

Agency," at 40 CFR 7.80. The regulation implements statutes which prohibit discrimination on the bases of race, color, national origin, sex and handicap. This information is also required, in part, by the Department of Justice regulations, 28 CFR 42.406 and 28 CFR 42.407. The information is collected on a short form from grant and loan applicants as part of the application. The EPA Director of Civil Rights manages the data collection through a regional component or delegated state, both of whom also carry out the data analysis and make the recommendation on the respondent's ability to meet the requirements of the regulation, as well as the respondent's current compliance with the regulation. The information and analysis is of sufficient value for the Director to determine whether the applicant is in compliance with the regulation. Analysis of the data allows EPA to determine:

(1) Whether there appears to be discrimination in the provision of program or activity services between the minority and non-minority population. This allows EPA to determine whether any action is necessary by it before the award of the grant or loan.

(2) Whether the respondent is designing grant or loan financed facilities to be accessible to handicapped individuals or whether a regulatory exemption is applicable. This allows EPA to determine whether design changes are necessary prior to the award of the grant or loan, which can save the respondent a significant amount of money, e.g., ensuring a facility is accessible to the handicapped is much less costly if this requirement is included in the design rather than after construction has begun.

(3) Whether the respondent receives or has applied for financial assistance from other Federal agencies. This information allows EPA to canvass these other agencies to avoid conducting duplicate compliance audits, reviews, or complaint investigations and is a reduction of burden on respondents. Responses to the collection of information are required to obtain a grant or loan and are kept on file by the state distributing the funds.

An Agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not 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 listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 40 CFR Chapter 15.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary

for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: The form is part of the grant or loan application package. The information currently exists in the respondent's operation. The data collected on this form is compiled and reported from the applicant's existing information. The information as gathered and reported on the form specifically applies to the grant or loan application. The only burden experienced by the respondent is that of completing the form. The Agency's past experience has shown that it requires one half-hour to complete the form. The form is usually completed by the applicant's packager or a clerk assistant. The average salary range of the combined or single individual has historically been about \$30,000.00 per year. The Agency's information comes from direct experience in carrying out the task. Therefore the capital cost would be \$0 and the labor for 1/2 hour would be about \$7.21 per year. At about 13,100 applications per year, the total cost for all applicants combined would be about \$94,300.00 per year. Burden means total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose, or provide information to or for a Federal agency. 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.

Dated: April 20, 1999.

Ann E. Goode,

Director, Office of Civil Rights.

[FR Doc. 99-10628 Filed 4-27-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6332-4]

Regional Workshops on Performance-Based Measurement System

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: With the assistance of EPA, the Global Institute of Environmental Scientists (GIES) will be holding a series of one-day workshops on implementing the Performance-Based Measurement System (PBMS) approach to environmental compliance monitoring. The workshops are designed to assist the public in learning about this new regulatory initiative.

DATES: Workshops will be held in the following cities:

- Philadelphia, PA, May 6, 1999.
- Atlanta, GA, June 8, 1999.
- Kansas City, MO, June 9, 1999.
- Seattle, WA, June 15, 1999.
- Las Vegas, NV, June 17, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Workshop arrangements are being made by GIES. For information on registration and hotel rates call the GIES coordinator, Sheila Way, at (202) 887-0457 (email: gies@acil.org). If you have questions regarding the conference program, contact the GIES Program Coordinators, Jerry Parr at (303) 670-7823 (email: catalyst@eazy.net) or Anthony Pagliaro at (202) 887-5872 (tpagliaro@acil.org).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the United States, historical approaches to environmental compliance monitoring have: not fully capitalized on opportunities to reduce the cost for laboratory analysis and compliance monitoring; may have served as barriers to the development and use of innovative, faster, less costly measurement technologies and methods; and sometimes may have resulted in data of less than desired quality or defensibility. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to address some of these problems by incorporating the Performance Based Measurement System (PBMS) into its regulatory programs. On October 6, 1997 (62 FR 52098), EPA announced its plans to implement the PBMS approach to the

extent feasible in all of its media programs.

PBMS is an approach where the regulated facility may use any scientifically appropriate analytical technique to demonstrate compliance with regulatory levels. The facility, however, must demonstrate that their technique meets the performance requirements that have been established for the application. Under PBMS, the regulations focus on the quality of data needed for the particular program or project (the system performance) rather than on what measurement method should be used (the technology). Where performance requirements can be met or exceeded by more than one method, PBMS allows selection of the least costly, simplest or most practical method, limited only by the programmatic data needs.

The workshops will explain how PBMS will work and how it differs from EPA's current regulatory approach. They will review what EPA is doing to implement the change and the status of these efforts under the various regulatory programs. With PBMS, EPA expects: improved data quality, reduced cost of compliance and enforcement monitoring, and stimulation of the development and use of new technology.

The PBMS Regional Workshops have been designed to bring together representatives of regulated industry, commercial environmental laboratories, state and federal regulators, and environmental consultants and contractors that they may better understand EPA's plans.

Participants will obtain information on:

- The status of EPA's PBMS implementation efforts;
- How PBMS can result in high quality, legally defensible data;
- Concepts of method validation, on-going quality control and documentation processes under PBMS;
- How to audit laboratories who have implemented PBMS;
- How PBMS will affect State regulatory agencies, the regulated community, and laboratories; and
- The cost of doing business under PBMS.

Dated: April 22, 1999.

Henry L. Longest II,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management, Office of Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 99-10629 Filed 4-27-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00580; FRL-6055-1]

Pesticides; Request for Comment on Pesticide Registration Proposal for Isomeric Active Ingredients

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This **Federal Register** notice solicits comments on how the Agency should handle the registration of pesticide active ingredients (AI's) that are composed of chemical isomers. In particular the Agency intends to clarify its approach on how it will determine whether a particular isomeric pesticide is a new active ingredient or not. This **Federal Register** notice describes issues associated with the registration of pesticide active ingredients that are composed of chemical isomers and how you can submit your comments to the Agency.

DATES: Written comments, identified by the docket control number "OPP-00580", must be received on or before June 28, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by mail, electronically, or in person. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit IV. of the "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION" section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alan Dixon, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: 703-305-7237, Fax: 703-305-6920, e-mail: dixon.alan@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Does this Notice Apply to Me?

You may be potentially affected by this notice if you are applying for a registration or amended registration of a pesticide product that contains isomeric active ingredients and in particular a product purified for one or more (usually more chemically active) isomers. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the technical person listed in the "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT" section.

II. Why is EPA Issuing this Notice?

The Office of Pesticide Program (OPP) is soliciting comments on how the Agency should handle the registration of pesticide active ingredients that are composed of chemical isomers. In

particular, OPP is interested in learning the various opinions on the question of whether an AI originally registered at a particular proportion of isomers should be subsequently registered as a new AI when purified for one or more (usually more chemically active) isomers.

In the past the Agency has treated some purified isomeric compounds as new formulations and some purified isomeric compounds as new AI's. Examples of purified isomeric compounds treated as new formulations are: Fluazifop butyl and fluazifop-p-butyl, fenoxaprop-ethyl and fenoxaprop-p-ethyl, 2,4-DP and 2,4-DP-p, and MCPP to MCPP-p. Examples of purified isomeric compounds treated as new AI's are: Metolachlor and alpha-metolachlor, and metalaxyl and mefenoxam. Some recent regulatory decisions caused the Agency to re-evaluate its policy on isomeric active ingredients.

The Agency is considering three options:

1. To continue determining case by case whether an isomeric compound is a new AI.
2. To consider all purified isomeric compounds not as new AI's but as new formulations.
3. To consider all purified isomeric compounds as new active ingredients.

III. How Can I Get Additional Information or Copies of this Document or Other Documents?

A. Electronic Availability

You may obtain electronic copies of this document from the EPA internet Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. On the Home Page select "Laws and Regulations" and then look up the entry for this document under the "**Federal Register** - Environmental Documents." You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

B. In Person or By Phone

If you have any questions or need additional information about this action, you may contact the technical person identified in the "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT" section. In addition, the official record for this notice, including the public version, has been established under docket control number "OPP-00580". A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of any electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI), is available for inspection in Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal