

the safe storage and disposal of pesticides." The regulations must ensure, to the fullest extent practicable, that the containers:

1. Accommodate procedures used for removal of pesticides from the containers and rinsing of the containers.
2. Facilitate safe use of the containers, including elimination of splash and leakage.
3. Facilitate safe disposal of the containers.
4. Facilitate safe refill and reuse of the containers.

FIFRA section 19(f) requires EPA to promulgate regulations "prescribing procedures and standards for the removal of pesticides from containers prior to disposal." The regulations may:

1. Specify, for each major type of pesticide container, procedures and standards for, at a minimum, triple rinsing or the equivalent degree of pesticide removal.
2. Specify procedures that can be implemented promptly and easily in various circumstances and conditions.
3. Provide for reusing, whenever practicable, or disposing of rinse water and residue.
4. Coordinate with requirements imposed under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) for rinsing containers.

Section 19(f) provides that EPA, in its discretion, may exempt products intended solely for household use.

Section 19(h), titled "Relationship to Solid Waste Disposal Act," specifies that nothing in section 19 shall diminish the authorities or requirements of RCRA. It also exempts certain antimicrobial pesticides from the container regulations:

A household, industrial, or institutional antimicrobial product that is not subject to regulation under the Solid Waste Disposal Act ... shall not be subject to the provisions of subsections (a), (e), and (f), unless the Administrator determines that such product must be subject to such provisions to prevent an unreasonable adverse effect on the environment.

IV. Do Any Statutory and Executive Order Reviews Apply to this Action?

This notice neither proposes nor takes final action regarding any substantive requirements and is procedural in nature. This notice merely opens up the docket for further comments on a rule that has already been proposed. Therefore, it is not subject to the statutory and executive order reviews generally applicable to proposed and final rules.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Parts 156 and 165

Environmental protection, Packaging and containers, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: June 2, 2004.

Susan B. Hazen,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 170

[OPP-2003-0169; FRL-7354-6]

Pesticide Worker Protection Standard; Glove Liners, and Chemical-Resistant Glove Requirements for Agricultural Pilots; Notification to the Secretary of Agriculture

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notification to the Secretary of Agriculture.

SUMMARY: This document notifies the public that the Administrator of EPA has forwarded to the Secretary of Agriculture a draft final rule as required by section 25(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). As described in the Agency's semi-annual Regulatory Agenda, the draft final rule would create greater flexibility in requirements of the 1992 Worker Protection Standard related to the use of gloves by workers and applicators.

ADDRESSES: EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID number OPP-2003-0169. All documents in the docket are listed in the EDOCKET index at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, i.e., Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in EDOCKET or in hard copy at the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1801 S. Bell St., Arlington, VA, Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The Docket telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald Eckerman, Field and External Affairs Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (703) 305-

5062; e-mail address: eckerman.donald@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. It simply announces the submission of a draft final rule to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and does not otherwise affect any specific entities. This action may, however, be of particular interest to agricultural employers, including employers in farms as well as nursery, forestry, or greenhouse establishments, who are subject to the Worker Protection Standards. Since other entities may also be interested, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be interested in this action. If you have any questions regarding this action, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

B. How Can I Access Copies of this Document and Other Related Information?

In addition to using EDOCKET (<http://www.epa.gov/edocket/>), you may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "**Federal Register**" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>. Please note that the draft final rule is not currently publicly available. It will only become publicly available when the final rule is signed, at which time it will publish in the **Federal Register**. A frequently updated electronic version of 40 CFR part 170 is available at E-CFR Beta Site Two at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr/>.

II. What Action is EPA Taking?

Section 25(a)(2) of FIFRA requires the Administrator to provide the Secretary of Agriculture with a copy of any final regulation at least 30 days before signing it for publication in the **Federal Register**. The draft final rule is not available to the public until after it has been signed by EPA. If the Secretary comments in writing regarding the draft final rule within 15 days after receiving it, the Administrator shall include the comments of the Secretary, if requested by the Secretary, and the Administrator's response to those comments in the final rule when published in the **Federal Register**. If the Secretary does not comment in writing within 15 days after receiving the draft final rule, the Administrator may sign the final rule for publication in the **Federal Register** anytime after the 15-day period.

III. Do Any Statutory and Executive Order Reviews Apply to this Notification?

No. This document is not a rule, it is merely a notification of submission to the Secretary of Agriculture. As such, none of the regulatory assessment requirements apply to this document.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 170

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Labeling, Occupational safety and health, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: June 14, 2004.

Anne E. Lindsay,

Director, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 04-14830 Filed 6-29-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Finding on a Petition to List the New England Cottontail as Threatened or Endangered

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of 90-day petition finding and initiation of status review.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce a 90-day finding on a petition to list the New England cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). We find that the petition presents substantial information indicating that the listing of the New England cottontail may be warranted. Therefore, we are initiating a status review to determine if listing the species is warranted. To ensure that the review is comprehensive, we are soliciting information and data regarding this species.

DATES: The administrative finding announced in this document was made on June 2, 2004. To be considered in the 12-month finding for this petition, comments and information should be submitted to us by August 30, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Data, information, comments, or questions concerning this petition and our finding should be submitted to the Field Supervisor (Attention: Endangered Species), New England Field Office, 70 Commercial Street, Suite 300, Concord, New Hampshire 03301. The petition,

administrative finding, supporting data, and comments will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael J. Amaral, Endangered Species Specialist, at the New England Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** above), or at 603-223-2541.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4 (b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that we make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species, or to revise a critical habitat designation, presents substantial scientific or commercial information to demonstrate that the petitioned action may be warranted. We are to base this finding on all information available to us at the time the finding is made. To the maximum extent practicable, we are to make this finding within 90 days of the receipt of the petition, and to publish a notice of the finding promptly in the **Federal Register**. Our regulations at 50 CFR 424.14(b) state that for the purposes of petition findings, "substantial information" is that amount of information that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the measure proposed in the petition may be warranted * * *. If we find that substantial information was presented, we are required to promptly commence a review of the status of the involved species, if one has not already been initiated under our internal candidate assessment process. After completing the status review, we will issue an additional finding (the 12-month finding) determining whether listing is, in fact, warranted.

Based on our regulations at 50 CFR 424.14(b)(2), in making a 90-day finding as to whether a petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted, we are to consider whether such petition—

(1) Clearly indicates the administrative measure recommended and gives the scientific and any common names of the species involved;

(2) Contains detailed narrative justification for the recommended measure, describing, based on available information, past and present numbers and distribution of the species involved and any threats faced by the species;

(3) Provides information regarding the status of the species over all or a significant portion of its range; and

(4) Is accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation in the form

of bibliographic references, reprints of pertinent publications, copies of reports or letters from authorities, and maps.

On August 30, 2000, we received a petition dated August 29, 2000, requesting that we list the New England cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*) as a threatened or endangered species, and that critical habitat be designated "within a reasonable period of time following the listing." The petition, submitted by the Biodiversity Legal Foundation, Conservation Action Project, Endangered Small Animals Conservation Fund, and Defenders of Wildlife, was clearly identified as a petition for a rule, and contained the names, signatures, and addresses of the requesting parties. Included in the petition was supporting information regarding the species' taxonomy and ecology, historic and current distribution, present status, and potential causes of decline. We acknowledged receipt of the petition in a letter to Mr. D. C. Jasper Carlton, dated September 14, 2000. In this letter, we also advised the petitioners that due to funding constraints in fiscal year (FY) 2000, we would not be able to begin processing the petition in a timely manner. Those constraints persisted into FY 2001.

On December 19, 2000, Defenders of Wildlife sent a Notice of Intent to sue the Service for violating the Act by failing to make a timely 90-day finding on the petition to list the New England cottontail. On May 14, 2002, we advised the Defenders of Wildlife that we would begin action on the petition in FY 2002. This notice announces and summarizes our 90-day finding for the petition to list the New England cottontail.

Biology and Distribution

Sometimes called the gray rabbit, brush rabbit, wood hare, or coony, the New England cottontail is a medium-sized cottontail rabbit that may reach 1,000 grams (g) (2.2 pounds (lbs)) in weight. Dorsal portions of its body are buff to ochre in color, and the back is overlain with distinct black hair (Chapman and Ceballos 1990). The ears are short and rounded, and have a distinct black edge. There is a distinct black spot between the ears.

A New England cottontail in the hand usually can be distinguished from two sympatric lagomorphs (lagomorphs are a suborder of mammals that includes rabbits, hares, and pikas), the eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) and the snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), by several features, including fur color, ear length, body mass, presence of the black spot between the ears, absence of a white spot on the forehead, and the