily accessible to the public. EPA is considering nonprofit or not-for-profit organizations that have expertise in the lead-based paint hazard field to administer the LBPHERP. This organization would be capable of gaining the confidence of interested government authorities, manufacturers, and the public so that they accept and adopt the organization's or group's recommendations and standards. This organization would also utilize independent testing laboratories as required by section 405(f) to test the lead hazard evaluation and reduction products.

Presently, there is no one organization that stands out as the obvious choice to administer the LBPHERP; however, there are groups who may be interested. There are numerous federal agencies, accreditation organizations, standards organizations, nationally recognized lead abatement organizations, national laboratories, contract research centers, and quasi-government organizations which are heavily involved in the lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction field, and might welcome the opportunity to become involved in the administration of the LBPHERP. Many configurations of these agencies and organizations could facilitate the LBPHERP.

EPA is considering the position that the LBPHERP should be able to eventually finance itself through fees charged to manufacturers to register their products and maintain this registration.

IV. Topics of Discussion

There are two main topics of discussion that EPA would like to address during this public meeting:

1. What type of organization could best facilitate the lead-based paint

hazard evaluation and reduction program and meet the scope of section 405(f)?

2. Which lead hazard reduction products are going to be required to be tested before they can be registered under this program?

There are several factors affecting the first question, such as the cost and size of the program; timeliness of implementation; cost to the government and industry; and acceptance by industry, state regulators, and consumers. The acceptance of a program will depend in part on the expertise of the staff administering the program and the recognition of the organization as an accredited certification/registration body.

Several issues associated with the second question will need to be discussed, such as testing methods, and protocols, development of testing criteria, voluntary consensus standards, cost of testing products, and reciprocity between states.

V. Public Docket

The official record for this notice has been established under docket control number "OPPTS-00224." The record is available for inspection from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The record is located at: TSCA Docket (7407), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, Room E-G99, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC. 20460.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection.

Dated: September 18, 1997

William H. Saunders III,

Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.

[FR Doc.97-25500 Filed 9-22-97; 3:06 p.m.]

Billing Code 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[PF-767; FRL-5748-2]

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-767, must be received on or before October 27, 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 to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Follow 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: George LaRocca, Registration Division [PM-13], Office of Pesticide Programs, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number and e-mail address: Rm. 204, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, (703) 305-6100, e-mail: larocca.george@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 Cosmetic 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-767] (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-767] 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: September 19, 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.

1. AgrEvo USA Company

PP 2F4055, 6F3436, 4F2993, 6F3309

EPA has received a request from AgrEvo USA Company (acting as registered US agent for Hoechst Schering AgrEvo, S. A., Little Falls Centre, 2711 Centerville Road,