

robust accounting systems that track environmental costs and benefits thereby providing information necessary for the organization to achieve greater economic efficiencies and improved environmental performance. Are there additional opportunities to accelerate the adoption of these new practices in related areas such as capital budgeting, design, materials management, underwriting, and finance?

Dated: March 11, 1999.

**Jay Benforado,**

*Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Reinvention.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6311-6]

### Notice of Oxygenate Use in Gasoline Panel Meeting

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On November 30, 1998, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol M. Browner announced the creation of a blue-ribbon panel of leading experts from the public health and scientific communities, automotive fuels industry, water utilities, and local and State government to review the important issues posed by the use of MTBE and other oxygenates in gasoline. EPA created the panel to gain a better understanding of the public health concerns raised by the discovery of MTBE in some water supplies. The panel will be chaired by Mr. Daniel Greenbaum, President of the Health Effects Institute (HEI) of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Mr. Robert Perciasepe, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, US EPA.

This notice announces the time and place for the third meeting of the panel.

**DATES:** The blue-ribbon panel reviewing the use of oxygenates in gasoline will conduct its third meeting on Thursday and Friday, March 25 and 26, 1999, in Sacramento, CA beginning at 8:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to possibly 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 25th and from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 26th at the Sacramento Convention Center, 1030 15th Street, Room 202, Sacramento, CA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen Smith at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Air and Radiation, 401 M Street, SW (6406J),

Washington, D.C. 20460, (202) 564-9674, or John Brophy at (202) 564-9068. Information can also be found at [www.epa.gov/oms/consumer/fuels/oxypanel/blueribb.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oms/consumer/fuels/oxypanel/blueribb.htm).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is the third in a series of meetings at locations around the country to hear from regional and national experts on the facts concerning oxygenate use in fuel. While in Sacramento, the panel will focus on understanding oxygenate and water issues in California. A number of presenters have been invited to offer a variety of perspectives regarding oxygenate issues. The panel will also be accepting written public comment submissions. Written submissions can be mailed to US EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Mail Code 6406J (Attn: Blue-Ribbon Panel), Washington, DC 20460. Panel members will be provided with copies of all written submissions.

Dated: March 12, 1999.

**Margo T. Oge,**

*Director, Office of Mobile Sources.*

[FR Doc. 99-6619 Filed 3-16-99; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6311-1]

### Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meetings

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that two Committees of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on the dates and times described below. All times noted are Eastern Time. All meetings are open to the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis. Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office and are *not* available from the SAB Office. Public drafts of SAB reports are available to the Agency and the public from the SAB office. Details on availability are noted below.

#### 1. Ecological Processes and Effects Committee

The Ecological Processes and Effects Committee (EPEC) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will hold a public meeting on April 6-7, 1999 in Washington, DC. The meeting will be held in Room 1103 West Tower of the EPA Waterside Mall Complex, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, beginning at 8:30 am and ending no

later than 5:30 pm on each day. The purpose of the meeting is to offer advice to the Agency on the following topics: (a) review of a proposed methodology for establishing sediment guidelines for metals mixtures; (b) review of a Biotic Ligand Model (BLM) for establishing aquatic life criteria for metals; and (c) review of a proposed approach for setting Ecological Soil Screening Levels (Eco-SSLs) for use at Superfund sites.

**Background (a) Bioavailability and Toxicity of Metals in Surface Waters and Sediments:** The Office of Water and the Office of Research and Development have been working over the past several years to refine Agency approaches to developing criteria and guidance for metals levels that are protective of benthic organisms, aquatic life in the water column, and wildlife that consume aquatic organisms. A focus of this recent work has been on improving the understanding of factors that influence metals bioavailability, and thus toxicity, in the environment. The Office of Water is asking the SAB to review its integrated approach to assessing bioavailability and toxicity of metals in surface waters and sediments by evaluating proposed modifications to the approaches used to develop sediment metals guidelines and aquatic life criteria for metals. The Charge to the Committee is as follows:

#### Overall Charge

Does the integrated metals methodology improve our ability to make both protective and predictive assessments of toxicity due to copper, silver and other selected metals in the water column and sediment?

#### Biotic Ligand Model Questions:

(1) Does the BLM improve our ability to predict toxicity to water column organisms due to metals (copper and silver) in comparison to the currently applied dissolved metal concentration criterion?

(2) Is the scientific and theoretical foundation of the model sound?

(3) In comparison to the current Water Effects Ration (WER) adjustment for aquatic life criteria, will the application of the BLM as a site-specific adjustment reduce uncertainty associated with metals bioavailability and toxicity?

(4) Are the data presented for the validation of the BLM sufficient to support the incorporation of the BLM directly into copper and silver criteria documents?

#### Equilibrium Sediment Guidelines for Metals Mixtures Questions

(1) By incorporating the fraction organic carbon into the bioavailability

equation, have we retained the protective features of the guidelines and improved its predictiveness of toxic effects?

(2) If the BLM is used to derive or adjust a water quality criterion, is the revised criterion appropriate for use in the interstitial water component of the Metals Mixtures ESG?

(3) Are the data presented from lab and field experiments with chromium and silver sufficient to support their addition to the Metals Mixtures ESG?

*(b) Ecological Soil Screening Levels (Eco-SSLs):*

The Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (i.e., the Superfund Program) has asked the SAB to provide an advisory on ongoing work to develop Ecological Soil Screening Levels (Eco-SSLs) that will be protective of the terrestrial environment. The Agency has formed a multi-stakeholder workgroup to develop Eco-SSLs. Members include scientists and risk assessors from EPA, Environment Canada, Department of Energy, Army, Navy, Air Force, states, industry, academia, and consulting firms. This collaborative project is expected to result in a Superfund guidance document that includes a look-up table of generic Eco-SSLs for up to 24 chemicals or groups of chemicals that are frequently of ecological concern at Superfund sites. The charge to the Committee includes the following questions:

(1) Will the proposed procedures for evaluating mammalian and avian toxicity data result in the selection and use of the most appropriate data for generating wildlife Eco-SSL?

(2) Will the proposed procedures for evaluating soil biota toxicity data result in the selection and use of the most appropriate available data for generating plant, invertebrate, and microbial Eco-SSLs?

(3) Do the models and exposure factors used in the wildlife food chain model reflect the state of the practice?

(4) Do the proposed approaches for selecting single Eco-SSL values for the five receptor groups reflect a reasoned balance between conservativeness and reasonableness?

(5) Do the proposed efforts for modifying the Eco-SSLs in Tier 2 consider the factors of greatest concern (e.g., soil chemistry and bioavailability issues, unit area of exposure, probabilistic approaches)?

*For Further Information:*

The briefing and review materials prepared by the Agency for this meeting are *NOT* available from the Science Advisory Board. Single copies of the

background information for the sediment metals and Biotic Ligand Model reviews can be obtained by contacting Jennifer Mitchell, Office of Water's Health and Ecological Criteria Division, Mail Code 4304, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460; by e-mail at: <mitchell.jennifer@epa.gov>; or by telephone at (202) 260-6101. Single copies of the background material for the Eco-SSL advisory can be obtained by contacting Steve Ells, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, Mail Code 5204G, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460; by e-mail at: <ells.steve@epa.gov>; or by telephone at (703) 603-8822.

Additional information about the meeting, or the meeting agenda, can be obtained by contacting Ms. Mary Winston, Committee Operations Staff, Science Advisory Board (1400), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460; by telephone at (202) 260-2554; by fax at (202) 260-7118 or via e-mail at: <winston.mary@epa.gov>. Anyone wishing to make an oral presentation to the Committee must contact Ms. Stephanie Sanzone, Designated Federal Official for EPEC, in writing to the address or fax above, or via e-mail at: <sanzone.stephanie@epa.gov> no later than 4:00 pm on March 31, 1999, in order to be included on the Agenda. The request should identify the name of the individual who will make the presentation and an outline of the issues to be addressed. At least 35 copies of any written comments to the Committee are to be given to Ms. Sanzone no later than the time of the presentation for distribution to the Committee and the interested public.

**2. Executive Committee**

The Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Executive Committee, will conduct a public teleconference meeting on Thursday, April 8, 1999, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 2:00 pm, Eastern Time. The meeting will be coordinated through a conference call connection in Room M3709 of the Mall at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460. The public is welcome to attend the meeting physically or through a telephonic link. Additional instructions about how to participate in the conference call can be obtained by calling Ms. Priscilla Tillery-Gadson at (202) 260-4126.

During this meeting the Executive Committee plans to review draft reports from its Committees. *Anticipated* drafts include: (a) Executive Committee (EC)

Subcommittee: Data from Testing of Human Subjects; (b) Ecological Processes and Effects Committee (EPEC): Review of the Agency's Index of Watershed Indicators (IWI); and (c) Environmental Engineering Committee: Commentary on the Need to Address Source Reduction and Control Technology in PM<sub>2.5</sub> Research Plan. It is possible that other draft reports may be available for review at this meeting as well. Please check with Ms. Tillery-Gadson prior to the meeting to confirm any changes in the planned review schedule.

*For Further Information:*

Any member of the public wishing further information concerning the meeting or wishing to submit comments should contact Dr. Donald G. Barnes, Designated Federal Officer for the Executive Committee, Science Advisory Board (1400), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington DC 20460; telephone (202) 260-4126; FAX (202) 260-9232; and via e-mail at: <barnes.don@epa.gov>. Copies of the draft reports are available from the same source, or from the SAB Website (<http://www.epa.gov/sab>) at least one week prior to the meeting.

**Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings**

The Science Advisory Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements. In general, each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of ten minutes. For teleconference meetings, opportunities for oral comment will usually be limited to no more than three minutes per speaker and no more than fifteen minutes total. Written comments (at least 35 copies) received in the SAB Staff Office sufficiently prior to a meeting date (usually one week before the meeting), may be mailed to the relevant SAB committee or subcommittee; comments received too close to the meeting date will normally be provided to the committee at its meeting, or mailed soon after receipt by the Agency. Written comments may be provided to the relevant committee or subcommittee up until the time of the meeting.

Additional information concerning the Science Advisory Board, its structure, function, and composition, may be found on the SAB Website (<http://www.epa.gov/sab>) and in The Annual Report of the Staff Director which is available from the SAB Publications Staff at (202) 260-4126 or via fax at (202) 260-1889.

Individuals requiring special accommodation at SAB meetings, including wheelchair access, should contact the appropriate DFO at least five business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Dated: March 10, 1999.

**Donald G. Barnes,**

*Staff Director, Science Advisory Board.*

[FR Doc. 99-6502 Filed 3-16-99; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-66265; FRL-6067-8]

### Oxythioquinox; Voluntary Termination of Uses

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of request to terminate uses.

**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 receipt of requests by Bayer Corporation to voluntarily cancel products containing oxythioquinox (Morestan), 6-methyl-1,3-dithiolo [4,5-b] quinoxalin-2-one or chinomethionate, to terminate uses.

**DATES:** Unless the request is withdrawn by September 13, 1999, orders will be issued canceling these registrations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** By mail: Jamil Mixon, Reregistration Branch I, (7508C), Special Review and Reregistration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20046. Office location for commercial courier, Reregistration Branch I, 3rd floor, 2800 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA; telephone number: (703) 308-8032.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Background Information

Oxythioquinox (trade name Morestan) is an insecticide/miticide/fungicide first registered in 1968, to control mites, mite eggs on ornamental plants in green houses, nurseries and landscapes. On October 17, 1996, Bayer requested voluntary cancellation of all food uses but citrus. Bayer also requested cancellation of all but two of the 24(c) registrations (California and Louisiana). Subsequently, on June 4, 1997, the Agency received a request from Bayer to cancel registration of the remaining food-use products: Morestan 25WP (3125-117) and Morestan Solupak 25

WP 9 (3125-302). These cancellations were announced in the **Federal Register** of August 27, 1997 (62 FR 45416) (FRL-5737-4), and became final March 9, 1998. Initiation of the exiting stocks period began when the Agency received the request for cancellations and ran for 18 months. On February 1, 1999, Bayer requested cancellation of its remaining oxythioquinox registrations. After cancellation orders for these products are issued, there will be no remaining registered products containing oxythioquinox.

#### II. Terminations Pursuant to Voluntary Requests

Under section 6(f)(1) of FIFRA, registrants may request at any time that "a pesticide registration of the registrant be canceled or amended to terminate one or more pesticide uses." (7 U.S.C. 136d(f)(1)). Consistent with 6(f)(1) of FIFRA, EPA is issuing a notice of receipt of the request.

#### III. Termination Intent to Cancel

This notice announces receipt of request for voluntary cancellation of EPA registrations listed in Table 1 below. Unless this request is withdrawn, oxythioquinox (Morestan) will no longer appear in any registered products.

Table 1.—6(F) Notice for Voluntary Cancellation

Product Name	EPA Registration Number
Morestan 4 Ornamental Miticide	3125-381
Morestan 4 Nursery Miticide	3125-437
Morestan 4 Technical	3125-205

#### IV. Procedures for Withdrawal of Request

For Bayer to withdraw a request for use termination the company must submit such withdrawal in writing to Jamil Mixon, at the address given above, postmarked before September 13, 1999. This written withdrawal of the request for use termination will apply only to the applicable 6(f)(1) request listed in this notice. The notice must include a commitment to pay any maintenance fees and to fulfill any unsatisfied data requirements.

#### V. Existing Stocks Provision

EPA proposes to accept the registrants' request for amendment to terminate all products listed in Table 1 in Unit III. of this notice. It is EPA's

general practice to accept registrant's requests for cancellation of registrations or specific registered uses.

Notice of the request for cancellation is published primarily for the purpose of alerting affected parties so that they may either attempt to convince the registrant to maintain the registration or apply to register the product themselves. EPA proposes to approve these cancellations expeditiously after the close of the comment period unless the registrant withdraws its request or a compelling reason opposing termination is presented in public comments. If the requests are granted, any use of the above mentioned chemicals would be permitted only if the products are used in accordance with the terms and conditions specified on the label.

EPA also proposes to accept the registrants' requests for existing stocks provisions. Under FIFRA section 6(a)(1), EPA may permit the continued sale and use of a canceled pesticide if such sale or use "is not inconsistent with the purposes of this Act." For each of the chemicals listed in this notice: Morestan 4 Ornamental Miticide, Morestan 4 Nursery Miticide, and Morestan 4 Technical, the Agency has concluded that the limited short-term continued use of these pesticides, when used in accordance with the label, will not result in unreasonable risk or adverse effects to human health or the environment.

If EPA grants any or all of the requested cancellations, it is likely that the Agency will establish an existing stocks provision consistent with the following schedule. The distributors of products containing the active ingredients, as listed in Table 1 in Unit III. of this notice, have requested an 18-month existing stocks provision from the effective date of cancellation as a condition of its termination, so that existing supplies of oxythioquinox (Morestan) can be exhausted. EPA agrees to registrant's request and will permit sale and distribution of these products for 18 months after the effective date of cancellation. The end-users will then be allowed an additional year (for a total of 2 years beyond the registrant requested date) for the use of existing stocks for each of these chemicals.

Dated: March 3, 1999.

**Jack E. Housenger,**

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

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