

Administrator on the technical basis for Agency positions and regulations. The SAB has been asked to review software developed by the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics known as the Estimation Programs Interface (EPI) Suite and has formed a specialized EPI Suite Review Panel for this purpose as previously announced (70 FR 4846, January 31, 2005).

The Panel will comply with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and all appropriate SAB procedural policies. EPI Suite is routinely used in evaluating new chemicals under EPA's Premanufacture Notices (PMNs) for new chemicals under section 5 of the Toxic Substances Control Act, and is widely used for predicting physical/chemical properties and environmental fate and transport properties for chemicals already in commerce. A more extensive description of EPI Suite can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/exposure/docs/episuite.htm>. EPI Suite can be downloaded from <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/exposure/docs/EPISuitedl.htm>.

The purpose of the teleconference on February 22, 2006, is to prepare the Panel for the review through briefings and a discussion and clarification of the charge. The purpose of the March 1, 2006, teleconference is to prepare the Panel and the Agency for the face-to-face meeting by responding to panelists' preliminary questions and identifying areas where additional information is needed. The purpose of the March 7–9, 2006, face-to-face meeting is for the Panel to reach consensus on the content of their response to the charge questions, to capture that consensus in writing, to brief the Agency on the major findings and conclusions, and to respond to Agency questions. The purpose of the April 5, 2006, teleconference is to provide the panelists with an opportunity to discuss their draft report and agree to final language. Subsequently, the Panel's report will be considered by the Board and transmitted to the Administrator.

**Procedures for Providing Public Input:** Members of the public may submit relevant written or oral information for the EPI Suite Review Panel to consider during the advisory process.

**Oral Statements:** In general, individuals or groups requesting an oral presentation at a public teleconference will be limited to three minutes per speaker with no more than a total of thirty minutes for all speakers. In general, individuals or groups requesting an oral presentation at a face-to-face meeting will be limited to five to ten minutes with no more than two hours for all speakers. Those interested

should contact Ms. White (preferably via e-mail) no later than seven days before the meeting date to be placed on the public speaker list. Written Statements: Written statements should be received in the SAB Staff Office at least seven days before the meeting so that the comments may be made available to the Panel for timely consideration. Comments should be supplied to the DFO in the following formats: One hard copy with original signature by mail, and one electronic copy by e-mail (acceptable file format: Adobe Acrobat PDF, WordPerfect, MSWord, MSPowerPoint or Rich Text files in IBM-PC/Windows 98/2000/XP format).

**Accessibility:** For information on access or services for people with disabilities, please contact Ms. Kathleen White at 202–343–9878 or [white.kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:white.kathleen@epa.gov). To request accommodation of a disability, please contact Ms. White, preferably at least ten business days prior to the meeting, to give EPA as much time as possible to process your request.

Dated: January 26, 2006.

**Anthony F. Maciorowski,**  
*Associate Director for Science, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA–HQ–OPP–2005–0507; FRL–7758–4]

### Inorganic Chlorates Risk Assessments, Notice of Availability and Request for Risk Reduction Options

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of EPA's risk assessments, and related documents for the inorganic chlorates and opens a public comment period on these documents. The public is encouraged to suggest risk management ideas or proposals to address the risks identified. EPA is developing a Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) for inorganic chlorates through a modified, 4–Phase public participation process that the Agency uses to involve the public in developing pesticide reregistration and tolerance reassessment decisions. Through these programs, EPA is ensuring that all pesticides meet current health and safety standards.

**DATES:** Comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA–HQ–OPP–2005–0507, must be received on or before April 3, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. Follow the detailed instructions as provided in Unit I. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Felicia Fort, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460–0001; telephone number: (703) 305–7478; fax number: (703) 308–8005; e-mail address: [fort.felicia@epa.gov](mailto:fort.felicia@epa.gov).

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. General Information

#### A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general, and may be of interest to a wide range of stakeholders including environmental, human health, and agricultural advocates; the chemical industry; pesticide users; and members of the public interested in the sale, distribution, or use of pesticides. Since others also may be interested, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be affected by this action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

#### B. How Can I Get Copies of this Document and Other Related Information?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket ID number EPA–HQ–OPP–2005–0507. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1801 S. Bell St., Arlington, VA. This docket facility is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The docket telephone number is (703) 305–5805.

2. *Electronic access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document

electronically through the EPA Internet under the "Federal Register" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

EDOCKET, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system was replaced on November 25, 2005, by enhanced Federal-wide electronic docket management and comment system located at <http://www.regulations.gov/>. Follow the on-line instructions.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket ID number.

Certain types of information will not be placed in the EPA Dockets. Information claimed as CBI and other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute, which is not included in the official public docket, will not be available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. EPA's policy is that copyrighted material will not be placed in EPA's electronic public docket but will be available only in printed, paper form in the official public docket. To the extent feasible, publicly available docket materials will be made available in EPA's electronic public docket. When a document is selected from the index list in EPA Dockets, the system will identify whether the document is available for viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in Unit I.B.1. EPA intends to work towards providing electronic access to all of the publicly available docket materials through EPA's electronic public docket.

For public commenters, it is important to note that EPA's policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket as EPA receives them and without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. When EPA identifies a comment containing copyrighted material, EPA will provide a reference to that material in the version of the comment that is placed in EPA's electronic public docket. The

entire printed comment, including the copyrighted material, will be available in the public docket.

Public comments submitted on computer disks that are mailed or delivered to the docket will be transferred to EPA's electronic public docket. Public comments that are mailed or delivered to the docket will be scanned and placed in EPA's electronic public docket. Where practical, physical objects will be photographed, and the photograph will be placed in EPA's electronic public docket along with a brief description written by the docket staff.

#### *C. How and to Whom Do I Submit Comments?*

You may submit comments electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket ID number in the subject line on the first page of your comment. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked "late." EPA is not required to consider these late comments. If you wish to submit CBI or information that is otherwise protected by statute, please follow the instructions in Unit I.D. Do not use EPA Dockets or e-mail to submit CBI or information protected by statute.

1. *Electronically.* If you submit an electronic comment as prescribed in this unit, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your comment. Also include this contact information on the outside of any disk or CD ROM you submit, and in any cover letter accompanying the disk or CD ROM. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. EPA's policy is that EPA will not edit your comment, and any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

i. *EPA Dockets.* Your use of EPA's electronic public docket to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving comments. Go directly to EPA Dockets

at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once in the system, select "search," and then key in docket ID number EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0507. The system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

ii. *E-mail.* Comments may be sent by e-mail to [opp-docket@epa.gov](mailto:opp-docket@epa.gov), Attention: Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0507. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly to the docket without going through EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

iii. *Disk or CD ROM.* You may submit comments on a disk or CD ROM that you mail to the mailing address identified in Unit I.C.2. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

2. *By mail.* Send your comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB) (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001, Attention: Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0507.

3. *By hand delivery or courier.* Deliver your comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1801 S. Bell St., Arlington, VA, Attention: Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0507. Such deliveries are only accepted during the docket's normal hours of operation as identified in Unit I.B.1.

#### *D. How Should I Submit CBI to the Agency?*

Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI electronically through EPA's electronic public docket or by e-mail. You may claim information that you submit to EPA as CBI by marking any part or all of that information as CBI (if you submit CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM as CBI and then identify electronically within the disk or CD ROM the specific information that is 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 docket and EPA's electronic public docket. If you submit the copy that does not contain CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM clearly that it does not contain CBI. Information not marked as CBI will be included in the public docket and EPA's electronic public docket without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

#### *E. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?*

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at your estimate.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternatives.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket ID number in the subject line on the first page of your response. It would also be helpful if you provided the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation related to your comments.

## **II. Background**

### *A. What Action is the Agency Taking?*

EPA is releasing for public comment its human health and environmental fate and effects risk assessments and related documents for inorganic chlorate pesticides, and soliciting public comment on risk management ideas or proposals. The inorganic chlorates consist of sodium chlorate, calcium chlorate, potassium chlorate and magnesium chlorate. Only sodium chlorate is present as an active ingredient in currently registered products. EPA developed the risk assessments and risk characterization for inorganic chlorates through a modified version of its public process

for making pesticide reregistration eligibility and tolerance reassessment decisions. Through these programs, EPA is ensuring that pesticides meet current standards under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA).

Sodium chlorate is used agriculturally as a defoliant and dessicant, primarily on cotton, however it is also applied to a wide variety of other crops including, but not limited to, rice, corn, soybeans, dry beans, potatoes, sunflowers, flax, safflower, chili peppers (for processing only), grain sorghum, and wheat. As a non-selective herbicide it is also applied to industrial/non-crop areas such as rights-of-ways, building perimeters, ditch banks, bleachers, airport runways, vacant lots, fire hydrants, or as a pre-paving treatment. Sodium chlorate is also used as an antimicrobial agent to generate chlorine dioxide for use to bleach wood pulp/paper and treat drinking water.

EPA is providing an opportunity, through this notice, for interested parties to provide comments and input on the Agency's risk assessments for inorganic chlorates. Such comments and input could address, for example, the availability of additional data to further refine the risk assessments, such as worker exposure data, percent crop treated information, residue data from food processing studies, use information for the non-agricultural uses, drinking water treatment practices, etc., or could address the Agency's risk assessment methodologies and assumptions as applied to this specific pesticide. Through this notice, EPA also is providing an opportunity for interested parties to provide risk management proposals or otherwise comment on risk management for inorganic chlorates.

EPA seeks to achieve environmental justice, the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. To help address potential environmental justice issues, the Agency seeks information on any groups or segments of the population who, as a result of their location, cultural practices, or other factors, may have atypical, unusually high exposure to inorganic chlorates, compared to the general population.

EPA is applying the principles of public participation to all pesticides undergoing reregistration and tolerance reassessment. The Agency's Pesticide

Tolerance Reassessment and Reregistration; Public Participation Process, published in the **Federal Register** on May 14, 2004, (69 FR 26819)(FRL-7357-9) explains that in conducting these programs, the Agency is tailoring its public participation process to be commensurate with the level of risk, extent of use, complexity of the issues, and degree of public concern associated with each pesticide. For inorganic chlorates, a modified, 4-Phase process with one comment period and ample opportunity for public consultation is appropriate. However, if as a result of comments received during this comment period EPA finds that additional issues warranting further discussion are raised, the Agency may consider an additional comment period.

All comments should be submitted using the methods in Unit I. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, and must be received by EPA on or before the closing date. Comments will become part of the Agency Docket for inorganic chlorates. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked "late." EPA is not required to consider these late comments.

### *B. What is the Agency's Authority for Taking this Action?*

Section 4(g)(2) of FIFRA as amended directs that, after submission of all data concerning a pesticide active ingredient, "the Administrator shall determine whether pesticides containing such active ingredient are eligible for reregistration," before calling in product specific data on individual end-use products and either reregistering products or taking other "appropriate regulatory action."

Section 408(q) of the FFDCA, 21 U.S.C. 346a(q), requires EPA to review tolerances and exemptions for pesticide residues in effect as of August 2, 1996, to determine whether the tolerance or exemption meets the requirements of section 408(b)(2) or (c)(2) of FFDCA. This review is to be completed by August 3, 2006.

### **List of Subjects**

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: January 19, 2006.

**Peter Caulkins,**

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

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