

1999 meeting of the SAB's Integrated Human Exposure Committee.

For Further Information Contact:

Single copies of the background information for the review of the risk comparison framework can be obtained by contacting Mr. Glenn Rice, US EPA National Center for Environmental Assessment, 26 Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268; or by telephone at (513) 569-7813. No background documents are expected to be provided to the Committee for the water consumption briefing. Additional information for this meeting, or the meeting agenda, can be obtained by contacting Mr. Thomas O. Miller, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Drinking Water Committee, Science Advisory Board (1400), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460; by telephone at (202) 260-5886; by fax at (202) 260-7118 or via the E-Mail at: miller.tom@epa.gov, or by contacting Ms. Dorothy Clark at (202) 260-6555, by fax at (202) 260-7118, and by E-Mail at: clark.dorothy@epa.gov. Anyone wishing to make an oral presentation to the Committee must contact Mr. Miller, in writing (by letter, fax, or E-mail) no later than 12 noon, Thursday, February 11, 1999, in order to be included on the Agenda. The request should identify the name of the individual who will make the presentation and an outline of the issues to be addressed. At least 35 copies of any written comments to the Committee are to be given to Mr. Miller no later than the time of the presentation for distribution to the Committee and the interested public.

Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings

The Science Advisory Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements. In general, each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of ten minutes. For teleconference meetings, opportunities for oral comment will usually be limited to no more than three minutes per speaker and no more than fifteen minutes total. Written comments (at least 35 copies) received in the SAB Staff Office sufficiently prior to a meeting date (usually one week before the meeting), may be mailed to the relevant SAB committee or subcommittee; comments received too close to the meeting date will normally be provided to the committee at its meeting, or mailed soon after receipt by the Agency. Written comments may be provided to the Drinking Water Committee up until the time of the meeting, however, for this meeting only,

delayed comments received up to 15 days after the meeting will be provided to the Committee for consideration and will be made part of the permanent Committee record.

Additional information concerning the Science Advisory Board, its structure, function, and composition, may be found on the SAB Website (<http://www.epa.gov/sab>) and in The Annual Report of the Staff Director which is available from the SAB Publications Staff at (202) 260-4126 or via fax at (202) 260-1889. Individuals requiring special accommodation at SAB meetings, including wheelchair access, should contact the appropriate DFO at least five business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Dated: February 3, 1999.

Donald G. Barnes,

Staff Director, Science Advisory Board.

[FR Doc. 99-2952 Filed 2-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00569A; FRL-6061-8]

Pesticides: Science Policy Issues Related to the Food Quality Protection Act; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: On December 4, 1998, EPA issued a notice of availability for the draft science policy paper "Proposed Threshold of Regulation Policy When a Food Use Does Not Require a Tolerance." The comment period would have ended February 4, 1999. In response to several requests, EPA has decided to extend the comment period two weeks.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to EPA by February 18, 1999.

ADDRESSES: By mail, submit written comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, deliver comments to: Rm. 1132, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: opp-docket@epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit II. 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 in this unit, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Kempter (7505C), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location and telephone number: Room 713D, CM#2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, (703) 305-5448, e-mail: kempter.carlton@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Agency has issued the draft document listed in the SUMMARY at the beginning of this document and solicited comments on it. The background on this document can be found in the previous **Federal Register** notice published on December 4, 1998 (63 FR 67063) (FRL-6048-2). In response to several requests, a time extension of two weeks is being provided such that the comment period will now end on February 18, 1999.

II. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this rulemaking, as well as the public version, has been established for this rulemaking under docket control number OPP-00569 for "Proposed Threshold of Regulation Policy When a Food Use Does Not Require a Tolerance." 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, except legal holidays. The official rulemaking 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@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 in 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number OPP-00569. Electronic comments on this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection,
Administrative practice and procedure,
Agricultural commodities, pesticides
and pests.

Dated: February 3, 1999.

Susan H. Wayland,

*Acting Assistant Administrator for
Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.*

[FR Doc. 99-2951 Filed 2-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00542B; FRL-6060-7]

Pesticides; Science Policy Issues Related to the Food Quality Protection Act

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: EPA is announcing the availability of the revised version of the pesticide science policy document originally entitled "Guidance for Identifying Pesticide Chemicals That Have a Common Mechanism of Toxicity, for Use in Assessing the Cumulative Toxic Effects of Pesticides." This document was made available as a draft document on August 6, 1998, for public comment (63 FR 42031) (FRL-5797-7). The title of the document has been changed to "Guidance for Identifying Pesticide Chemicals and Other Substances That Have a Common Mechanism of Toxicity." The revised guidance document describes the approach that EPA will use for identifying and categorizing pesticide chemicals and other substances that cause a common toxic effect by a common mechanism, for purposes of assessing the cumulative toxic effects of such substances. Interested parties may request a copy of the Agency's revised guidance document and responses to public comments as set forth in Unit I. of this document. This notice is the fifth in a series of science policy issues related to the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions concerning the revised document "Guidance for Identifying Pesticide Chemicals and Other Substances That Have a Common Mechanism of Toxicity," contact by mail: Dr. Stephen C. DeVito, Office of Pesticide Programs, Health Effects Division (7509C), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-9584; fax number (703) 308-7157; e-mail: devito.steve@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. How Can I Get Additional Information or Copies of This Document or Other Documents?

1. *Electronically.* You may obtain electronic copies of this document and the science policy paper at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/>. On the Office of Pesticide Program Home Page select "TRAC" and then look up the entry for this document. You can also go directly to the listings at the EPA Home page at the **Federal Register** — Environmental Documents entry for this document under "Laws and Regulations" (<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>) to obtain this notice and the science policy paper.

2. *Fax on Demand.* You may request to receive a faxed copy of this document, as well as supporting information, by using a faxphone to call (202) 401-0527 and selecting item 6055 for "Guidance for Identifying Pesticide Chemicals and Other Substances That Have a Common Mechanism of Toxicity." You may also follow the automated menu.

3. *In person or by phone.* If you have any questions or need additional information about this action, you may contact the appropriate technical person identified in the "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT" section of this document. In addition, the official record for the science policy paper listed in the SUMMARY section of this document, including the public versions, has been established under the docket control number OPP-00542. A detailed summary of the comments and of the Agency's response to the comments is available in the same docket file. A public version of each 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

holidays. The Public Information and Records Integrity Branch telephone number is 703-305-5805.

II. Background

On August 3, 1996, the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA) was signed into law. Effective upon signature, the FQPA significantly amended the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). Among other changes, FQPA established a stringent health-based standard ("a reasonable certainty of no harm") for pesticide residues in foods to assure protection from unacceptable pesticide exposure; provided heightened health protections for infants and children from pesticide risks; required expedited review of new, safer pesticides; created incentives for the development and maintenance of effective crop protection tools for farmers; required reassessment of existing tolerances over a 10-year period; and required periodic re-evaluation of pesticide registrations and tolerances to ensure that scientific data supporting pesticide registrations will remain up-to-date in the future.

Subsequently, the Agency established the Food Safety Advisory Committee (FSAC) as a subcommittee of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) to assist in soliciting input from stakeholders and to provide input to EPA on some of the broad policy choices facing the Agency and on strategic direction for the Office of Pesticide Programs. The Agency has used the interim approaches developed through discussions with FSAC to make regulatory decisions that met FQPA's standard, but that could be revisited if additional information became available or as the science evolved. As EPA's approach to implementing the scientific provisions of FQPA has evolved, the Agency has sought independent review and public participation, often through presentation of many of the science policy issues to the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP), a group of independent, outside experts who provide peer review and scientific advice to EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP).

In addition, as directed by Vice President Albert Gore, EPA has been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and another subcommittee of NACEPT, the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC), chaired by the EPA Deputy Administrator and the USDA Deputy Secretary, to address FQPA issues and implementation. TRAC