

Dated: July 16, 1996.  
William D. Dickerson,  
*Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office  
of Federal Activities.*  
[FR Doc. 96-18421 Filed 7-18-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[OPP-66228; FRL 5380-8]

**Metalaxyl; Re-opening of Comment  
Period for Voluntary Cancellation of  
Ciba Crop Protection Registrations**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the re-opening of the comment period for the voluntary cancellation of Ciba Crop Protection Registrations of Metalaxyl Technical and End-Use Products that contain Metalaxyl.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted by July 26, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** By mail submit comments identified by the document control number [OPP-66228] and the case number (noted below) to: Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, deliver comments to: Rm. 1132, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: opp-docket@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 in 5.1 file format or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket number [OPP-66228]. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

Information submitted as a comment in response to this notice may be claimed confidential 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. A copy of the comment that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public docket. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public docket

without prior notice (including comments and data submitted electronically). The public docket and docket index, including printed paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI will be available for public inspection in Rm. 1132 at the address given above, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** By mail: Connie Welch, Product Manager (PM) 21, Office of Pesticide Programs, Registration Division (7505C), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location and telephone number: Rm. 237, CM#2, 2801 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, (703) 305-6226; e-mail: welch.connie@epamail.epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** EPA issued a notice, published in the Federal Register of May 1, 1996 (61 FR 19281), announcing the voluntary cancellation of Ciba-Crop Protection Registrations of Metalaxyl Technical and End-Use Products that contain Metalaxyl. Upon the Agency's further review of this notice and requests from other persons seeking extension to the 30-day comment period provided in the May 1, 1996 notice, the Agency has determined that it will re-open the comment period to allow additional time for further evaluation before acting on Ciba's request for voluntary cancellation. The comment period will end on July 26, 1996.

Accordingly, the voluntary cancellation of Ciba Crop Protection's products became effective on May 31, 1996. The Agency is hereby reinstating the registration of these products to correct an error in the notice which referenced provisions under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) regarding hearing requests and procedures, and re-opening the comment period on the voluntary cancellation request.

This request for voluntary cancellation was submitted pursuant to section 6 (f) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), which provides interested persons with the right to comment on voluntary cancellation requests, but does not include hearing rights. It was not the Agency's intention to provide an opportunity for hearing in connection with this action.

The Agency regrets any confusion the inclusion of this language may have caused and is granting this extension request in part to avoid any prejudice to

parties that may have been misled by the provisions of the May 1 notice. The Agency is also re-opening the comment period for the purpose of seeking clarification from Ciba regarding the nature of the proposed voluntary cancellation action. After the close of the comment period, the Agency will take action on Ciba's request and publish its determination in the Federal Register.

A record has been established for this notice under docket number [OPP-66228] (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in Room 1132 of the Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:  
opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

The official record for this notice, as well as the public version, as described above will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, EPA will transfer all comments received electronically into printed, paper form as they are received and will place the paper copies in the official record which will also include all comments submitted directly in writing. The official record is the paper record maintained at the address in "ADDRESSES" at the beginning of this document.

**List of Subjects**

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests, Product registrations.

Dated: June 8, 1996.

Stephen L. Johnson,  
*Director, Registration Division, Office of  
Pesticide Programs.*

[FR Doc. 96-18389 Filed 7-18-96; 8:45 am]

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[FRL-5536-4]

**Notice of Availability of Permits Improvement Team; Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations; Final Draft Recommendation**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of the document "Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations" and the Agency's request for stakeholder comment. As part of the Administration's program to "Reinvent Environmental Regulation," the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency created a Permits Improvement Team (PIT) to evaluate the Agency's permitting programs, those administered by states, tribes and local agencies and those administered directly by EPA, and to develop recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the permitting process.

**DATES:** Written comments must be postmarked or submitted by hand or electronically by no later than September 3, 1996. Due to the previous stakeholder involvement in the development of the PIT recommendations, including the recent (May 10, 1996) Federal Register notice, this comment period will not be extended. Thus, this is the final opportunity for public comment on these recommendations.

**ADDRESSES:** To submit comments, the public must send an original and two copies to Docket Number F-96-PT2A-FFFFF, located at the RCRA Docket. The official address is: RCRA Information Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (5035W), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Although the mailing address for the RCRA Information Center has not changed, the office was physically moved in November 1995. Therefore, hand-delivered comments should be taken to the new address: 1235 Jefferson Davis Highway, First Floor, Arlington, Virginia. (Also see the section under "Supplementary Information" regarding the paperless office effort for submitting public comments.) The RCRA Information Center is open for public inspection and copying of supporting information from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays. The public must make

an appointment to review docket materials by calling (703) 603-9230. The public may copy a maximum of 100 pages from any regulatory document at no cost. Additional copies cost \$0.15 per page.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lance Miller, PIT Executive Director at Permits Improvement Team, Mail Stop 100, 2890 Woodbridge Ave., Edison NJ 08837, phone: (908) 321-6782.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Availability of Document**

The PIT Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations follows this notice. In addition, the document can be obtained via the internet at 'gopher://gopher.epa.gov' or 'http://www.epa.gov'. After reaching either of these internet sites, locate the search function and type 'Permit Improvement Team' to locate the Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations.

**Background Information**

The PIT was established in July 1994 and is composed of representatives from EPA Headquarters and Regional offices and state, tribal and local permitting agencies. The PIT held numerous stakeholder meetings to solicit input on the most critical permitting issues as well as to obtain feedback on the PIT's initial recommendations.

Although significant input on the PIT's recommendations has been received through the stakeholder meetings, a final opportunity to review and comment on the recommendations is being provided to ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in the development of the significant change in direction for permitting programs that is being contemplated. The Agency intends to use the concept paper on environmental permitting as an overall guide for reforms to permit programs, where appropriate. The individual recommendations contained in the document will be considered by program and regional offices as they develop specific plans in response to the concepts discussed in the PIT recommendations. These plans will include providing assistance to states and tribes that choose to consider and implement appropriate permit reform. As specific program changes are developed, opportunities for stakeholder input will be provided. It is anticipated that stakeholders will use the final concept paper, as well as other relevant documents and authorities

such as applicable statutes, in their review of specific permit program changes. This will help to provide all stakeholders with a common context when commenting on these specific changes.

For some permitting programs, minor changes may be needed to implement many of the concepts specified in the document; while other programs may require more significant modifications. Some of these modifications may also require changes to statutes and regulations and could necessitate technical research and analysis prior to revising permit programs to conform with the recommendations. Therefore, the time-frame to implement the recommendations could range from several months to many years. The Agency notes that current permitting system were developed over the last three decades, and that changes need to be made within the existing systems while they evolve to the approach envisioned in the concept paper. Furthermore, as implementation proceeds, it is likely that some of the concepts will require revision based on new information.

***Paperless Office Effort***

EPA is asking prospective commenters to voluntarily submit one additional copy of their comments on labeled personal computer diskettes in ASCII (TEXT) format or a word processing format that can be converted to ACSII (TEXT). It is essential to specify on the disk label the word processing software and version/edition as well as the commenter's name. This will allow EPA to convert the comments into one of the word processing formats utilized by the Agency. Please use mailing envelopes designed to physically protect the submitted diskettes. EPA emphasizes that submission of comments on diskettes is not mandatory, nor will it result in any advantage or disadvantage to any commenter. Rather, EPA is experimenting with this procedure as an attempt to expedite our internal review and response to comments. This expedited procedure is in conjunction with the Agency "Paperless Office" campaign.

Elliott P. Laws,

*Designated Federal Official.*

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