

by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information. Respondents/Affected Entities: Wood Furniture Manufacturers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 750.

Frequency of Response: On occasion, quarterly, semi-annually and annual reports are required.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 91,430 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden: \$34,830.

Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the following addresses. Please refer to EPA ICR No.1716.02 and OMB Control No. 2060-0324 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OPPE Regulatory Information Division (2137), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460; and

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: December 17, 1997.

Joseph Retzer,

Director, Regulatory Information Division.

[FR Doc. 97-33454 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5939-3]

Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board; Nominees, Meeting Date and Agenda

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will convene an open meeting of the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) on January 16, 1998, from 1 pm to 5 pm. This meeting immediately follows the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) Third Interim Meeting and will be held in the Sheraton National Hotel at 900 South Orme Street in Arlington, VA. Directions can be obtained from the hotel by calling 703/521-2122.

The agenda will include discussions on (1) the fact findings of the Good Laboratory Practices subcommittee, which will present its final report; (2) consideration of a request to establish a separate fact finding subcommittee on third party assessors; and (3) a report from NELAC on issues regarding implementation. Comments on the NELAC standards, as discussed during the Third Interim Meeting, will be solicited. Standards are scheduled to be posted on the electronic bulletin board on December 13, 1997. The Internet site address for the standards is: <http://ttnwww.rtpnc.epa.gov/html/nelac/nelac.htm>.

The public is encouraged to attend. Time will be allotted for public comment. Written comments are most valuable and should be directed to Ms. Jeanne Mourrain; Designated Federal Officer; USEPA; NERL (MD-75A); Research Triangle Park, NC 27711. If questions arise, please contact Ms. Mourrain at 919/541-1120, fax 919/541-4261, or E-mail mourrain.jeanne@epamail.epa.gov.

Dated: December 10, 1997.

Nancy W. Wentworth,

Director, Quality Assurance Division.

[FR Doc. 97-33453 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-64036; FRL 5764-2]

Notice of Termination of the Use of Methamidophos on All Crops Except Cotton and Potatoes, and Cancellation of All Methamidophos 24(c) Food-Use Registration Not Labeled for Use on Tomatoes Only

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 6(f)(1) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended, EPA is issuing a notice of its response to requests for

amendment by Bayer Corporation and Valent USA, the sole U.S. registrants of the insecticide methamidophos, to terminate the use of methamidophos on all agricultural crops except cotton and potatoes by deleting all other uses from all methamidophos FIFRA section 3 registrations, and to cancel all section 24(c) food-use registrations not labeled for use on tomatoes only.

DATES: These terminations and cancellations are effective on December 31, 1997, subject to the existing stocks provision specified herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Philip Poli, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508W), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail: Special Review Branch, Crystal Station #1, 3rd floor, 2800 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, (703) 308-8038; e-mail: poli.philip@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

Section 6(f)(1) of FIFRA provides that a registrant of a pesticide product may at any time request that any of its pesticide registrations be canceled or amended to terminate one or more uses. The Act further provides that, before acting on the request, EPA must publish a notice of receipt of any such request in the **Federal Register** and provide for a 30-day public comment period. Thereafter, the Administrator of EPA may approve such a request, unless the Administrator determines, in the case of a pesticide that is registered for a minor agricultural use, that the cancellation or termination of uses would adversely affect the availability of the pesticide for use. If such a determination is made, unless certain exceptions apply, the Administrator may not approve or reject a request until 180 days have passed from the date of publication in the **Federal Register** of the notice of receipt.

Methamidophos is registered for minor agricultural uses that would be affected by a termination of uses and cancellation of registrations. Accordingly, in a July 2, 1997 **Federal Register** notice announcing receipt of these requests for termination/cancellation, the Administrator set forth a 180-day effective schedule for approval of the requests.

II. Background

EPA conducted an occupational risk assessment that estimated risks associated with short- and intermediate-term exposures of agricultural workers to methamidophos. The assessment indicated that the risks to workers of

acute exposure exceeded EPA's level of concern. In addition to the risk assessment, EPA had California and nationwide human incident data indicating acute worker exposure incidents associated with methamidophos use. EPA met with Bayer and Valent, the sole U.S. methamidophos registrants, on August 1, 1996, to present EPA's concerns and discuss voluntary measures to reduce risk. At the meeting, the registrants proposed the use terminations and product cancellations announced in this notice, as well as other measures including additional spray drift language, a phase-in of closed mixing and loading systems, and participation in industry-wide education efforts.

In the **Federal Register** of July 2, 1997 (62 FR 35812) (FRL 5724-7), EPA issued a notice announcing receipt of the methamidophos registrants' requests to terminate uses and cancel registrations under sections 3 and 24(c) of FIFRA, and provided notice of EPA's intent to accept those requests. In letters dated November 12, 1996, and February 21, 1997 respectively, Bayer and Valent requested that FIFRA section 3 registrations be amended to terminate (by use deletion) the use of methamidophos on broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, and sugar beets, and that section 24(c) registrations labeled for melons, cucumbers, lettuce, alfalfa, bermuda grass, peppers, clover, and eggplant be canceled, leaving tomatoes as the only remaining food use with methamidophos 24(c) registrations.

The following comments were received by the Agency in response to the notice published in the **Federal Register** of July 2, 1997:

1. *Comment from Bayer Corporation.* A comment was received by the Agency from Bayer Corporation concerning the existing stocks provision as stated in the notice of July 2, 1997. Bayer Corporation requested that the Agency amend the existing stocks provision to allow the existing stocks already in possession of the dealers as of December 31, 1997, to be distributed, sold, or used legally until they are exhausted.

Agency response. The Agency after reviewing the existing stocks provision as listed in the notice published in the **Federal Register** of July 2, 1997, concurs with the company request. The Agency believes that the amount of methamidophos in inventory is relatively small and will decrease rapidly after the December 31, 1997 effective date for these voluntary terminations/cancellations. Therefore, the existing stocks provision listed in

the notice of July 2, 1997 is amended to read:

After December 31, 1997, methamidophos registrants may not sell or distribute any stocks of canceled methamidophos products or methamidophos products containing any terminated uses. Persons other than the registrant will be permitted to sell, distribute, and use the product until their supplies are exhausted.

2. *Comment from Bayer Corporation.* A comment was received by the Agency from Bayer Corporation inquiring about several 24(c) registrations that currently exist for cotton use only. Bayer Corporation questioned that since cotton is one of the crops being maintained on the section 3 label language would it be allowable to maintain these existing 24(c) labels as well. These 24(c)'s were not listed in the July 2, 1997 **Federal Register** notice as cancellations. The 24(c)'s in question are: CA790188, AR810044, AR870007, MS810014 and MS810055.

Agency response. The Agency agrees that since these 24(c) registrations are only for the agricultural crop cotton, and this crop has been retained under a FIFRA section 3 registration they may be maintained.

3. *Comment from Tomen Agro, Incorporated.* A comment was received by the Agency from Tomen Agro, Inc. requesting that the tolerances for the canceled crop uses be retained in 40 CFR 180.315 because these commodities are being legally treated in other countries and imported into the United States. Withdrawal of these tolerances would be disruptive to international trade associated with these commodities.

Agency response. As an administrative matter, the Agency normally proposes to revoke the existing tolerance for a crop shortly after the agricultural use has been terminated. However, as commenters have expressed an interest in leaving the tolerances in place and as these cancellations were a voluntary measure by the registrants and were not due to any dietary risk to humans posed by methamidophos residues on these food crops, the Agency will not propose to revoke, at this time, the tolerances for the terminated or canceled crop uses listed in 40 CFR 180.315.

Under section 408(l)(5) as amended by The Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA), food lawfully treated, prior to the cancellation notice and crops treated with existing stocks, will not be rendered adulterated despite the lack of a tolerance, so long as the residue on the food complies with the tolerance in place at the time of treatment. These tolerances will be

modified or revoked at the time that the Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) document is published (presently scheduled for 1998), and the results of the tolerance reassessment will be published in a **Federal Register** notice.

III. Final Actions and Existing Stocks Provision

This notice terminates (by use deletion from section 3 registrations) the use of methamidophos on broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, and sugar beets, and the section 24(c) registrations labeled for melons, cucumbers, lettuce, alfalfa, bermuda grass, peppers, clover, and eggplant are canceled. These terminations and cancellations are effective December 31, 1997. The Agency has determined that after December 31, 1997, methamidophos registrants may not sell or distribute any stocks of canceled methamidophos products or methamidophos products containing any terminated uses. Persons other than the registrant will be permitted to sell, distribute, and use the product until their supplies are exhausted.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests, Product registrations.

Dated: December 17, 1997.

Jack E. Housenger,

Acting Director, Special Review and Reregistration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 97-33456 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[Report No. 2244]

Petitions for Reconsideration and Clarification of Action in Rulemaking Proceedings

December 17, 1997.

Petitions for reconsideration and clarification have been filed in the Commission's rulemaking proceedings listed in this Public Notice and published pursuant to 47 CFR Section 1.429(e). The full text of these documents are available for viewing and copying in Room 239, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. or may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, ITS, Inc. (202) 857-3800. Oppositions to these petitions must be filed January 7, 1998. See Section 1.4(b) (1) of the Commission's rule (47 CFR 1.4(b)(1)). Replies to an opposition must