

enables EPA to base its testing decisions on the most complete information available and to avoid demands for testing that may be duplicative. EPA will use information obtained via this collection to support its investigation of the risks posed by chemicals and, in particular, to support its decisions on whether to require industry to test chemicals under section 4 of TSCA.

Responses to the collection of information are mandatory (see 40 CFR part 716). Respondents may claim all or part of a notice confidential. EPA will disclose information that is covered by a claim of confidentiality only to the extent permitted by, and in accordance with, the procedures in TSCA section 14 and 40 CFR part 2.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to range between 2.0 hours and 23.5 hours per response, depending upon the requirements that the collection places on each respondent. This estimate 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. No person is required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are displayed in 40 CFR Part 9.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Those that manufacture, process, import, or distribute in commerce chemical substances or mixtures.

Estimated No. Of Respondents: 852.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 9,668 hours.

Frequency of Collection: On Occasion.

Send comments regarding the burden estimate, or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the following addresses. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 0575.07 and OMB Control No. 2070-0004 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Information Policy Branch (2136), 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: February 14, 1996

Joseph Retzer,

Director, Regulatory Information Division.

[FR Doc. 96-3860 Filed 2-20-96; 8:45 am]

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[OPP-180990; FRL-5348-3]

Emergency Exemptions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has granted specific exemptions for the control of various pests to 11 States listed below. Six crisis exemptions were initiated by various States and one quarantine exemption was granted to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. These exemptions, issued during the months of July through December 1995, and the one in January 1996, are subject to application and timing restrictions and reporting requirements designed to protect the environment to the maximum extent possible. EPA has denied specific exemption requests from the Minnesota and North Dakota Departments of Agriculture. Information on these restrictions is available from the contact persons in EPA listed below.

DATES: See each specific, crisis, and quarantine exemptions for its effective date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: See each emergency exemption for the name of the contact person. The following information applies to all contact persons: By mail: Registration Division (7505W), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location and telephone number: 6th Floor, CS 1B1, 2800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA (703-308-8417); e-mail: group.ermus@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has granted specific exemptions to the:

1. Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries for the use of Pirate on cotton to control tobacco budworms; August 4, 1995, to September 30, 1995. (Margarita Collantes)
2. Alabama Agriculture and Industries for the use of Pirate on cotton to control beet armyworms; August 25, 1995, to September 30, 1996. (Margarita Collantes)
3. Arizona Department of Agriculture for the use of propamocarb

hydrochloride on potatoes to control late blight; December 18, 1995, to April 30, 1996. (Libby Pemberton)

4. Arkansas State Plant Board for the use of Pirate on cotton to control tobacco budworms; August 4, 1995, to September 30, 1995. (Margarita Collantes)

5. California Department of Pesticide Regulation for the use of propamocarb hydrochloride on tomatoes to control late blight; October 12, 1995, to December 31, 1995. (Libby Pemberton)

6. California Department of Pesticide Regulation for the use of methyl bromide on watermelons to control nematodes, weeds, and fungi; December 15, 1995, to April 30, 1996. (Libby Pemberton)

7. California Department of Pesticide Regulation for the use of methyl bromide on carrots to control nematodes; December 14, 1995, to December 13, 1996. (Libby Pemberton)

8. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the use of lactofen on snap beans to control nightshade and common ragweed; September 1, 1995, to May 31, 1996. (Margarita Collantes)

9. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the use of Pirate on cotton to control beet armyworms and tobacco budworms; September 1, 1995, to September 1, 1996. (Margarita Collantes)

10. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the use of avermectin on potatoes to control leafminers; October 27, 1995, to June 1, 1996. (David Deegan)

11. Georgia Department of Agriculture for the use of metalaxyl on mustard greens, turnips and collards to control downy mildew; October 13, 1995, to June 30, 1996. (David Deegan)

12. Georgia Department of Agriculture for the use of Pirate on cotton to control tobacco budworms; August 8, 1995, to September 30, 1995. (Margarita Collantes)

13. Idaho Department of Agriculture for the use of imazalil on sweet corn seed to control damping-off and die-back diseases; November 22, 1995, to November 22, 1996. (Andrea Beard)

14. Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the use of Pirate on cotton to control tobacco budworms; August 4, 1995, to September 30, 1995. (Margarita Collantes)

15. Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce for the use of Pirate on cotton to control beet armyworms; August 25, 1995, to September 30, 1995. (Margarita Collantes)

16. Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce for the use of Pirate on cotton to control tobacco budworms; August 4, 1995, to September 30, 1995. (Margarita Collantes)

17. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the use of carboxin on onion seed to control onion smut; November 22, 1995, to June 1, 1996. (Kerry Leifer)

18. Texas Department of Agriculture for the use of propamocarb hydrochloride on potatoes to control late blight; January 1, 1996, to October 31, 1996. (Libby Pemberton)

19. Texas Department of Agriculture for the use of Pirate on cotton to control beet armyworms; August 18, 1995, to September 30, 1995. (Margarita Collantes)

Crisis exemptions were initiated by the:

1. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on August 14, 1995, for the use of tebufenozide on cotton to control beet armyworms. This program has ended. (Margarita Collantes)

2. Idaho Department of Agriculture on July 14, 1995, for the use of paraquat dichloride on dry peas to control regrowth vegetation. This program has ended. (David Deegan)

3. New Mexico Department of Agriculture on September 2, 1995, for the use of triadimefon on peppers to control powdery mildew. This program has ended. (Andrea Beard)

4. Washington Department of Agriculture on July 20, 1995, for the use of paraquat dichloride on dry peas to control regrowth vegetation. This program has ended. (David Deegan)

5. United States Department of Agriculture on December 1, 1995, for the use of methyl bromide on leafy vegetables, root and tuber vegetables, and kiwi fruit to control foreign pests. This program is expected to last until December 1, 1998. (Libby Pemberton)

6. United States Department of Agriculture on October 14, 1995, for the use of methyl bromide on bananas, plantains, avocados, blackberries, raspberries, and opuntia to control various imported pests. This program is expected to last until October 14, 1998. (Libby Pemberton)

EPA has denied specific exemption requests from the Minnesota and North Dakota Departments of Agriculture for the use of triallate on sugarbeets to control wild oats. The Agency denied the exemptions because there are registered alternative products available for the uses; therefore, an emergency situation does not exist. (David Deegan)

EPA has granted a quarantine exemption to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the use of naled on non-food sites (utility poles, trees, other inanimate objects), as bait spots in a program to eradicate the Oriental fruit fly; October 18, 1995, to October 18, 1998. (Andrea Beard)

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 136.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests, Crisis exemptions.

Dated: February 7, 1996.

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

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[CC Docket No. 92-133; DA 96-139]

Common Carrier Bureau Sets Pleading Schedule in Preliminary Rate of Return Inquiry.

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") is issuing a public notice ("Notice") asking for comments on whether a rate of return represcription proceeding should be initiated for those local exchange carriers ("LECs") who are subject to rate of return regulation for their earnings on interstate access services. The commenters may submit any evidence and opinion they deem relevant to the cost of debt, cost of equity and the capital structure for LEC interstate access services. The Notice contains a revised cost of debt formula not presently included in the Commission's rules. The information contained in the comments and reply comments will be used to help the Commission decide whether to initiate a represcription proceeding.

DATES: All comments shall be filed no later than March 11, 1996. Reply comments shall be filed no later than April 15, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas J. Beers, telephone number (202) 418-0872, or John Hays, telephone number 202-418-0875.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 1. This is a summary of the Commission's public notice, released February 6, 1996, asking

for comments on whether a rate of return represcription proceeding should be initiated for those local exchange carriers ("LECs") who are subject to rate of return regulation for their earnings on interstate access services. See 47 CFR § 65.101. In a *Report and Order* in CC Docket No. 92-133, 60 FR 28542, June 1, 1995 ("Order"), the Commission adopted new represcription procedures under which the Commission monitors the monthly average yields on ten-year United States Treasury securities. Whenever such monthly average yields remain, for a consecutive six-month period, at least 150 basis points (i.e., 1.5 percent) above or below a certain reference point, the Commission must issue a Notice inquiring whether to commence a rate of return represcription proceeding. The reference point is the average of the average monthly yields in effect for the consecutive six-month period immediately prior to the effective date of the current rate of return prescription. The Notice must: (1) set filing deadlines for comments and replies; (2) set forth the cost of debt, cost of preferred stock, and capital structure computed in accordance with Part 65 of the Commission's rules; and (3) solicit "such further information as the Commission might deem proper." 47 CFR §§ 65.302, 65.303, and 65.304. The Commission delegated authority to issue the Notice to the Chief, Common Carrier Bureau ("Bureau"). As stated in the *Report and Order*, the reference point currently is set at 8.64 percent.

2. For the consecutive six-month period May through October 1995, the yields on ten-year United States Treasury securities were more than 150 basis points below the 8.64 percent reference point. This downward trend in rates continued for the month of November 1995 when the yield on the ten-year Treasury securities was 5.93 percent, i.e., 2.71 percent below the reference point. The Commission, therefore, is issuing this Notice to ask interested parties to file comments and replies in order to help the Commission decide whether to initiate a represcription proceeding.

3. The Commission invites commenters to submit any evidence and opinion they deem relevant, including evidence regarding the cost of equity for LEC interstate access services. The Commission may decide to initiate a represcription proceeding based on information submitted in this proceeding and "on any other information specifically identified" by the Commission. See 47 CFR § 65.101(b). In an appendix ("Appendix") attached to the Notice,