

15. The **Federal Register** document required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on August 9, 1999 (64 FR 43177); no comments were received.

**Burden Statement:** The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 40 minutes per response. Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes 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:** Large and small businesses holding cost type contracts with EPA.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 65.

**Frequency of Response:** Once, at contract completion.

**Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden:** 43 hours.

**Estimated Total Annualized Capital, Operating/Maintenance Cost Burden:** \$0 (zero).

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. 0246.07 and OMB Control No. 2030-0016 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Information, Collection Strategies Division (2822), 401 M Street, SW, 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: December 8, 1999.

**Oscar Morales,**

*Director, Collection Strategies Division.*

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**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[OPP-00636; FRL-6399-1]

### **Prior Informed Consent for Chemicals in International Trade; Notice of Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting and availability of document.

**SUMMARY:** EPA announces a public meeting to review and discuss the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the issues which will be discussed at the first technical meeting of the Interim Chemical Review Committee (ICRC). The PIC Agreement creates an international approach to the export of banned or severely restricted chemicals and pesticides among countries who are signatories of the Agreement. The U.S. is a signatory, and an EPA delegate will represent the U.S. on the ICRC. The ICRC is responsible for developing the implementation of the Agreement. A document entitled, "Guidance to the U.S. Representative to the Interim Chemical Review Committee," has been prepared to guide and inform the public discussion at the meeting. Comments are invited on this document.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on January 19, 2000, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 1126, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Requests to participate may be submitted by mail, electronically, or in person. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit III. of the "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION." To ensure proper receipt by EPA, your request must identify docket control number OPP-00636 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cathleen M. Barnes, Field and External Affairs Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 305-7101; fax number: (703) 308-1850; e-mail address: barnes.cathleen@epa.gov.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **I. Does this Action Apply to Me?**

This action is directed to the public in general. This action may, however, be

of interest to those persons who manufacture, import, export, or use pesticides and industrial chemicals, and those persons who have interest in the topic of international trade in products that have been designated as "banned or severely restricted pesticides and industrial chemicals." 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?**

1. *Electronically.* 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/>. Alternatively, you may wish to review materials provided at <http://www.epa.gov/oppfeed1/international/> which also has links to the PIC Home Page maintained by the Interim Secretariat for the PIC Procedure. You may link directly to the PIC Home Page of the U.N. Food Agriculture Organization at <http://www.fao.org/waicent/FaoInfo/Agricult/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/PIC/pichome.htm>.

2. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record for this meeting under docket control number OPP-00636. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this notice, any public comments received during an applicable comment period, and other information related to the January 19, 2000 meeting, including any 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, which includes printed, paper versions of any electronic comments that may be submitted during an applicable comment period, is available for inspection in the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), 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 PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

**III. How Can I Request to Participate in this Meeting?**

You may submit a request to participate in this meeting through the mail, in person, or electronically. Do not submit any information in your request that is considered CBI. Your request must be received by EPA on or before January 5, 2000. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPP-00636 in the subject line on the first page of your request.

1. *By mail.* You may submit a request to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

2. *In person or by courier.* Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA. The PIRIB is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

3. *Electronically.* You may submit your request electronically by e-mail to: "opp-docket@epa.gov." Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. Use WordPerfect 6.1/8.0 or ASCII file format and avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Be sure to identify by docket control number OPP-00636. You may also file a request online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

**IV. Background on PIC Agreement**

The U.S. is a signatory to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, commonly known as PIC. Under this Agreement, countries nominate substances which have been banned or severely restricted, and once approved for inclusion in the Procedure, these substances will be subject to additional controls in international

trade. The PIC creates a system to ensure that countries importing particularly dangerous chemicals and pesticides fully understand the risks posed by the use of these substances, and can make informed decisions about their import. This is primarily achieved through the sharing of information about control actions and the risks which prompted them. PIC also establishes a mechanism which enables countries to refuse import of listed substances, and creates a responsibility for exporting countries to prohibit export to that country. It also establishes other information exchange provisions which include: export notifications, material data safety sheets, and labeling. An Interim Chemical Review Committee, commonly known as ICRC, has been established to provide technical, expert advice and recommendations for implementing parts of the Interim Procedure. The Environmental Protection Agency is providing a representative to the ICRC who will reflect the regulatory approaches of the U.S. in the ICRC. The ICRC will review technical and regulatory information and develop recommendations regarding the inclusion of chemicals in the Interim PIC Procedures. The Agreement will come into force when 50 countries or regional economic integration organizations have ratified it. Until that time, the Agreement is being operated as a voluntary Interim Procedure.

**List of Subjects**

Environmental protection.

Dated: December 6, 1999.

**Anne E. Lindsay,**

*Director, Field and External Affairs Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.*

[FR Doc. 99-32384 Filed 12-14-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-F**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[OPP-181071; FRL-6394-2]

**Helix; 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 North Dakota Department of Agriculture to use the pesticide product Helix, containing the registered active ingredients difenoconazole (CAS No. 119446-68-3), fludioxonil (CAS No. 131341-86-1), and (R)-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-methoxyacetyl-amino]-propionic acid methyl ester (CAS No. 70630-17-0) and the unregistered active ingredient thiamethoxam to treat up to 2,400,000 pounds of canola seed to control flea beetles. The Applicant proposes the use of a new chemical which has not been registered by the EPA. EPA is soliciting public comment before making the decision whether or not to grant the exemption.

**DATES:** Comments, identified by docket control number OPP-181071, must be received by December 30, 1999.

**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-181071 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen Schaible, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: 703-308-9362; fax number: 703-308-5433; e-mail address: schaible.stephen@epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. General Information**

*A. Does this Action Apply to Me?*

You may be potentially affected by this action if you petition EPA for emergency exemption under section 18 of FIFRA. Potentially affected categories and entities may include, but are not limited to:

Categories	NAICS codes	Examples of potentially affected entities
State government	9241	State agencies that petition EPA for section 18 pesticide exemption