

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.

Respondents/Affected Entities:

Pesticide registrants seeking re-registration.

Estimated number of potential

Responses: 30.

Frequency of response: Once, after the Record of Decision is issued.

Estimated total annual Respondent burden: 90,725 hours.

Estimated total annual Capital, O&M costs: 0.

Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the following addresses. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1504.04 and OMB Control No. 2070-0107 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Information, Collection Strategies Division (2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460;

and

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: May 22, 2000.

Oscar Morales,

Director, Collection Strategies Division.

[FR Doc. 00-14184 Filed 6-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00662; FRL-6590-9]

EPA-USDA Committee To Advise on Reassessment and Transition; Notice of Establishment and Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of establishment and public meeting.

SUMMARY: The EPA-USDA Committee to Advise on Reassessment and Transition (CARAT) is being established in

accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act as a subcommittee under the auspices of the EPA National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT). The purpose of CARAT is to provide advice and counsel to the Administrator of EPA and the Secretary of Agriculture regarding strategic approaches for pest management planning and tolerance reassessment for pesticides as required by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA). CARAT is preceded by the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee and will be guided by the principles set forth by the Vice President for EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to work together to ensure smooth implementation of FQPA through use of sound science, consultation with stakeholders, increased transparency, and reasonable transition for agriculture.

DATES: The first meeting of CARAT will be held on Friday, June 23, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A background information session, with limited public seating, is being offered to the CARAT members on Thursday, June 22, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The first meeting of CARAT will be held on June 23, 2000, at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Conference Center, 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203; telephone number: 703-907-5500. The NRECA Conference Center is located adjacent to the Ballston Metro Stop. The background information session, with limited public seating, will be held on June 22, 2000, for CARAT members at 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Mall #2, Rm. 1126 (Fishbowl), Arlington, VA 22202; telephone number: 703-305-7090.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Margie Fehrenbach or Terria Northern (7501C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: 703-305-7090 or 703-305-7093; fax number: 703-308-4776; e-mail address: Fehrenbach.Margie@epa.gov or Northern.Terria@epa.gov.

I. Does This Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general; however, it may be of interest to persons who are concerned about implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (Public Law 104-170). Passed in 1996, this new law strengthens the nation's system for regulating pesticides on food. CARAT was preceded by the Tolerance

Reassessment Advisory Committee which was established in 1998 in response to Vice President Gore's request for EPA and USDA to work together to ensure smooth implementation of FQPA. Since other entities may also be interested, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be affected by this action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

II. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of This Document and Other Related Documents?

You may obtain electronic copies of this document, and certain other related documents that might be available electronically, from the EPA Internet Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. To access this document, 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/>. To access information about CARAT, go directly to the Home Page for EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/carat>.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Agriculture, Chemicals, Foods, Pesticides and Pests.

Dated: May 30, 2000.

Susan H. Wayland,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.
[FR Doc. 00-13942 Filed 6-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6710-7]

Benchmark Dose Software

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Benchmark Dose Software (BMDS Version 1.2). BMDS was developed by EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) as a tool to facilitate the application of benchmark dose methods to the assessment of hazardous pollutants. The software and supporting documentation are available to Agency

personnel and to the general public, and can be downloaded from the NCEA internet web site or requested directly from NCEA (see addresses below).

ADDRESSES: To obtain a copy of the Benchmark Dose Software Version 1.2, direct your internet browser to <http://epa.gov/ncea/bmds.htm>. You will be instructed on how to download a self-extracting compressed file containing the BMDS program. Windows 95/98/NT and at least sixteen megabytes of RAM are required to run this version of the BMDS.

Accessing a copy of the BMDS program via the internet is highly recommended as the BMDS web site will be the official and most current source of updates and notifications. However, those for whom internet access is impractical may obtain a copy of the program via E-mail or CD-ROM by contacting Ms. Diane H. Ray, National Center for Environmental Assessment-RTP Office (MD-52), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone: 919-541-3637; facsimile: 919-541-1818; E-mail: ray.diane@epa.gov.

All comments on the BMDS software, help system and the model source code files are welcome. Please email comments, recommendations, suggested revisions, or corrections to bmds.ncea@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Jeffrey S. Gift, National Center for Environmental Assessment-RTP Office (MD-52), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone: 919-541-4828; facsimile: 919-541-1818; E-mail: bmds.ncea@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Use of benchmark dose methods involves fitting mathematical models to dose-response data, obtained primarily from toxicology studies, and using the results to determine the dose of a toxicant that is associated with a predetermined benchmark response, such as a 10% increase in the incidence of a particular lesion or a 10% decrease in body weight gain. BMDS estimates the lower-bound confidence limit on the benchmark dose (BMDL), which can serve as a point of departure for a non-cancer or cancer chemical risk assessment. BMDS facilitates these operations by providing simple data-management tools, a comprehensive help manual and online help system, and an easy-to-use interface to run multiple models on the same dose-response data set. At this time, BMDS (Version 1.2) offers sixteen (16) different models that are appropriate for the analysis of

dichotomous (quantal) data (Gamma, Logistic, Log-Logistic, Multistage, Probit, Log-Probit, Quantal-Linear, Quantal-Quadratic, Weibull), continuous data (Linear, Polynomial, Power, Hill) and nested developmental toxicology data (NLogistic, NCTR, Rai & Van Ryzin). Results from all models include a reiteration of the model formula and model run options chosen by the user, goodness-of-fit information, the benchmark dose, and the estimate of the lower-bound confidence limit on the benchmark dose (BMDL). Model results are presented in textual and graphical output files which can be printed or saved and incorporated into other documents.

The software announced here is the result of several years of research and development, expert review and quality assurance testing conducted by NCEA, with support from EPA's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory and NCEA contractors. Extensive peer review input was also received from expert scientists, particularly toxicologists and statisticians, from both inside and outside the Agency. Following a public review of BMDS Beta Version 1.1b, which ended on March 31, 1999 (63 FR 71465, Dec. 28, 1998), NCEA revised the software based on its experience with the program and in response to public comments received. Finally, an extensive and independent quality assurance assessment of all facets of the BMDS system was conducted, and appropriate modifications were made to create BMDS Version 1.2.

EPA/NCEA will continue to improve the BMDS system in response to the needs of Agency and other risk assessors. One example of such a project is the ongoing development of the EPA Hybrid model, a statistical approach to treating continuous data as dichotomous endpoints. A beta version of the Agency's Hybrid model is included in BMDS Version 1.2. Another example is the ongoing development of a model specifically designed for assessing cancer incidence data, which is being developed to support the proposed EPA cancer guidelines currently in development. As these and other modifications or additions are completed, they will be made available to users of the software via the NCEA BMDS web site.

Currently, the BMDS web site contains the complete BMDS program along with its extensive online help system, a separately downloadable help manual, and background information concerning the development of the software. The executable and source code files for the individual models

used by BMDS can also be downloaded from the web site.

Dated: May 25, 2000.

George W. Alapas,

Acting Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

[FR Doc. 00-14177 Filed 6-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6711-3]

Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Technical Subcommittee for Fine Particle Monitoring will meet on Wednesday, June 21, 2000 from 11 am to 2 pm Eastern Daylight Time. The meeting will be coordinated through a conference call connection in Room 6013 in the USEPA, Ariel Rios Building North, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting in the conference room noted above. However, the public may also attend through a telephonic link, to the extent that lines are available (phone lines will be very limited). Additional instructions about how to participate in the meeting can be obtained by calling Ms. Diana Pozun prior to the meeting at (202) 564-4544, or via e-mail at pozun.diana@epa.gov. *Important Notice:* Documents that are the subject of CASAC reviews are normally available from the originating EPA office and are not available from the CASAC Office—information concerning availability of documents from the relevant Program Office is included below.

Purpose of the Meeting—This technical subcommittee of CASAC was established in 1996 to provide advice and comment to EPA (through CASAC) on appropriate methods and network strategies for monitoring fine particles in the context of implementing the revised national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter. The Subcommittee provided such advice on the Federal Reference Method (FRM) and mass-based fine particle network in July 1996, and has recently examined EPA's plans and guidance for several components of the fine particle monitoring network and how these components are linked to research priorities for particulate matter (see 65 FR 16916, March 30, 2000 for more details).