

approved by OMB pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, under OMB control number 2070-0030 (EPA ICR No. 0795). The public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 0.55 hours per response.

D. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA), Pub. L. 104-4, establishes requirements for Federal agencies to assess the effects of certain regulatory actions on State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector, and to seek input from State, local, and tribal governments on certain regulatory actions. EPA has determined that this action does not contain a Federal mandate that may result in expenditures of \$100 million or more for State, local, and tribal

governments, in the aggregate, or the private sector in any 1 year. Therefore, this action is not subject to the requirements of sections 202 and 205 of UMRA. The requirements of sections 203 and 204 of UMRA which relate to regulatory requirements that might significantly or uniquely affect small governments and to regulatory proposals that contain a significant Federal intergovernmental mandate, respectively, also do not apply to this proposed rule because the rule would only affect the private sector, i.e., those companies that test chemicals.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 799

Environmental protection, Chemicals, Exports, Hazardous substances, Health, Laboratories, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: December 16, 1997.

Lynn R. Goldman,

Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

Therefore, it is proposed that 40 CFR chapter I be amended as follows:

PART 799—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 799 would continue to read as follows:

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 2603, 2611, 2625.

2. Section 799.5000 is amended by adding 1,1,2-trichloroethane to the table in CAS number order to read as follows:

§ 799.5000 Testing consent orders for substances and mixtures with Chemical Abstract Service Registry Numbers.

* * * *

CAS Number	Substance or mixture name	Testing	FR Publication Date
79-00-5	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	Health effects	[Insert date of final rule].

* * * *

[FR Doc. 97-33449 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 799

[OPPTS-42197A; FRL-5762-8]

RIN 2070-AC76

Testing Consent Order and Export Notification Requirements for Ethylene Dichloride

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: On June 26, 1996, EPA proposed a test rule under section 4(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to require manufacturers and processors of 21 hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) to test these substances for certain health effects. Included as one of these chemical substances was ethylene dichloride (CAS No. 107-06-2). EPA invited the submission of proposals for enforceable consent agreements (ECAs) for pharmacokinetics testing of the HAPs chemicals and received a proposal for

testing ethylene dichloride from the HAP Task Force. In a previous document published EPA has solicited interested parties to monitor or participate in negotiations on an ECA for ethylene dichloride. EPA is proposing that if an ECA is successfully concluded for ethylene dichloride, then the subsequent publication of the TSCA section 4 testing consent order (Order) in the **Federal Register** would add ethylene dichloride to the table of testing consent orders for substances and mixtures with Chemical Abstract Service Registry Numbers. As a result of the proposed addition of ethylene dichloride, all exporters of ethylene dichloride, including persons who do not sign the ECA, would be subject to export notification requirements under section 12(b) of TSCA.

DATES: Written comments on this proposed rule must be received by EPA on or before January 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Each comment must bear the docket control number, OPPTS-42197A. All comments should be sent in triplicate to: OPPT Document Control Officer (7407), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Rm. G-099, East Tower, Washington, DC 20460.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to:

oppt.ncic@epamail.epa.gov. following the instructions under Unit IV. of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

All comments which contain information claimed as CBI must be clearly marked as such. Three sanitized copies of any comments containing information claimed as CBI must also be submitted and will be placed in the public record for this document. Persons submitting information any portion of which they believe is entitled to treatment as CBI by EPA must assert a business confidentiality claim in accordance with 40 CFR 2.203(b) for each such portion. This claim must be made at the time that the information is submitted to EPA. If a submitter does not assert a confidentiality claim at the time of submission, EPA will make the information available to the public without further notice to the submitter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: *For additional information:* Susan B. Hazen, Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408), Rm. ET-543B, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone: (202) 554-1404, TDD: (202)

554-0551; e-mail address: TSCA-Hotline@epamail.epa.gov.

For technical information: Richard W. Leukroth, Jr., Project Manager, Chemical Information and Testing Branch (7405), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone: (202) 260-0321; e-mail address: leukroth.rich@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Electronic Availability

Internet: Electronic copies of this document and various support documents are available from the EPA Home Page at the **Federal Register**—Environmental Documents entry for this document under “Laws and Regulations” (<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-TOX/1997/>).

II. Development of Enforceable Consent Agreement for Ethylene Dichloride

Ethylene dichloride was one of the chemicals proposed for health effects testing in a proposed HAPs test rule under section 4(a) of TSCA in the **Federal Register** of June 26, 1996 (61 FR 33178) (FRL-4869-1). In the proposed HAPs test rule, EPA invited the submission of proposals for pharmacokinetics (PK) testing for the chemicals included in the proposed HAPs test rule. These proposals could provide the basis for negotiation of ECAs, which, if successfully concluded, would be incorporated into Orders. The PK studies would be used to conduct route-to-route extrapolation of toxicity data from routes other than inhalation to predict the effects of inhalation exposure, as an alternative to testing proposed under the HAPs test rule. A proposal for PK testing for ethylene dichloride was submitted by the HAP Task Force to EPA on November 25, 1996. The Agency reviewed this alternative testing proposal and prepared a preliminary technical analysis of the proposal which it sent to the HAP Task Force on June 26, 1997. The HAP Task Force responded on July 31, 1997, that it has a continued interest in pursuing the ECA process for ethylene dichloride. EPA has decided to proceed with the ECA process for ethylene dichloride. EPA has published a document soliciting interested parties to monitor or participate in negotiations on an ECA for PK testing of ethylene dichloride in the **Federal Register** of December 19, 1997. The procedures for ECA negotiations are described at 40 CFR 790.22(b).

If the ECA for ethylene dichloride is successfully concluded, and an Order is published in the **Federal Register**,

testing to develop needed data would be required of those persons that have signed the agreement. Section 12(b) of TSCA provides that if any person exports or intends to export to a foreign country a chemical substance or mixture for which the submission of data is required under section 4 of TSCA, that person shall notify EPA of this export or intent to export. This requirement applies to data obtained from either a test rule or an ECA and Order under the authority of section 4 of TSCA. EPA intends the ECA to include the export notification requirements of section 12(b) of TSCA, codified at 40 CFR part 707, subpart D.

III. Publication of Testing Consent Order

EPA is proposing that if an ECA is successfully concluded for ethylene dichloride, the publication of the Order in the **Federal Register** would add ethylene dichloride to the table in 40 CFR 799.5000, Testing consent orders for substances and mixtures with Chemical Abstract Service Registry Numbers.

Exporters of chemicals listed at 40 CFR 799.5000 are required under 40 CFR 799.19, Chemical imports and exports, to comply with the export notification requirements of 40 CFR part 707, subpart D. This proposed rule, when finalized, would amend § 799.5000, and, in accordance with 40 CFR 799.19, all exporters of ethylene dichloride, including persons who do not sign the ECA, would be subject to export notification requirements under 40 CFR part 707, subpart D.

Under 40 CFR 707.65(a)(2)(ii), a person who exports or intends to export for the first time to a particular foreign country a chemical subject to TSCA section 4 data requirements must submit a one-time notice to EPA identifying the chemical and country of import. A single notice can cover multiple chemicals and multiple countries. If additional importing countries are subsequently added, additional export notices must be submitted to EPA. Other procedures for submitting export notifications to EPA are described in 40 CFR 707.65.

Under 40 CFR 707.67, the contents of the export notification from the exporter or intended exporter to EPA shall include:

1. The name of the chemical (i.e., in this case, ethylene dichloride).
2. The name and address of the exporter.
3. The country(ies) of import.
4. The date(s) of export or intended export.

5. The section of TSCA under which EPA has taken action (i.e., in this case, section 4 of TSCA). Following receipt of the 12(b) notification from the exporter or intended exporter, under 40 CFR 707.70, EPA will provide notice of the export or intended export to the affected foreign government(s).

IV. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this rulemaking, including the public version, that does not include any information claimed as CBI, has been established for this rulemaking under docket control number OPPTS-42197A. The public version of this record is available for inspection from 12 noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in the TSCA Nonconfidential Information Center, Rm. NE B-607, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at: oppt.ncic@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 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number, OPPTS-42197A. Electronic comments on this proposed rule may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

V. Regulatory Assessment Requirements

A. Regulatory Flexibility Act

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, EPA does not believe that the impacts of this proposed rule constitute a significant economic impact on small entities.

Export regulations promulgated pursuant to section 12(b) of TSCA—40 CFR part 707, subpart D—require only a one-time notification to each foreign country of export for each chemical for which data are required under section 4 of TSCA. In an analysis of the economic impacts of the July 27, 1993, amendment to the rules implementing section 12(b) of TSCA (58 FR 40238), EPA estimated that the one-time cost of preparing and submitting the TSCA section 12(b) notification was \$62.60. See U.S. EPA, “Economic Analysis in Support of the Final Rule to Amend Rule Promulgated Under TSCA Section 12(b),” OPPT/ETD/RIB, June 1992, contained in the record for the HAPs

rulemaking (OPPTS-42187). Inflated through the last quarter of 1996 using the Consumer Price Index, the current cost is estimated to be \$69.56. Although data available to EPA regarding export shipments of the HAPs chemicals are limited, a small exporter would have to have annual revenues below \$6,956 per chemical/country combination in order to be impacted at a 1% or greater level. For example, a small exporter filing 3 notifications per year would have to have annual sales revenues below \$20,868 (3 x \$6,956) in order to be classified as impacted at the greater than 1% level. EPA believes that it is reasonable to assume that few, if any, small exporters would file sufficient export notifications to be impacted at or above the 1% level. Based on this, the export notification requirements triggered by the ECA for ethylene dichloride would be unlikely to have a significant economic impact on small exporters. Because EPA has concluded that there is no significant impact on small exporters, the Agency does not need to determine the number or size of the entities that would be impacted at a 1% or greater level.

Therefore, the Agency certifies that this proposed rule, if finalized, would not have a significant economic impact on small entities.

B. Executive Order 12866; Executive Order 12898; Executive Order 13045

Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), this proposed rule is not a "significant regulatory action" subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). It does not involve special considerations

of environmental-justice related issues as required by Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994), nor raise any issues regarding children's environmental-health risks under Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 1985, April 23, 1997) because the Executive order does not apply to actions expected to have an economic impact of less than \$100 million.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection request unless it displays a currently valid control number assigned by OMB. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9. The information collection requirements related to this action have already been approved by OMB pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, under OMB control number 2070-0030 (EPA ICR No. 0795). The public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 0.55 hours per response.

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governments, in the aggregate, or the private sector in any 1 year. Therefore, this action is not subject to the requirements of sections 202 and 205 of UMRA. The requirements of sections 203 and 204 of UMRA which relate to regulatory requirements that might significantly or uniquely affect small governments and to regulatory proposals that contain a significant Federal intergovernmental mandate, respectively, also do not apply to this proposed rule because the rule would only affect the private sector, i.e., those companies that test chemicals.

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Environmental protection, Chemicals, Exports, Hazardous substances, Health, Laboratories, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: December 16, 1997.

Lynn R. Goldman,

Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

Therefore, it is proposed that 40 CFR chapter I be amended as follows:

PART 799—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 799 would continue to read as follows:

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 2603, 2611, 2625.

2. Section 799.5000 is amended by adding ethylene dichloride to the table in CAS number order to read as follows:

§ 799.5000 Testing consent orders for substances and mixtures with Chemical Abstract Service Registry Numbers.

* * * * *

CAS Number	Substance or mixture name	Testing	FR Publication Date
107-06-2	Ethylene dichloride	Health effects	[Insert date of final rule].
*	*	*	*

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[FR Doc. 97-33448 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 17**

RIN 1018-AE06

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reopening of Comment Period on Proposed Endangered Status for the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.**ACTION:** Proposed rule; reopening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service provides notice that the comment period on the Service's proposal to list the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) as endangered throughout its range (62 FR 14093, March 25, 1997) is reopened as of December 23, 1997. The Service is soliciting any new information or comments on the proposed listing of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse. The Service notes that information and data collected since the publication of the proposed rule has been or will be provided to the Service, and will become part of the record for the Service's evaluation of the proposed listing. This information includes surveys that evaluate the status of the mouse at various locations and a report on habitat requirements.

DATES: The public comment period is reopened for 30 days. All comments should be received on or before January 22, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and materials should be sent to the Colorado Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Comments and materials received will be available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours, at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LeRoy W. Carlson, Colorado Field Supervisor, telephone 303/275-2370 (see **ADDRESSES** section).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The Preble's meadow jumping mouse, a small rodent in the family Zapodidae,

is known to occur only in eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. It lives primarily in heavily vegetated riparian habitats. Habitat loss and degradation caused by agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial development have resulted in concern over its continued existence.

On March 25, 1997, the Service published a proposed rule (62 FR 14093) to list the Preble's meadow jumping mouse as an endangered species without critical habitat. On May 5, 1997, the Service extended the comment period through July 28, 1997, and announced three public hearings, which were held on May 19, 21, and 22, 1997 (62 FR 24387). The Service received additional written comments during that comment period, which are being reviewed by the Service in making its final determination whether to list the Preble's meadow jumping mouse as endangered. The Service's conclusion must include an evaluation of the best scientific and commercial data available, i.e., species abundance, new data received during the comment period, re-evaluation of existing data, and efforts being taken to protect the species.

To assist in its analysis of species status, the Service requests any comments that have not already been submitted, which provide new information or data, and/or reflect the information and data that has become available since the publication of the proposed rule. The Service (see **ADDRESSES**) can provide guidance on the availability of additional information.

Written comments may be submitted on or before January 22, 1998, to the Service office identified in the **ADDRESSES** section above. All comments must be received before the close of the comment period to be considered.

Legal notices announcing reopening of the comment period are being published in newspapers concurrently with this **Federal Register** notice.

Author: The author of this notice is Peter Plage, Colorado Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone 303/275-2370.

Authority: Authority for this action is the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: December 17, 1997.

Terry T. Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 97-33408 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 679**

[Docket No. 971208298-7298-01; I.D. 112097B]

Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; Correction

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed rule; correction.

SUMMARY: NMFS is correcting the date by which comments must be received about the proposed 1998 harvest specifications for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. The correct date is January 14, 1998.

DATES: Comments must be received by January 14, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alan Kinsolving 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

A proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** on December 15, 1997 (62 FR 65638), that set forth the proposed annual TACs, prohibited species catch allowances, seasonal allowances of the pollock TAC, and amounts for the pollock and sablefish Community Development Quota reserve.

Need for Correction

As published, the proposed rule invited comments and contained the date by which comments must be received. The date is in error and NMFS is hereby correcting that error.

Correction of Publication

In the December 15, 1997, issue of the **Federal Register** (62 FR 65638), in the third column under the **DATES** heading, the wording should be corrected to read as follows:

DATES: Comments must be received by January 14, 1998.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 17, 1997.

David L. Evans,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-33436 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F