

industry in U.S. coastal waters are increasing. Although these viruses pose no threat to human health, outbreaks on U.S. shrimp farms, the appearance of diseased shrimp in U.S. commerce, and new information on the susceptibility of shrimp and other crustaceans to these viruses prompted calls for action. In response, the JSA (representing Federal organizations including the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (DOC/NOAA/NMFS); the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (DOA/CREES); Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (DOA/APHIS); and Agricultural Research Service (DOA/ARS); U.S. Department of Energy; U.S. Department of Defense; Army Corp of Engineers (DOD/ACE); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration (HHS/FDA); Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA); the EPA; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)) tasked the Federal interagency Shrimp Virus Workgroup (DOC/NMFS, EPA, FWS, and USDA/APHIS) with assessing the shrimp virus problem.

Publication of this draft final report is another in a series of related activities sponsored by EPA, in cooperation with DOC/NMFS, USDA/APHIS, and FWS, on behalf of the JSA. In June 1997, the Shrimp Virus Workgroup summarized the available information on shrimp viruses in a report to the JSA entitled, "An Evaluation of Potential Shrimp Virus Impacts on Cultured Shrimp and on Wild Shrimp Populations in the Gulf of Mexico and Southeastern U.S. Atlantic Coastal Water" (JSA Shrimp Virus Report (JSVR)). The JSVR was reviewed at four stakeholder meetings (see 62 FR 31790-31791 (June 11, 1997)), jointly sponsored by EPA, DOC/NMFS, and USDA/APHIS on behalf of the JSA, during July 1997. Previous products of these efforts include the JSVR (see <http://kingfish.ssp.nmfs.gov/oit/oit.html>) and the Minutes of the Stakeholder Meetings Report (EPA/630/R-92/001) (see <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/pdfs/shrimp5.pdf>). These products and additional stakeholder (public) comments formed the basis for the shrimp virus peer review and risk assessment workshop. The workshop participants considered potential pathways to wild shrimp populations including shrimp aquaculture, shrimp processing and "other" sources and pathways, and independently assessed risks using a qualitative risk assessment approach developed by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

The workshop report concludes that viruses could survive in pathways leading to coastal environments, and that there is potential for viruses to affect native shrimp in localized areas, such as an estuary or bay. However, it concludes that local populations of shrimp would recover rapidly as a result of reintroduction of shrimp or increases in reproduction. Although there was high uncertainty, the report concludes that the risks from viral introductions to the entire population of native shrimp in U.S. coastal waters is relatively low. Though limited by the time and information available, the report determines that impacts to organisms besides shrimp deserved further consideration.

Finally, while qualitative evaluations are valuable, the report concludes that they are associated with a great deal of uncertainty. Therefore, given the limited information currently available, it is not feasible to conduct a more comprehensive, quantitative assessment of the risks associated with nonindigenous pathogenic shrimp viruses at this time. Participants noted that there is a need to conduct further systematic research efforts to reduce uncertainty.

The workshop report, and the results of the independent scientific review of its conclusions and recommendations, will be used as the basis for a risk management workshop on shrimp viruses scheduled for July 28-29, 1998, in New Orleans. This workshop, jointly sponsored by the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program, DOC/NMFS, and DOA/CREES/ARS, will develop options and strategies for managing the threat of shrimp viruses to cultured and wild stocks of shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico and southeastern U.S. Atlantic coastal waters. Persons interested in attending the upcoming risk management workshop should contact William D. Holland, Gulf of Mexico Program Office, Building 1103, Room 202, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000; telephone: (228) 688-3726; fax: (228) 688-2709; e-mail: holland.bill@epa.gov.

Dated: July 10, 1998.

William H. Farland,

Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

[FR Doc. 98-19248 Filed 7-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[PB-402404-MS; FRL-5799-4]

Lead-Based Paint Activities in Target Housing and Child-Occupied Facilities; State of Mississippi's Authorization Application

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; request for comments and opportunity for public hearing.

SUMMARY: On March 12, 1998, the State of Mississippi submitted an application for EPA approval to administer and enforce training and certification requirements, training program accreditation requirements, and work practice standards for lead-based paint activities in target housing and child-occupied facilities under section 402 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). This notice announces the receipt of Mississippi's application, provides a 45-day public comment period, and provides an opportunity to request a public hearing on the application.

DATES: Comments on the authorization application must be received on or before August 31, 1998. Public hearing requests must be received on or before August 3, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit all written comments and/or requests for a public hearing identified by docket control number "PB-402404-MS" (in duplicate) to: Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth St., SW., Atlanta, GA 30303-3104.

Comments, data, and requests for a public hearing may also be submitted electronically to: rudd.roseanne@epa.epamail.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit V. of this document. No information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rose Anne Rudd, Regional Lead Coordinator, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV, Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth St., SW., Atlanta, GA 30303-3104, telephone: (404) 562-8998, e-mail address: rudd.roseanne@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On October 28, 1992, the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, Pub. L. 102-550, became law. Title X of that statute was the Residential Lead-

Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992. That Act amended TSCA (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*) by adding Title IV (15 U.S.C. 2681-92), entitled "Lead Exposure Reduction."

Section 402 of TSCA authorizes and directs EPA to promulgate final regulations governing lead-based paint activities in target housing, public and commercial buildings, bridges, and other structures. Those regulations are to ensure that individuals engaged in such activities are properly trained, that training programs are accredited, and that individuals engaged in these activities are certified and follow documented work practice standards. Under section 404, a State may seek authorization from EPA to administer and enforce its own lead-based paint activities program.

On August 29, 1996 (61 FR 45777) (FRL-5389-9), EPA promulgated final TSCA section 402/404 regulations governing lead-based paint activities in target housing and child-occupied facilities (a subset of public buildings). Those regulations are codified at 40 CFR part 745, and allow both States and Indian Tribes to apply for program authorization. Pursuant to section 404(h) of TSCA, EPA is to establish the Federal program in any State or Tribal Nation without its own authorized program in place by August 31, 1998.

States and Tribes that choose to apply for program authorization must submit a complete application to the appropriate Regional EPA Office for review. Those applications will be reviewed by EPA within 180 days of receipt of the complete application. To receive EPA approval, a State or Tribe must demonstrate that its program is at least as protective of human health and the environment as the Federal program, and provides for adequate enforcement (section 404(b) of TSCA). EPA's regulations (40 CFR part 745, subpart Q) provide the detailed requirements a State or Tribal program must meet in order to obtain EPA approval.

Pursuant to section 404(b) of TSCA, EPA provides notice and an opportunity for a public hearing on a State or Tribal program application before authorizing the program. Therefore, by this notice EPA is soliciting public comment on whether Mississippi's application meets the requirements for EPA approval. This notice also provides an opportunity to request a public hearing on the application. If a hearing is requested and granted, EPA will issue a **Federal Register** notice announcing the date, time, and place of the hearing. EPA's final decision on the application will be published in the **Federal Register**.

II. State Program Description Summary

The following summary of Mississippi's proposed program has been provided by the applicant:

The State of Mississippi, through the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), is seeking authorization from EPA to administer and enforce its own lead-based paint activities program. Regulations setting out the procedures and requirements for these activities were adopted by the Commission on Environmental Quality on January 22, 1998. Requirements under the regulations will be applicable beginning August 31, 1998. The authority to administer and enforce a State program was provided for in the "Lead-Based Paint Activity Accreditation and Certification Act" passed by the Mississippi Legislature during the 1997 regular session.

The State lead-based paint program regulations are applicable to persons engaged in lead-based paint activities in target housing and child-occupied facilities. The State certification program requirements include the certification of firms, inspectors, risk assessors, supervisors, project designers, and workers. Each certification discipline must meet required academic and/or experience requirements of the State program regulations. Individuals must successfully pass the third party exam applicable to the certification discipline in order to be certified. The State program sets forth work practice standards for persons performing lead-based paint activities. The State program requires the filing of a project notification, in writing, prior to the commencement of any lead-based paint abatement activity.

All initial and refresher lead-based paint activities training programs must be accredited. The State program requires training programs to notify the State prior to conducting a training course. Full approval of a training program's lead-based paint activities course is contingent on a satisfactory on-site course audit.

The State program provides for the suspension, revocation, or modification of training program accreditation and certifications of individuals and firms.

The State lead program also conducts outreach and compliance assistance activities. The objective of the activities is to educate the public and regulated community of the hazards of lead-based paint. The activities also inform the public and regulated community of the regulatory requirements applicable to lead-based paint activities.

III. Federal Overfiling

TSCA section 404(b) makes it unlawful for any person to violate, or fail or refuse to comply with, any requirement of an approved State or Tribal program. Therefore, EPA reserves the right to exercise its enforcement authority under TSCA against a violation of, or a failure or refusal to comply with, any requirement of an authorized State or Tribal program.

IV. Applicability of Regulatory Assessment Requirements

EPA's actions on State or Tribal lead-based paint activities program applications are informal adjudications, not rules. Therefore, the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), Executive Order 12866 ("Regulatory Planning and Review," 58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), and Executive Order 13045 ("Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks," 62 FR 1985, April 23, 1997), do not apply to this action. In addition, this action does not contain any Federal mandates, and therefore is not subject to the requirements of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1531-1538) or Executive Order 12875 ("Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership," 58 FR 58093, October 28, 1993). Finally, this action does not contain any information collection requirements and therefore does not require review or approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

V. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this action, as well as the public version, has been established under docket control number "PB-402404-MS." Copies of this notice, the State of Mississippi's authorization application, and all comments received on the application are available for inspection in the Region IV office, from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The docket is located at the EPA Region IV Library, Environmental Protection Agency, Atlanta Federal Center, 9th Floor, 61 Forsyth St., SW., Atlanta, GA.

Commenters are encouraged to structure their comments so as not to contain information for which Confidential Business Information (CBI) claims would be made. However, any information claimed as CBI must be marked "confidential," "CBI," or with some other appropriate designation, and a commenter submitting such information must also prepare a

nonconfidential version (in duplicate) that can be placed in the public record. Any information so marked will be handled in accordance with the procedures contained in 40 CFR part 2. Comments and information not claimed as CBI at the time of submission will be placed in the public record.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:

rudd.roseanne@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 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number "PB-402404-MS." Electronic comments on this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Information claimed as CBI should not be submitted electronically.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 2682, 2684.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Hazardous substances, Lead, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: July 8, 1998.

A. Stanley Meiburg,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region IV.

[FR Doc. 98-19139 Filed 7-16-98; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC Renews EAS National Advisory Committee Charter

July 10, 1998.

In accordance with GSA Final Rule on Federal advisory committee management, 41 CFR 101-6.1015, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is giving official notice of the renewal of the Emergency Alert System National Advisory Committee (NAC). The term of this advisory committee runs from July 25, 1998 to July 25, 2000.

The Committee advises the FCC on all matters concerning the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and its implementation including, but not limited to, emergency alerting policies, technologies, plans, regulations, and procedures at the national, state and local levels. The Committee also recommends and develops training and education regarding the EAS and coordinates with state and local officials to assist in establishing and maintaining effective emergency alerting programs. The Committee, in general, interfaces,

coordinates, and exchanges information with the public, industry, and various levels of government concerning the EAS.

For additional information, contact Bonnie Gay at (202) 418-1228.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-19032 Filed 7-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-M

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 98-1369]

International Traffic Data Reporting Requirements

All common carriers that provided international telecommunications services in 1997 must file a report of their international traffic data for calendar year 1997 by July 31, 1998. The detailed filing requirements are contained in the "Manual for Filing Section 43.61 Data" (Manual). This Public Notice provides first a brief overview of the Section 43.61 annual filing requirement. Second, it establishes additional billing codes that "facilities-based" and "facilities-resale" (described below) carriers should use to report U.S. and foreign billed traffic that was settled under an "alternative settlement arrangement" for which the carrier received Commission approval under § 64.1002 of the rules, 47 CFR 64.1002. It also makes a conforming change to the billing code for "pure resale" services. Third, this notice provides guidance to carriers with respect to reporting: (1) Switched traffic routed over international private lines; (2) "country direct" and "country beyond" services; and (3) "reorigination" services (foreign-billed services which a U.S.-authorized carrier "reoriginated" through the United States). Attached to this Public Notice is a revised table of billing codes for facilities-based and facilities-resale services. This table sets forth the new billing codes for facilities-based and facilities-resale services in a form that is intended to clarify the reporting of data for these services. Carriers that anticipate problems in filing their 1997 data in accordance with the guidelines and billing codes contained in this notice should obtain a waiver prior to July 31.

Overview

All common carriers that billed for international service in 1997, including pre-paid calling card and international

call-back service providers, must file § 43.61 international traffic data by July 31, 1998. Some carriers do not resell international services, but do include on their bills to customers international service charges clearly identified as the charges of other carriers. Such carriers are not required to file § 43.61 international traffic data.

The § 43.61 filing requirements depend on both the type of service provided and how carriers provide the service. The simplest filing requirements are for "pure resale" services. Carriers provide "pure resale" services by reselling the international switched services of other U.S.-authorized carriers. The Manual contains simplified filing requirements for such "pure resale" services. For example, carriers report their pure resale services on a world total (rather than a country specific) basis, and they may file their data on paper only (rather than also filing on diskette).

Carriers that provided international services over international circuits that they own or lease must provide significantly more information for these services than they provide for "pure resale" services. Carriers file annual data on a country-by-country basis for their facilities-based and facilities-resale services and must include information on international settlement payments and receipts. The Manual defines "facilities-based" service as a service provided using channels of communication which the carrier owns; or in which the carrier has an ownership interest, such as an indefeasible right of use (IRU); or which the carrier leases from an entity that is not required to report those circuits in its own § 43.61 reports. The Manual defines "facilities-resale" service as a service provided over non-switched international circuits leased from other reporting international carriers. In other contexts, the Commission refers to this method of providing international service as "private line resale." The routing of switched traffic over private lines between the United States and a foreign country has also been referred to as "International Simple Resale (ISR)." The rules governing the provision of ISR are set forth in § 63.21(a), 47 CFR 63.21(a), as amended in *Rules and Policies on Foreign Participation in the U.S. Telecommunications Market, Market Entry and Regulation of Foreign-Affiliated Entities*, IB Docket Nos. 97-142, 95-22, Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, 12 FCC Rcd 23891 (1997) (62 FR 64741, December 9, 1997), *recon. pending*.