

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-34146A; FRL-6089-6]

Organophosphate Pesticide: Sulfotepp; Availability of Revised Risk Assessments and Public Participation on Risk Management

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the revised risk assessments and related documents for one organophosphate pesticide, sulfotepp. In addition, this notice starts a 60-day public participation period during which the public is encouraged to submit risk management ideas or proposals. These actions are in response to a joint initiative between EPA and the Department of Agriculture to increase transparency in the tolerance reassessment process for organophosphate pesticides.

DATES: Comments, identified by docket control number OPP-34146A, must be received by EPA on or before August 30, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by mail, electronically, or in person. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit III. of the "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION" section. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPP-34146A in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Angulo, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-8004; e-mail address: angulo.karen@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Does This Action Apply To Me?**

This action is directed to the public in general, nevertheless, a wide range of stakeholders will be interested in obtaining the revised risk assessments and submitting risk management comments on sulfotepp, including environmental, human health, and agricultural advocates; the chemical industry; pesticide users; and members of the public interested in the use of pesticides. As such, the Agency has not attempted to specifically describe all the entities potentially affected by this action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action

to a particular entity, consult the person listed in the "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT" section.

II. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies Of This Document Or Other Related Documents?*A. Electronically*

You may obtain electronic copies of this document and other related documents from the EPA Internet Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. To access this document, on the Home Page select "Laws and Regulations" and then look up the entry for this document under the "Federal Register—Environmental Documents." You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgrstr/>.

To access information about organophosphate pesticides and obtain electronic copies of the revised risk assessments and related documents mentioned in this notice, you can also go directly to the Home Page for the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/>.

B. In Person

The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control number OPP-34146A. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received during an applicable comment period, and other information related to this action, including any information claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI). This official record includes the documents that are physically located in the docket, as well as the documents that are referenced in those documents. The public version of the official record does not include any information claimed as CBI. The public version of the official record, which includes printed, paper versions of any electronic comments submitted during an applicable comment period, is available for inspection in Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB) telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

III. How Can I Respond To This Action?*A. How And To Whom Do I Submit Comments?*

You may submit comments through the mail, in person, or electronically. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, you must identify docket control number OPP-34146A in the subject line on the first page of your response.

1. *By mail.* Submit comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

2. *In person or by courier.* Deliver comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA. PIRIB is open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

3. *Electronically.* Submit electronic comments by e-mail to: "opp-docket@epa.gov," or you may mail or deliver your standard computer disk using the addresses in this unit. Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. 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 standard computer disks in WordPerfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number OPP-34146A. Electronic comments may also be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

B. How Should I Handle CBI Information That I Want To Submit To The Agency?

Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. You may claim information that you submit to EPA in response to this document as CBI by marking any part or all of that information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public version of the official record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public version of the official record without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person listed in the "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT" section.

IV. What Action Is EPA Taking In This Notice?

EPA is making available for public viewing the revised risk assessments and related documents for one organophosphate, sulfotepp. These documents have been developed as part of the pilot public participation process that EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are now using for involving the public in the reassessment of pesticide tolerances under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), and the reregistration of individual organophosphate pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The pilot public participation process was developed as part of the EPA-USDA Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC), which was established in April 1998, as a subcommittee under the auspices of EPA's National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology. A goal of the pilot public participation process is to find a more effective way for the public to participate at critical junctures in the Agency's development of organophosphate risk assessments and risk management decisions. EPA and USDA began implementing this pilot process in August 1998, to increase transparency and opportunities for stakeholder consultation. The documents being released to the public through this notice provide information on the revisions that were made to the sulfotepp preliminary risk assessments, which were released to the public on September 9, 1998 (63 FR 48213) (FRL-6030-2), through a notice in the **Federal Register**.

As part of the pilot public participation process, EPA and USDA may hold public meetings (called Technical Briefings) to provide interested stakeholders with opportunities to become more informed about revised organophosphate risk assessments. During the Technical Briefings, EPA describes the major points (e.g. risk contributors), use data that were used (e.g. data from USDA's Pesticide Data Program (PDP)), and discusses how public comments impacted the assessment. USDA provides ideas on possible risk management. Stakeholders have an opportunity to ask clarifying questions, and all meeting minutes are placed in the OPP public docket. Technical Briefings may not be held for chemicals that have limited use patterns or low levels of risk concern. Sulfotepp's use pattern is limited to ornamental plants in greenhouses, therefore, no Technical Briefing is planned. In cases where no

Technical Briefing is held, the Agency will make a special effort to communicate with interested stakeholders in order to better ensure their understanding of the revised assessments and how they can participate in the organophosphate pilot public participation process. EPA has a good familiarity with the stakeholder groups associated with the use of sulfotepp who may be interested in participating in the risk assessment/risk management process, and will contact them individually to inform them that no Technical Briefing will be held. EPA is willing to meet with stakeholders to discuss the sulfotepp revised risk assessments. Minutes of all meetings will be docketed.

In addition, this notice starts a 60-day public participation period during which the public is encouraged to submit risk management proposals or otherwise comment on risk management for sulfotepp. The Agency is providing an opportunity, through this notice, for interested parties to provide written risk management proposals or ideas to the Agency on the chemical specified in this notice. Comments and proposals could address ideas about how to manage occupational or ecological risks on specific sulfotepp use sites across the United States or in a particular geographic region of the country. To address occupational risks, for example, commentors may suggest personal protective equipment or technologies to reduce exposure to workers and pesticide handlers. EPA will provide other opportunities for public participation and comment on issues associated with the organophosphate tolerance reassessment program. Failure to participate or comment as part of this opportunity will in no way prejudice or limit a commentor's opportunity to participate fully in later notice and comment processes. All comments and proposals must be received by EPA on or before August 30, 1999 at the addresses given under the "ADDRESSES" section. Comments and proposals will become part of the Agency record for the organophosphate specified in this notice.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Chemicals, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: June 21, 1999.

Jack E. Housenger,

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

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-30406A; FRL-6084-8]

Novartis; Approval of Pesticide Product Registrations

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces Agency approval of applications submitted by Novartis Crop Protection Inc., to conditionally register the pesticide products Action Herbicide and Fluthiacet-Methyl Technical containing a new active ingredient not included in any previously registered products pursuant to the provisions of section 3(c)(7)(C) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Joanne Miller, PM-23, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location and telephone number: Rm. 241, CM #2, Environmental Protection Agency, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202, 703-305-6224; e-mail: miller.joanne@epa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Availability: Electronic copies of this document and the Fact Sheet are available from the EPA home page at the **Federal Register** Environmental Sub-Set entry for this document under "Laws and Regulations" (<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgrstr/>).

EPA issued a notice, published the **Federal Register** of May 8, 1996 (61 FR 20815)(FRL-5357-1), which announced that Ciba-Geigy Crop Protection Corporation, (now known as Novartis), P.O. Box 18300, Greensboro, NC 27419-8300, had submitted an application to conditionally register the product CGA-248757 Technical (EPA File Symbol 100-INL) containing acetic acid, [[2-chloro-4-fluoro-5-[(tetrahydro-3-oxo-1H,3H-[1,3,4]thiadiazolo[3,4-alpha]pyridazin-1-ylidene)amino]phenyl]thio]-methyl ester at 98%; an active ingredient not included any previously registered product.

The company subsequently submitted an application to EPA to register the pesticide product Action Herbicide (EPA File Symbol 100-INA) containing the same chemical at 4.75%. However, since the notice of receipt of the application to register the product as required by section 3(c)(4) of FIFRA, as amended did not publish in the **Federal**