

Dated: April 18, 1998.

Janet L. Andersen,

*Director, Biopesticides and Pollution
Prevention Division, Office of Pesticide
Programs.*

[FR Doc. 98-11138 Filed 4-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-181062; FRL 5787-1]

Glyphosate; Receipt of Application for Emergency Exemption, Solicitation of Public Comment

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has received a specific exemption request from the Washington Department of Agriculture (hereafter referred to as the "Applicant") to use the pesticide glyphosate [N-(Phosphonomethyl)glycine] (CAS 1071-83-6), formulated as Roundup Ultra and Ultra RT (both are 41% active ingredient) to treat up to 19,685 acres of dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas to control Canada Thistle. The growing areas in Washington to be treated are Adams, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties. Most application will occur in Whitman county followed by Spokane county. This is the fourth year this use has been requested, and it has been allowed under section 18 for the past 3 years. Since this request proposes a use which has been requested or granted in any three previous years, and a complete application for registration and petition for tolerance has not yet been submitted to the Agency, EPA is soliciting public comment before making the decision whether or not to grant the exemption, in accordance with 40 CFR 166.24(a)(6).

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 12, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Three copies of written comments, bearing the identification notation "OPP-181062," should be submitted by mail 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, D.C. 20460. In person, bring comments to: Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instruction under "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION." No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted or any comment concerning this notice 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 may be included in the public record by EPA without prior notice.

The public docket is available for public 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, except legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Jackie Mosby-Gwaltney, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number and e-mail: Rm. 274, CM#2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, (703-305-6792); e-mail: gwaltney.jackie@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. 136p), the Administrator may, at her discretion, exempt a state agency from any registration provision of FIFRA if she determines that emergency conditions exist which require such exemption. The Applicant has requested the Administrator to issue a specific exemption for the use of glyphosate on dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas to control Canada thistle. Information in accordance with 40 CFR part 166 was submitted as part of this request.

According to the Applicant, Canada thistle is a severe threat to Eastern Washington croplands due to a combination of weather and environmental conditions that encouraged its excessive spread and growth. There had been an increase in Canada thistles in the fall of 1997 because of irregular growing conditions which resulted in poor timing of glyphosate applications. The long wet spring of 1997 delayed seeding and applications to kill Canada thistles until late in the season. This period was followed by a long period of dry heat (drought) which made chemical

applications less effective, and a large crop of Canada thistles went to seed. The warm weather conditions in 1997 encouraged early thistle growth. The weather and environmental conditions in 1997 threaten a severe outbreak of the weed in 1998. This occurrence would greatly and negatively impact dry pea, lentil, and chickpea yields and would have a residual effect on wheat yields in subsequent years.

The use of glyphosate has been allowed under section 18 for the past 3 years, and the Applicant states that alternative controls are not adequate to prevent significant economic losses due to damage and contamination problems from Canada thistles. Under the proposed exemption, glyphosate would be applied at a rate of two - three quarts of formulated product per acre, which is 2-3 lbs., active ingredient (a.i.) per acre. The maximum number of applications allowed is one, and the total number of acres to be treated is 19,685. At the maximum rate and maximum acreage, 14,764 gallons of formulation could potentially be used.

This notice does not constitute a decision by EPA on the application itself. The regulations governing section 18 require publication of a notice of receipt of an application for a specific exemption proposing a use which has been requested or granted in any three previous years, and a complete application for registration and or tolerance petition has not been submitted to the Agency [40 CFR 166.24(a)(6)]. Such notice provides for opportunity for public comment on the application.

The official record for this notice, as well as the public version, has been established for this notice under docket number [OPP-181062] (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 the paper record maintained 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. 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 number [OPP-181062]. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

The Agency, accordingly, will review and consider all comments received during the comment period in determining whether to issue the emergency exemption requested by the Washington Department of Agriculture.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests, Emergency exemptions.

Dated: April 17, 1998

James Jones,

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 98-11137 Filed 4-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6004-2]

Proposed Administrative Settlement Under Section 122(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; In Re: Queen Street Dump Site, BOSCAWEN, NH

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of proposed administrative settlement and request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to enter into a settlement agreement to address certain claims under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.* Notification is being published to inform the public of the proposed settlement and of the opportunity to comment. The settlement is intended to resolve certain liabilities under CERCLA of the Town of Boscawen, New Hampshire for costs incurred, and to be incurred, by EPA in response activities at the Queen Street Dump Site (the "Site") in Boscawen, New Hampshire.

DATES: Comments must be provided on or before May 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Ms. MaryAnne Gavin, Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

Region I, JFK Federal Building, Mailcode RCH, Boston, Massachusetts 02203, and should refer to: In the Matter of the Queen Street Dump Site, Town of Boscawen, New Hampshire, U.S. EPA Docket Number CERCLA I-98-1018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Novick, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Site Remediation and Restoration, J.F.K. Federal Building, Mailcode HBR, Boston, Massachusetts 02203, (617) 573-9671.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*, notification is hereby given of a proposed settlement agreement under section 122(h) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(h), concerning the Queen Street Dump Site in Boscawen, New Hampshire. The settlement has been approved by EPA Region I, subject to review by the public pursuant to this document. The Town of Boscawen, NH has executed a signature page committing it to participate in the settlement. Under the proposed settlement, the Town will conduct certain time-critical removal activities at the Queen Street site, and permanently close a related site called the Corn Hill Landfill. The value of these activities is currently estimated at a total of \$1,987,000. EPA also intends to conduct certain time-critical work at the Queen Street site, in accordance with an Action Memorandum issued on March 13, 1998. EPA's work is currently valued at approximately \$550,000. In addition, EPA's past costs for this site are estimated at \$37,000. The settlement provides the Town with a covenant not to sue for all past costs, and for future costs not to exceed \$550,000.

EPA is entering into the covenant not to sue portion of the agreement under the authority of CERCLA section 122(h), 42 U.S.C. 9622(h), which provides EPA with authority to consider, compromise, and settle a claim under section 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9607, for costs incurred by the United States if the claim has not been referred to the U.S. Department of Justice for further action. Written approval of this settlement by the U.S. Department of Justice is required, pursuant to section 122(h)(1) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(h)(1). EPA will receive written comments relating to this settlement for thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this document.

A copy of the proposed administrative settlement may be obtained in person or by mail from Steve Novick, U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Site Remediation and Restoration, Mailcode HBR, Boston, Massachusetts 02203, (617) 573-9671.

The Agency's response to any comments received will be available for public inspection with the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I, JFK Federal Building, Mailcode RCH, Boston, Massachusetts (U.S. EPA Docket No. CERCLA I-98-1018).

Dated: March 24, 1998.

Harley F. Laing,

Director of the Office of Site Remediation and Restoration.

[FR Doc. 98-11141 Filed 4-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collections being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

April 20, 1998

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commissions, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Persons wishing to comment on this information collection should submit comments June 26, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Judy Boley, Federal Communications Commissions, Room 234, 1919 M St., NW., Washington, DC 20554 or via internet to jboley@fcc.gov.