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Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5997-6]

Ambient Air Monitoring Reference and Equivalent Methods; Designation of Three Reference Methods for PM_{2.5}

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of designation.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated, in accordance with 40 CFR part 53, three new reference methods for the measurement of PM_{2.5} concentrations in the ambient air.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Frank F. McElroy, Human Exposure and Atmospheric Sciences Division (MD-46), National Exposure Research Laboratory, U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711. Phone: (919) 541-2622, email: mcelroy.frank@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA announces the designation of three new reference methods for measuring mass concentrations of particulate matter as PM_{2.5} in the ambient air. These designations are made under the provisions of 40 CFR part 53, as amended on July 18, 1997 (62 FR 38764). Each of the new reference methods is a manual monitoring method based on a particular PM_{2.5} sampler. The new methods are identified as follows:

RFPS-0498-116, "BGI Incorporated Model PQ200 PM_{2.5} Ambient Fine Particle Sampler," operated with software version 1.4, for 24-hour continuous sample periods, in accordance with the Model PQ200 Instruction Manual and with the requirements and sample collection filters specified in 40 CFR Part 50, Appendix L.

RFPS-0498-117, "Rupprecht & Patashnick Company, Incorporated Partisol®-FRM Model 2000 PM-2.5 Air Sampler," operated with software

version 1.102, with or without the optional insulating jacket for cold weather operation, for 24-hour continuous sample periods, in accordance with the Model 2000 Instruction Manual and with the requirements and sample collection filters specified in 40 CFR Part 50, Appendix L.

RFPS-0498-118, "Rupprecht & Patashnick Company, Incorporated Partisol®-Plus Model 2025 PM-2.5 Sequential Air Sampler," operated with software version 1.003, for 24-hour continuous sample periods, in accordance with the Model 2025 Instruction Manual and with the requirements and sample collection filters specified in 40 CFR Part 50, Appendix L.

Applications for reference method determinations for these methods were received by the EPA on October 8, 1997 for the BGI method, and on October 7, 1997 for the Rupprecht & Patashnick methods. A notice of receipt for these applications was published in the **Federal Register** on February 10, 1998. The BGI method (RFPS-0498-116) is "conditionally" designated under the provisions of § 53.51(b)(2), which allows the applicant up to one year following designation to complete the process of obtaining ISO 9001 registration of its sampler manufacturing facility. BGI Incorporated is currently in the very final stage of that registration process. This method is available commercially from the applicant, BGI Incorporated, 58 Guinan Street, Waltham, MA 02154. The other two methods listed are available commercially from the associated applicant, Rupprecht & Patashnick Company, Incorporated (R&P), 25 Corporate Circle, Albany, NY 12203.

Test samplers representative of these methods have been tested by the respective applicants, BGI Incorporated and R&P, in accordance with the test procedures specified in 40 CFR part 53 (as amended on July 18, 1997). After reviewing the results of those tests and other information submitted by the applicants, EPA has determined, in accordance with part 53, that these methods should be designated as reference methods. The information submitted by the applicants will be kept on file at EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711 and will be available for inspection to the extent consistent with 40 CFR part 2 (EPA's regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act).

As a designated reference method, each of these methods is acceptable for use by states and other air monitoring

agencies under the requirements of 40 CFR part 58, Ambient Air Quality Surveillance. For such purposes, the method must be used in strict accordance with the specifications and requirements set forth in Appendix L to 40 CFR part 50, the operation or instruction manual associated with the method, and the specifications and limitations (e.g., sample period) specified in the applicable designation method description (see identification of the methods above). Use of the method should also be in general accordance with the guidance and recommendations of Quality Assurance Guidance Document 2.12, which is part of the Quality Assurance Handbook for Air Pollution Measurement Systems, Volume II (EPA/600/R-94/038b). Vendor modifications of a designated method used for purposes of part 58 are permitted only with prior approval of the EPA, as provided in part 53. Provisions concerning modification of such methods by users are specified under Section 2.8 of Appendix C to 40 CFR part 58 (Modifications of Methods by Users).

In general, a method designation applies to any sampler or analyzer which is identical to the sampler or analyzer described in the designation. In some cases, similar samplers or analyzers manufactured prior to the designation may be upgraded (e.g., by minor modification or by substitution of a new operation or instruction manual) so as to be identical to the designated method and thus achieve designated status at a modest cost. The manufacturer should be consulted to determine the feasibility of such upgrading.

Part 53 requires that sellers of designated method analyzers or samplers comply with certain conditions. These conditions are given in 40 CFR 53.9 and are summarized below for PM_{2.5} methods:

(1) A copy of the approved operation or instruction manual must accompany the sampler or analyzer when it is delivered to the ultimate purchaser.

(2) The sampler or analyzer must not generate any unreasonable hazard to operators or to the environment.

(3) The sampler or analyzer must function within the limits of the applicable performance specifications given in parts 50 and 53 for at least one year after delivery when maintained and operated in accordance with the operation or instruction manual.

(4) Any sampler or analyzer offered for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method must bear a label or sticker indicating that it has been designated as part of a reference or

equivalent method in accordance with part 53 and show its designated method identification number.

(5) If such an analyzer has two or more selectable ranges, the label or sticker must be placed in close proximity to the range selector and indicate which range or ranges have been included in the reference or equivalent method designation.

(6) An applicant who offers samplers or analyzers for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method is required to maintain a list of ultimate purchasers of such samplers or analyzers and to notify them within 30 days if a reference or equivalent method designation applicable to the method has been canceled or if adjustment of the sampler or analyzer is necessary under 40 CFR 53.11(b) to avoid a cancellation.

(7) An applicant who modifies a sampler or analyzer previously designated as part of a reference or equivalent method is not permitted to sell the sampler or analyzer (as modified) as part of a reference or equivalent method (although he may choose to sell it without such representation), nor to attach a label or sticker to the sampler or analyzer (as modified) under the provisions described above, until he has received notice under 40 CFR 53.14(c) that the original designation or a new designation applies to the method as modified, or until he has applied for and received notice under 40 CFR 53.8(b) of a new reference or equivalent method determination for the analyzer as modified.

(8) An applicant who offers samplers or analyzers for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method is required to maintain the manufacturing facility in which the sampler or analyzer is manufactured as an ISO 9001-registered facility.

(9) An applicant who offers samplers or analyzers for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method is required to submit annually a properly completed Product Manufacturing Checklist, as specified in part 53.

Aside from occasional breakdowns or malfunctions, consistent or repeated noncompliance with any of these conditions should be reported to: Director, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Human Exposure and Atmospheric Sciences Division (MD-77), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711.

Designation of these reference methods is intended to assist the States in establishing and operating their air quality surveillance systems under part

58. Questions concerning the commercial availability or technical aspects of any of these methods should be directed to the appropriate applicant.

Dated: April 10, 1998.

Henry L. Longest II,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[PF-802; FRL-5782-8]

Notice of Filing of Pesticide Petitions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initial filing of pesticide petitions proposing the establishment of regulations for residues of certain pesticide chemicals in or on various food commodities.

DATES: Comments, identified by the docket control number PF-802, must be received on or before May 18, 1998.

ADDRESSES: By mail submit written comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (7502C), Information Resources and Services Division, Office of Pesticides Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person bring comments to: Rm. 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 "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION." No confidential business information 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 "Confidential Business Information" (CBI). CBI should not be submitted through e-mail. Information marked as CBI 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 may be disclosed publicly by EPA without prior notice. All written comments will be available for public inspection in Rm. 119 at the address given above, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Product Manager (PM-10), Marion Johnson, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location and telephone number: Rm. 208, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202, 703-305-6788, e-mail: johnson.marion@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has received a pesticide petition as follows proposing the establishment and/or amendment of regulations for residues of certain pesticide chemicals in or on various food commodities under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Comestic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a. EPA has determined that the petition contains data or information regarding the elements set forth in section 408(d)(2); however, EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficiency of the submitted data at this time or whether the data supports granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

The official record for this notice of filing, as well as the public version, has been established for this notice of filing under docket control number [PF-802] (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 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 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number [PF-802] and appropriate petition number. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Agricultural commodities, Food additives, Feed additives, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.