Research Group, Inc. (ERG) to manage and conduct the peer review. To attend the meeting contact ERG's registration line at (781) 674–7374, and reference the ''PCBs Peer Review Meeting.'' A limited amount of time will be set aside for members of the public to present brief oral comments regarding the Preliminary Model Calibration Report (PMCR) to the peer review panel or for public record on each day of the meeting. Oral presentations will be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes, and the number of people giving oral comment may be limited by the time available. Opportunity for making oral comment will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis; therefore, the public is encouraged to register in advance to present oral comments by contacting ERG's registration line at (781) 674–7374.

For general questions about the overall Hudson River PCBs Reassessment, contact Ann Rychlenski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II, Communications Division, 290 Broadway, New York, NY, 10007–1866, (212) 637–3672.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: From about 1947 to 1977, approximately 1.1 million pounds of PCBs were discharged into the Hudson River from two General Electric (GE) Company capacitor manufacturing plants located in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, New York. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified PCBs as probable human carcinogens. In 1983, a 197-mile stretch of the Hudson River from Hudson Falls to the Battery in New York City was classified as a Superfund site. In 1984, EPA made an interim no-action decision for the contaminated upper Hudson River sediments.

In 1990, EPA began the reassessment of its no-action decision of PCB-contaminated sediments in the upper Hudson River. Because of the size and complexity of the site and the high degree of public interest associated with this project, EPA decided to conduct the reassessment in three phases, issuing reports to the public as work progressed. Phase 2, the largest in scope, was further broken down into six segments. EPA's eventual remedial decision for this site will depend on the information contained in all three phases of the project and in all associated reports, and how that information fits together as a whole. The reports consist of the following:

Phase 1 Report—This report compiled and analyzed existing data relevant to PCB contamination in the Hudson River. The report also included a preliminary ecological risk assessment and a preliminary human health risk assessment. The Phase 1 Report was released in August 1991.

Phase 2 Report—The Phase 2 Report consists of seven separately issued reports:

- Database Report—The report is a guide to understanding the information contained in the database and where to find it. The database includes EPA's Phase 2 data from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), General Electric (GE), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and other sources. EPA's database is available to the public on CD–ROM. An explanation of the database is contained in the Database Report, but the report did not include any analyses or findings. The report was released in November 1995; the CD–ROM was released in March 1996. An update to the database is expected in July 1998.
- Preliminary Model Calibration Report—This report includes groundwork for projections of future concentrations of PCBs in water, sediment, and fish tissue; rationale for selection of calibration data sets; and projections for the Thompson Island Pool. The report provides interested parties with an opportunity to review and comment on the assumptions used in the models developed for the reassessment. The report was released in October 1996.
- Data Evaluation and Interpretation Report—This report contains geochemical analysis of data from water columns and high-resolution sediment coring investigations; evaluation of these data to determine relationships between parameters; and evaluation of PCB sources. This report, which complements the computer modeling, was released in February 1997.
- Low Resolution Coring Report—This report contains information that describes the technical approach for the Low Resolution Coring Program, field sampling procedures, and sample analysis. The report also interprets the results of the program, presents evidence on how the low-resolution coring results build on previously collected Phase 2 data, and examines PCB inventories in the area of study.
- Baseline Modeling Report—This report will provide projections of future concentrations of PCBs in water, sediment, and fish tissue without remediation; will include the interpretation of the low-resolution sediment coring data; and will provide interested parties an opportunity to review the baseline model projections prior to their incorporation into the risk assessments.
- Ecological Risk Assessment—This report will include the evaluation and interpretation of the ecological field data, further the Phase I ecological risk assessment, and present the ecological risk to certain organisms associated with the site.
- Human Health Risk Assessment—This report will present the human health risks associated with the site. It includes cancer and non-cancer risks from consumption of fish and other exposure pathways from the upper Hudson River, will include the most current PCB toxicity values adopted by EPA in the risk calculation, and will qualitatively address endocrine disruption effects.

Phase 3 Report—The Phase 3 Report will consist of the Feasibility Study, a detailed analysis of remedial alternatives, the running of models for each remedial scenario, and a calculation of risk reduction for each scenario.

The above reassessment reports taken together, along with the public comment received on them, will assist EPA in formulating a Proposed Plan for the Site, in which the Agency will propose its preferred remedy for the Site.

Only the Preliminary Model Calibration Report (PMCR) and related supplemental documents will be the subject of the scientific peer review meeting to be held on September 9 and 10, 1998; the Phase 1 Report, the other Phase 2 Reports, and the Phase 3 Report will not be addressed.

Dated: September 1, 1998.

William J. Muszynski,

Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 2.

[FR Doc. 98–24478 Filed 9–10–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP–00551; FRL–6027–7]

Initiation of Rodenticide Stakeholder Process and Availability of Zinc Phosphide and Rodenticide Cluster Reregistration Eligibility Decision Documents

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Initiation of rodenticide stakeholder process; Notice of availability of reregistration eligibility decision documents; Interest in State incident data.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of and starts a 60–day public

comment period for the Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) documents for the active ingredients brodifacoum, bromadiolone, bromethalin, chlorophacinone, diphacinone and its sodium salt, and pival and its sodium salt (Rodenticide Cluster) and zinc phosphide. The REDs for these chemicals are the Agency's formal regulatory assessments of the health and environmental data base of the subject chemicals and present the Agency's determination regarding which pesticidal uses are eligible for reregistration. This notice also announces the rodenticide stakeholder meetings and Agency interest in obtaining State incident data involving non-target and secondary poisoning to wildlife from rodenticides.

DATES: Written comments on the RED decisions must be submitted by November 10, 1998. The stakeholder meeting(s) are expected to be held in November or December, 1998. Anyone interested in serving on the stakeholder panel should notify the Agency of their interest by October 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Three copies of comments identified with the docket control number (OPP–00551) and the case number (noted below), should be submitted to: By mail: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, deliver comments to the docket on the first floor (Room 119), CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit III of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this document 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 record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public docket by EPA without prior notice. The public docket is available for public inspection in Rm. 119 at the Virginia address given above, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Technical questions on the RED documents listed below should be directed to the appropriate point-of-contact:

Chemical Name	Case No	Point of Contact	Telephone No.	e-mail Address
Zinc phosphide	0026	Susan Jennings	703–308–7130	jennings.susan@epamail.epa.gov
Brodifacoum	2755	Dennis Deziel	703–308–8173	deziel.dennis@epamail.epa.gov
Bromadiolone	2760	Dennis Deziel	703–308–8173	deziel.dennis@epamail.epa.gov
Bromethalin	2765	Dennis Deziel	703–308–8173	deziel.dennis@epamail.epa.gov
Chlorophacinone	2100	Dennis Deziel	703–308–8173	deziel.dennis@epamail.epa.gov
Diphacinone and its sodium salts.	2205	Dennis Deziel	703–308–8173	deziel.dennis@epamail.epa.gov
Pival and its sodium salts	2810	Dennis Deziel	703–308–8173	deziel.dennis@epamail.epa.gov

For further information regarding the rodenticide stakeholder meeting contact either Susan Jennings or Dennis Deziel at the phone numbers listed above. For further information regarding the review of State incident data contact Dennis Deziel.

To request a copy of any of the above listed RED documents, or a specific RED Fact Sheet, contact the OPP Pesticide Docket, Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, first floor (Room 119), at the address given above or call (703) 305–5805.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Electronic Availability

Electronic copies of this document and the final PR Notice also are available from the EPA Home page at the **Federal Register**—Environmental Documents entry for this document under ''Laws and Regulations'' (http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/).

Electronic copies of the REDs and RED fact sheets can also be downloaded from the Pesticide Reregistration Eligibility Decisions (REDs) home page at http://www.epa.gov/REDs.

II. Reregistration Decision

The Agency has issued RED documents for the pesticidal active ingredients listed in the SUMMARY. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended in 1988, EPA is conducting an accelerated reregistration program to reevaluate existing pesticides to make sure they meet current scientific and regulatory standards. The data base to support the reregistration of each of the chemicals, except for pival and its sodium salts, is substantially complete. Due to a lack of data, pival and its sodium salts are ineligible for reregistration.

All registrants of products containing one or more of the active ingredients have been sent the appropriate RED documents and must respond to labeling requirements and product specific data requirements (if applicable) within 8 months of receipt. Products containing other active ingredients will not be reregistered until those other active ingredients are determined to be eligible for reregistration.

The reregistration program is being conducted under congressionally mandated timeframes, and EPA recognizes both the need to make timely reregistration decisions and to involve the public. Therefore, EPA is issuing these REDs as final documents with a 60–day comment period. Although the 60–day public comment period does not affect the registrants' response due date, it is intended to provide an opportunity for public input and a mechanism for initiating any necessary amendments to the RED. All comments will be carefully considered by the Agency.

III. National Rodenticide Stakeholder Meeting(s)

The Agency is concerned about accidental poisonings of young children by rodenticide products. Data collected by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) for 1995 showed approximately 15,000 exposures to children younger than 6 years. Of the total number of human exposures to rodenticides in 1995, almost 6,500 were significant enough to result in treatment at a health care facility.

During the RED process, the Agency investigated several regulatory measures that could mitigate these risks, but

wanted to ensure that any adopted measures were consistent with public health values and priorities. Therefore, the Agency is initiating a rodenticide stakeholder process to develop a risk mitigation strategy to protect young children from rodenticide products while preserving the public health benefits of these products. The stakeholder process will consist of one or more meetings that will be open to the public. A core group of individuals or representatives from organizations will serve on a panel to discuss and analyze several mitigation proposals, ultimately concluding with recommendations to the Agency on how to further mitigate risks to young children from rodenticide poisonings. Panel members will represent a broad cross-section of the public and will be expected to attend all of the stakeholder meetings.

The first of the stakeholder meetings is expected to be held sometime in November or December 1998, in Washington, DC. The Agency is hopeful that 2–3 separate full-day panel meetings will be sufficient to resolve these issues, however, it recognizes that several more meetings may be warranted. EPA will announce the dates and times of the meetings in a subsequent **Federal Register** notice. The stakeholder process will also discuss issues that may pertain to other rodenticide products, such as those which contain warafin, red squill, difethialone, cholecalciferol/Vitamin D-3, difethialone, and possibly registrations of new rodenticide active ingredients. Anyone interested in these products may also attend. The Agency welcomes proposals for mitigation techniques and invites anyone who might be interested in serving on the panel to please contact Susan Jennings or Dennis Deziel at the addresses or phone numbers under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT within 30 days of the date of this notice.

IV. Reviewing Wildlife Incident Data

The Agency recently became aware of incident data suggesting that there may be a potential problem involving accidental non-target and secondary exposures to wildlife from the rodenticides subject to this notice of availability. At this time, the Agency is reviewing available data; no final conclusions have been reached. After a complete review, if a problem or pattern is detected, the Agency may impose additional restrictions on the use of any rodenticide products involved. The Agency is directed by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) to coordinate its actions with states. In this vein, the Agency will be reviewing, and would be interested in receiving, State wildlife incident data for all rodenticides to better understand the extent of this potential problem.

V. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this notice, as well as the public version, has been established for this notice under docket control number (OPP–00551) (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 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The official record is located at the Virginia address in ''ADDRESSES'' at the beginning of this document.

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. Comment and data will also be accepted on disks in Wordperfect 5.1/6.1 file formats or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number (OPP–00551). Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection.

Dated: September 3, 1998.

Jack E. Housenger,

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

[FR Doc. 98–24337 Filed 9–10–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6159–7]

Ulah Battery Lead Reclaiming Site; Notice of Proposed Settlement

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of proposed settlement.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to settle claims with Sears, Roebuck and Co., pursuant to a Cost Recovery Agreement for reimbursement of $20,000 of costs under section 122(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. 9622(h). These costs related to removal actions taken by EPA at the Ulah Battery Lead Reclaiming Site, located in Asheboro, Randolph County, North Carolina. Sears, Roebuck and Co., has agreed to pay $20,000.00 of the $120,616.88 spent by EPA, for past response costs that the United States incurred and paid with regard to the Site. The United States retains all right to pursue any other potentially responsible parties (PRPs) for all unreimbursed costs related to the removal actions at the Site.

Pursuant to section 122(i) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(i), EPA will consider public comments on the proposed settlement for thirty (30) days. EPA may withdraw or withhold consent to the proposed settlement if such comments disclose facts or considerations which indicate the proposed settlement is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. Copies of the proposed settlement are available from: Ms. Paula V. Bachelor, Waste Management Division, U.S. EPA, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303–3104, 404/562–8887.

Written comments may be submitted to Ms. Batchelor within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of publication.

Dated: August 21, 1998.

Franklin E. Hill,

Chief, Program Services Branch, Waste Management Division.

[FR Doc. 98–24477 Filed 9–10–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6158–9]

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permits for Discharges From Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of reopening of the public comment period for proposed NPDES general permits.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Region 6 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to reopen, during a specified period of time, the comment period for the proposed reissuance of the EPA Region 6 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general