

Comments: Comments presented during the meeting should be submitted to Edocket. In addition, please submit one unbound original set of comments with pages numbered consecutively at the meeting. For attachments, provide an index and number pages consecutively with the comments. Because all comments received will be placed in Edocket, commentors should not submit personal information (such as medical data or home address), Confidential Business Information, or information protected by copyright.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: During their September 2002 review of the Agency's draft action plan for the development of a metals framework, the EPA Science Advisory Board emphasized the importance of engaging the outside community so as to contribute to the knowledge base the Agency would draw from in developing guidance on the risk assessment of metals. As part of the effort to engage stakeholders and the scientific community and to build on existing experience, the Agency commissioned ERG to organize external experts to lead the development of scientific papers on issues and state-of-the-art approaches to metals risk assessment. (Some individual EPA experts contributed specific discussions on topic(s) for which he or she has scientific expertise or knowledge of current Agency practice.)

On September 22, 2003, EPA published a **Federal Register** Notice announcing the availability of, and opportunity to comment on, five draft scientific white papers titled: (1) Issue Paper on the Environmental Chemistry of Metals, (2) Issue Paper on Metal Exposure Assessment, (3) Issue Paper on the Ecological Effects of Metals, (4) Issue Paper on the Human Health Effects of Metals, and (5) Issue Paper on the Bioavailability and Bioaccumulation of Metals. The draft issue papers are available primarily via the Internet on the Risk Assessment Forum's web page at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/raf/recordisplay.cfm?deid=59052>.

Comments will be received on the draft papers until November 7, 2003.

The public meeting will provide further opportunity for the Agency to receive stakeholder input. EPA is particularly interested in the public's perspectives on the following:

1. For the purpose of deriving general principles that can be applied in the assessment of metals, do the issue papers provide an appropriate level of detail?

2. Are there additional chemical, biological and physical processes that

should be considered for metals assessment? If so, please describe and provide references.

3. Are you aware of any models, approaches or methods not considered in the reports that, if implemented, would substantially reduce uncertainty in the Agency's metal assessments? If so, which ones are ready for application now (or in the next few years), and which types of assessments would benefit most from their application (e.g., hazard ranking/characterization, national, or site-specific assessments)?

4. What other suggestions do you have to improve the utility of these papers as the Agency develops a metals assessment framework?

The purpose of this meeting is for EPA to receive additional scientific comment from the public on the issue papers. Therefore, although EPA staff will be present, EPA will not evaluate or respond to comments at the meeting. Likewise, EPA is not soliciting comments on past Agency actions.

The views expressed in the draft papers are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the EPA. For this reason, disposition of scientific comments received on these papers will be made at the author's or author team's discretion. The material contained in the papers may be used in total, or in part, as source material for the Agency's framework for metals risk assessment and EPA's evaluation of this material will therefore include consideration of the Assessment Factors recently published by EPA for use in evaluating the quality of scientific and technical information.

Dated: October 7, 2003.

Peter W. Preuss,

Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-2003-0342; FRL-7331-4]

Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee and PPDC Registration Review Work Group; Notice of Public Meetings

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA's Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) will hold a public meeting on October 29 and 30, 2003. An agenda is being developed and

will be posted on EPA's website. Agenda topics will include a report from the PPDC's Registration Review Work Group; endangered species; non-governmental stewardship activities; pesticide budget/fees and output efficiencies; certification and training; and follow-up to issues discussed at the April 2003 PPDC meeting. In addition, the PPDC Registration Review Work Group will hold two separate public meetings on the following dates: October 17 and October 28, 2003. Agendas for the PPDC Registration Review Work Group meetings will also be posted on EPA's website.

DATES: The PPDC meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 29, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Thursday, October 30, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The PPDC Registration Review Work Group will hold a public meeting on Friday, October 17, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Tuesday, October 28, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The PPDC meeting will be held at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Conference Center, 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA. The telephone number to the NRECA Conference Center is (703) 907-5500. The NRECA Conference Center is located adjacent to the Ballston Metro Station and about a 15 minute taxi ride from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

The PPDC Registration Review Work Group meeting on October 17, 2003, will be held at EPA's Offices at 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Mall #2, Room 1110 (the Fishbowl), Arlington, VA. The PPDC Registration Review Work Group meeting on October 28, 2003, will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The telephone number to the Hyatt Regency Crystal City is (703) 413-6873.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margie Fehrenbach, Office of Pesticide Programs, Mail code 7501C, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: 703-308-4775; fax number: 703-308-4776; e-mail address: Fehrenbach.Margie@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general; however, persons may be interested who work in agricultural settings or persons who are concerned about implementation of the Federal

Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA); and the amendments to both of these major pesticide laws by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996. 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**. Potentially affected entities may include but are not limited to: Agricultural workers and farmers; pesticide industry and trade associations; environmental, consumer and farmworker groups; pesticide users and growers; pest consultants; State, local and Tribal governments; academia; public health organizations; food processors; and the public. 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 this Document and Other Related Information?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket identification (ID) number OPP-2003-0342. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA. This docket facility is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The docket telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

2. *Electronic access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "**Federal Register**" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

An agenda for the PPDC meeting is being developed and will be posted on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/pesticides/ppdc. Agendas for the PPDC Registration Review Work Group meetings will also be posted on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/pesticides/ppdc.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in Unit I.B.1. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket ID number.

II. Background

The Office of Pesticide Programs is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring the safety of the American food supply, the protection and education of those who apply or are exposed to pesticides occupationally or through use of products from unreasonable risk, and general protection of the environment and special ecosystems from potential risks posed by pesticides.

PPDC was established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Public Law 92-463 in September 1995, for a 2-year term and renewed every 2 years since that time. EPA is seeking to renew the current PPDC Charter, which expires in November 2003, for another 2-year term. PPDC provides advice and recommendations to the Office of Pesticide Programs on a broad range of pesticide regulatory, policy and program implementation issues that are associated with evaluating and reducing risks from use of pesticides. The following sectors are represented on the PPDC: Pesticide industry and trade associations; environmental/public interest and consumer groups; farm worker organizations; pesticide user, grower, and commodity groups; Federal and State/local/Tribal governments; the general public; academia; and public health organizations.

Copies of the PPDC Charter are filed with appropriate committees of Congress and the Library of Congress and are available upon request.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Agricultural workers, Agriculture, Chemicals, Foods, Pesticides, Pests, Public health, Risk assessment, Tolerance reassessment.

Dated: October 9, 2003.

James Jones,

Director, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 03-25984 Filed 10-9-03; 10:10 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7574-2]

Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS); Administrative Changes

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice; administrative changes in the Integrated Risk Information System hotline and records center.

SUMMARY: IRIS is an EPA data base that contains EPA scientific consensus positions on human health effects that may result from chronic exposure to chemical substances in the environment. In this action, EPA is announcing an upcoming change to the location and phone number of EPA's contractor-operated IRIS hotline and publically-accessible records center.

DATES: On or about October 17, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The new address of the IRIS Hotline and records center will be IRIS Hotline, (Mail Code 28221T) EPA-West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on this administrative change, contact Rick Johnson, IRIS staff, National Center for Environmental Assessment (mail code 8601D), Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460, or call (202) 564-3291, or send electronic mail inquiries to johnson.rickc@epa.gov. For information on the IRIS program, contact Amy Mills, Program Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment (mail code 8601D), Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460, or call (202) 564-3204, or send electronic mail inquiries to mills.amy@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

IRIS is an EPA data base containing Agency consensus scientific positions on potential adverse human health effects that may result from chronic (or lifetime) exposure to chemical substances found in the environment. IRIS currently provides information on health effects associated with more than 500 chemical substances. EPA has provided outreach to facilitate the use