

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-34161A; FRL-6091-5]

Methyl Parathion, Revised Organophosphate Pesticide Risk Assessments; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA will hold a public meeting to present the revised risk assessments for one organophosphate pesticide, methyl parathion, to interested stakeholders. This public meeting, called a "Technical Briefing," will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to learn about the data, information, and methodologies that the Agency used in revising its risk assessments for methyl parathion. In addition, representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide ideas on possible risk management for methyl parathion.

DATES: The technical briefing will be held on Monday, August 2, 1999, from 9 a.m. to noon.

ADDRESSES: The technical briefing will be held at the Holiday Inn-Old Town, 625 First St., Alexandria, VA, (703) 548-6300.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Angulo, Special Review and Registration Division (7508C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-8004; e-mail address: angulo.karen@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. General Information****A. Does This Action Apply To Me?**

This action applies to the public in general. As such, the Agency has not attempted to specifically describe all the entities potentially affected by this action. The Agency believes that a wide range of stakeholders will be interested in technical briefings on organophosphates, including environmental, human health, and agricultural advocates, the chemical industry, pesticide users, and members of the public interested in the use of pesticides on food. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed in the "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT" section.

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

1. *Electronically.* You may obtain electronic copies of this document and certain other available documents from the EPA Internet Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. 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/>.

A brief summary of the methyl parathion revised risk assessments is now available at: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/status.htm/>, as well as in paper as part of the public version of the official record as described in Unit I.B.2. of this document. To access information about the revised risk assessments, which are scheduled for release on the day of the technical briefing, for the organophosphate pesticide methyl parathion, go directly to the Home Page for the Office of Pesticide Programs at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/>.

2. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control number OPP-34161A. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received during the applicable comment period, and other information related to this action, including information claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI). This official record includes the documents that are physically located in the docket, as well as the documents that are referenced in those documents. The public version of the official record does not include any information claimed as CBI. The public version of the official record, which includes printed, paper versions of any electronic comments submitted during the applicable comment period, is available for inspection in Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., 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. What Action has EPA Taken?

This document announces the Agency's intention to hold a technical briefing for the organophosphate pesticide, methyl parathion. The Agency is presenting the revised risk assessments for methyl parathion to interested stakeholders. Technical briefings are designed to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to

become even more informed about an organophosphate's risk assessment. EPA will describe in detail the revised risk assessments, including: The major points (e.g., contributors to risk estimates); how public comment on the preliminary risk assessments affected the revised risk assessments; and the pesticide use information/data that was used in developing the revised risk assessments. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to ask clarifying questions. In addition, representatives of the USDA will provide ideas on possible risk management for methyl parathion.

Technical briefings are part of the pilot public participation process that EPA and USDA are now using for involving the public in the reassessment of pesticide tolerances under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), and the reregistration of individual organophosphate pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The pilot public participation process was developed as part of the EPA-USDA Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC), which was established in April 1998 as a subcommittee under the auspices of EPA's National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology. A goal of the pilot public participation process is to find a more effective way for the public to participate at critical junctures in the Agency's development of organophosphate risk assessment and risk management decisions. EPA and USDA began implementing this pilot process in August 1998 in response to Vice President Gore's directive to increase transparency and opportunities for stakeholder consultation.

On the day of the technical briefing, in addition to making copies available at the meeting site, the Agency will also release for public viewing the methyl parathion revised risk assessments and related documents to the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch and the OPP Internet web site that are described in Unit I.B.1. of this document. In addition, the Agency will issue a **Federal Register** notice to provide an opportunity for a 60-day public participation period during which the public may submit recommendations and proposals for transition.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Chemicals, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: July 16, 1999.

Jack E. Housenger,

*Acting Director, Special Review and
Reregistration Division, Office of Pesticide
Programs.*

[FR Doc. 99-18649 Filed 7-16-99; 4:17 pm]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F