

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (8601D), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone 202-564-1532; facsimile 202-565-0075; email rieth.susan@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the request of several EPA program offices, the EPA IRIS Program is undertaking a health assessment for PAHs. The IRIS Program develops EPA consensus scientific positions on potential human health effects that may result from chronic exposure to chemical substances found in the environment; assessments for approximately 540 chemical substances can be found in the IRIS database (66 FR 11165).

Currently, the IRIS database contains entries developed in the early 1990s for 15 non-methylated PAHs with three or more rings. These entries provide assessments of the carcinogenic and noncarcinogenic effects of individual PAHs; however, the IRIS database does not provide assessments for other PAHs with carcinogenic potential (e.g., "supercarcinogens," methylated PAHs, etc.), and does not consider issues associated with the environmental occurrence of PAHs as complex mixtures.

The initiation of the IRIS PAH assessment follows closely on the release of the EPA Risk Assessment Forum's Supplementary Guidance for Conducting Health Risk Assessment of Chemical Mixtures (EPA/630/R-00/002), which sets forth EPA's risk assessment paradigm for mixtures. The framework for chemical mixture assessment provided in the supplemental guidance will be applied in the current IRIS effort.

Because of the complexity of the scientific literature related to PAH mixtures, the EPA is sponsoring a two-day peer consultation workshop with experts in PAH toxicology and chemistry and the assessment of chemical mixtures to examine alternative approaches to the health assessment of PAH mixtures. Because information needed to support development of a mixtures approach for assessing the noncancer effects of PAHs is limited or lacking, it is expected that the workshop will largely focus on the extensive carcinogenicity literature for PAHs.

Objectives of the workshop will be to generate individual scientific opinions on (1) the extent to which each of the alternative approaches to PAH health assessment is supported by the current scientific literature and (2) how well each approach addresses the range of exposure situations and monitoring data encompassed by EPA program offices.

The individual expert opinions and recommendations generated in this workshop will be taken into consideration by EPA in developing an appropriate and scientifically defensible health assessment procedure(s) for inclusion in the IRIS assessment for PAHs.

Dated: September 26, 2001.

Art Payne,

Acting Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

[FR Doc. 01-24718 Filed 10-2-01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-42080; FRL-6798-8]

Nebraska State Plan for Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides; Notice of Availability

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The State of Nebraska has submitted to EPA several statutory, regulatory, and programmatic amendments to its State Plan for Certification and Training of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides. The proposed amendments include the establishment of new commercial and noncommercial categories and subcategories along with their respective standards of competency, and the payment of appropriate fees for the licensing of commercial, noncommercial and private applicators. Notice is hereby given of the intention of the Regional Administrator, Region VII, to approve the revised Plan for the Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides. EPA is soliciting comments on the proposed amendments.

DATES: Comments, identified by docket control number OPP-42080, must be received on or before November 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by mail, electronically, or in person. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit I. of the

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPP-42080 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Tice, Water, Wetlands and Pesticide Division, WWPDP/PEP, 901 N. 5th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101; telephone number: (402) 437-5080; e-mail address: Tice.john@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. This action may, however, be of interest to those involved in agriculture and anyone involved with the distribution and application of pesticides for agricultural purposes. Others involved with pesticides in a non-agricultural setting may also be affected. In addition, it may be of interest to others, such as, those persons who are or may be required to conduct testing of chemical substances under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), or the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). 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**.

B. How Can I Get Copies of the Amended State Plan, Other Related Documents, and Additional Information?

To obtain copies of the amended Nebraska Certification Plan, other related documents, or additional information contact:

1. John Tice at the address listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

2. Tim Creger, P.O. Box 94756, Lincoln, NE 68509-4756; telephone number: (402) 471-2394; e-mail address: timlc@agr.state.ne.us.

3. Jeanne Heying, Office of Pesticide Programs, Field and External Affairs Division (7506C), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.; telephone number: (703) 308-3240; e-mail address: Heying.Jeanne@epa.gov.

4. The Nebraska Certification plan and proposed changes may be viewed on the internet at the following URL: <http://www.agr.state.ne.us/division/bpi/pes/p07.pdf>

C. How and to Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments through the mail, in person, or electronically to John Tice at the address listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPP-42080 in the subject line on the first page of your response. Electronic comments can be

submitted by e-mail or you can submit a computer disk. When submitting comments electronically do not submit any information that you consider to be CBI. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect 6.1/8.0/7/8/9 or ASCII file format. All comments in electronic form must be identified by docket control number OPP-42080.

D. How Should I Handle CBI that I Want to Submit to the Agency?

Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. You may claim information that you submit to EPA in response to this document as CBI 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. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public version of the official record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public version of the official record without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

E. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide copies of any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at the estimate that you provide.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Make sure to submit your comments by the deadline in this notice.
7. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, be sure to identify the docket control number assigned to this action in the subject line on the first page of your response. You may also provide the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation.

II. What Action is the Agency Taking?

EPA has reviewed the revised Nebraska Certification Plan and finds it in compliance with FIFRA and 40 CFR part 171 and is announcing its intention to approve the amended plan and seeks public comment.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Education, Pests and pesticides.

Dated: September 18, 2001.

Michael J. Sanderson,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region VII.

[FR Doc. 01-24604 Filed 10-2-01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7072-9]

RIN 2060-AG85

Waste Characterization Program Documents Applicable to Transuranic Radioactive Waste From the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory Proposed for Disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability; opening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, or "we") is announcing the availability of, and soliciting public comments for 30 days on, Department of Energy (DOE) documents on waste characterization programs applicable to certain transuranic (TRU) radioactive waste at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) proposed for disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The documents are procedures for elements of the system of controls that INEEL proposes to use to characterize organic sludges that constitute transuranic (TRU) radioactive waste. The documents are available for review in the public dockets listed in **ADDRESSES**. We will use these and other documents to evaluate the waste characterization system at INEEL as it applies to organic sludge TRU waste, during an inspection conducted in accordance with EPA's WIPP Compliance Criteria in October 2001. The purpose of the inspection is to verify that INEEL can characterize transuranic organic sludge waste adequately, consistent with the WIPP Compliance Criteria and Condition 3 of EPA's final certification decision for the

WIPP. This notice of the inspection and comment period accords with 40 CFR 194.8.

DATES: The EPA is requesting public comment on these documents. Comments must be received by EPA's official Air Docket on or before November 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to: Docket No. A-98-49, Air Docket, Room M-1500 (LE-131), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20460.

DOE documents related to NDA systems and AK pertaining to organic sludge waste are available for review in the official EPA Air Docket in Washington, D.C., Docket No. A-98-49, Category II-A-2, and at the following three EPA WIPP information docket locations in New Mexico: in Carlsbad at the Municipal Library, Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10am-9pm, Friday-Saturday, 10am-6pm, and Sunday, 1pm-5pm; in Albuquerque at the Government Publications Department, General Library, University of New Mexico, Hours: vary by semester; and in Santa Fe at the New Mexico State Library, Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.

Copies of items in the docket may be requested by writing to Docket A-98-49 at the address provided above, or by calling (202) 260-7548. As provided in EPA's regulation at 40 CFR Part 2, and in accordance with normal EPA docket procedures, a reasonable fee may be charged for photocopying. Air Docket A-98-49 in Washington, DC, accepts comments sent electronically or by fax (fax no.: 202-260-4400; E-mail: a-and-r-docket@epa.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ed Feltcorn, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, (202) 564-9422, or call EPA's 24-hour, toll-free WIPP Information Line, 1-800-331-WIPP, or visit our website at <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/wipp/announce.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DOE is developing the WIPP near Carlsbad in southeastern New Mexico as a deep geologic repository for disposal of TRU radioactive waste. As defined by the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act (LWA) of 1992 (Pub. L. No. 102-579), as amended (Pub. L. No. 104-201), TRU waste consists of materials containing elements having atomic numbers greater than 92 (with half-lives greater than twenty years), in concentrations greater than 100 nanocuries of alpha-emitting TRU isotopes per gram of waste. Most TRU waste consists of items contaminated during the production of nuclear weapons, such as rags, equipment, tools, and organic and inorganic sludges.