Dated: May 29, 1998.

Thomas E. Dixon,

Acting Director, Quality Assurance Division.

[FR Doc. 98–15324 Filed 6–8–98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6109–5]

Hazardous Waste Land Disposal Restrictions: Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Solid Waste will hold a public roundtable discussion on the Agency's efforts to evaluate important aspects of and potentially improve the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Land Disposal Restrictions (LDR) Program. The purpose of the roundtable is to enable individuals who have substantial experience in implementing the LDR Program to offer their own evaluations and suggestions on possible improvements to the program. EPA's overall goal in the LDR reinvention project is to examine the best way to ensure the program is environmentally protective, less expensive, more efficient and flexible, clearer to the public, and more enforceable. The public is welcome to observe the discussions among participants and will be afforded some opportunities to express their views. However, this meeting is not intended to be a full public hearing.

DATES: The meeting will be held on July 1 and 2, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Arlington at Ballston, 4610 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For registration matters, contact Ms. Lisa Enderle of SAIC at (703) 645–6950. For technical questions regarding the LDRs, contact Rhonda Minnick of EPA's Office of Solid Waste at (703) 308–8771; e-mail: minnick.rhonda@epamail.epa.gov. For general information on the LDRs, contact EPA's RCRA Hotline at (800) 824–9346 or TDD (800) 553–7672 (hearing impaired). In the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, call (703) 412–9810 or TDD (703) 412–3323.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Accommodations

Guest rooms may be reserved by calling the Holiday Inn Arlington at Ballston directly at (703) 243–9800 by June 8, 1998. Please reference the ''LDR Roundtable'' to receive the special government room rate.

Registration

Only registered participants will be eligible to take part in the roundtable discussions (subject to the final agenda and meeting structure). Depending on the number of persons seeking to be full discussion participants, EPA may need to tailor the meeting structure and limit the number of full participants to 75 individuals to insure that useful results are obtained in the time available. Details will be developed and communicated on meeting structure as early as possible. To register as an observer or to register as a full participant (requested), please download a registration form via the Internet from the EPA web site at http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/ldr/register.htm. To receive a registration form via fax and/or for additional meeting and logistical information please contact Ms. Lisa Enderle of SAIC at (703) 645–6950. The registration deadline is June 19, 1998.

Background

In the 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments to RCRA, Congress prohibited the land disposal of hazardous wastes unless the wastes meet treatment standards established by EPA. The statute requires that these treatment standards substantially diminish the toxicity or mobility of hazardous wastes so that short- and long-term threats to human health and the environment are minimized. RCRA section 3004(m). In response, EPA has developed a series of rulemakings under the LDR Program setting forth standards for treatment of hazardous wastes destined for land disposal.

Once a hazardous waste is prohibited, the statute provides only two options for legal land disposal: meet the treatment standard for the waste prior to land disposal or dispose of the waste in a land disposal unit that has been found to satisfy the statutory ''no migration'' test. A no migration unit is one from which there will be no migration of hazardous constituents for as long as the waste remains hazardous. RCRA sections 3004(d), (e), (f) and (g)(5).

To date, the Agency has implemented section 3004(m) of RCRA by establishing treatment standards for chemical constituents in hazardous wastes based upon the performance of the best demonstrated available technology (BDAT) to treat the waste. EPA may establish treatment standards as specified technologies, as constituent concentration levels in treatment residuals, or both. When treatment standards are set as levels, the regulated community may use any technology not otherwise prohibited (such as impermissible dilution) to treat the waste.

On January 13 and 14, 1993, EPA held a roundtable discussion on the LDR Program with stakeholders from hazardous waste generators, treaters, recyclers and disposers; public interest groups; State environmental agencies; EPA regional offices; and other federal agencies. The purpose of the 1993 roundtable was for EPA to hear suggestions on improvements to the LDR Program from people who implement it. As a result of those suggestions, EPA made several significant changes to the LDRs, including consolidation of the three treatment standard tables into one table, simplification of notification requirements, and promulgation of universal treatment standards. *See* 59 FR 47982, 48004 (Sept. 19, 1994) (final LDR Phase II rule); 62 FR 25998, 26004 (May 12, 1997) (final Phase IV ''mini-rule'').

EPA believes that, in general, the LDR Program is working and is an impetus for source reduction and proper waste treatment. Nonetheless, EPA's efforts to improve the LDR Program are on-going. Specifically, as part of its LDR Reinvention Project, EPA has undertaken a multi-faceted evaluation of the LDR Program to determine what is and is not working well in the program. These Reinvention activities include interviews of hazardous waste management experts, visits to different hazardous waste treatment facilities, and analysis of RCRA Hotline and LDR staff inquiries. EPA believes it would be valuable to build upon the information obtained from these activities by holding a second roundtable. The Agency anticipates that the roundtable will enable EPA to gather additional stakeholder suggestions and to target areas of the LDR Program for specific improvements.

As currently planned, the roundtable will begin with a plenary session to obtain general comments from the attendees on the benefits and burdens of the LDRs. The meeting will then proceed with a number of breakout sessions involving discussion among designated participants in smaller groups, each of which will focus on a subset of LDR issues.

The public is welcome to observe the discussions among participants on July 1 and 2 and to request to be included as full discussion participants. EPA will accommodate as many participant requests as possible consistent with the final meeting agenda and structure. However, this meeting is not intended to be a public hearing and only pre-registered individuals will be allowed to participate actively, depending on the final meeting agenda and structure. To ensure that useful results are obtained in the time available, the Agency may limit the number of full participants to 75 individuals. During the two days of the roundtable, there will be a limited ''open microphone'' session to obtain comments from non-participant attendees.

EPA has placed information concerning this roundtable, including the registration forms and a preliminary agenda, in electronic format on the Internet. These materials can be accessed via the Internet at the EPA web site identified above. For those who cannot access the Internet, hard copies may be obtained by contacting Ms. Lisa Enderle of SAIC at (703) 645–6950.

Dated: June 4, 1998.

James R. Berlow,

Director, Hazardous Waste Minimization and Management Division.

[FR Doc. 98–15320 Filed 6–8–98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP–181064; FRL 5794–5]

Carbofuran; 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 California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation, (hereafter referred to as the ''Applicant'') to use the pesticide flowable Carbofuran (Furadan 4F Insecticide/Nematicide) (EPA Reg. No. 279–2876) to treat up to 300,000 acres of cotton in California, to control cotton aphids. The Applicant proposes the use of a chemical which has been the subject of a Special Review within EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs. The granular formulation of carbofuran was the subject of a Special Review between the years of 1986–1991, which resulted in a negotiated settlement whereby most of the registered uses of granular carbofuran were phased out. While the flowable formulation of carbofuran is not the subject of a Special Review, EPA believes that the proposed use of flowable carbofuran on cotton could pose a risk similar to the risk assessed by EPA under the Special Review of granular carbofuran. Additionally, in 1997 EPA denied requests made under provisions of section 18 for this use of flowable carbofuran. Therefore, in accordance with 40 CFR 166.24, EPA is soliciting public comment before making the decision whether or not to grant the exemption.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 24, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Three copies of written comments, bearing the identification notation ''OPP–181064,'' 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, DC 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 in 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: David Deegan, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number and e-mail: Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, (703–308–9358); e-mail: deegan.dave@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 Applicants have requested the Administrator to issue a specific exemption for the use of carbofuran on cotton to control aphids. Information in accordance with 40 CFR part 166 was submitted as part of this request.

As part of this request, the Applicant asserts that the state of California is likely to experience non-routine infestations of aphids during the 1998 cotton growing season. The applicant further claims that, without a specific exemption of FIFRA for the use of flowable carbofuran on cotton to control cotton aphids, cotton growers in the state will suffer significant economic losses. The applicant details a use program designed to minimize risks to pesticide handlers and applicators, non-target organisms (both Federally-listed endangered species, and non-listed species), and to reduce the possibility of drift and runoff.

The applicant proposes to make no more than two applications of flowable carbofuran on cotton at the rate of 0.25 lb. active ingredient (a.i.) [(8 fluid oz.)] in a minimum of 2 gallons of finished spray per acre by air, or 10 gallons of finished spray per acre by ground application. The total maximum proposed use during the 1998 growing season July 20, 1998 until October 15, 1998 would be 0.5 lb., a.i. (16 fluid oz.) per acre. The applicant proposes that the maximum acreage which could be treated under the requested exemption would be 300,000 acres. If all acres were treated at the maximum proposed rates, then 150,000 lbs., a.i. would be used in California.

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 use of a chemical (i.e., an active ingredient) which has been the subject of a Special Review within EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, and the proposed use could pose a risk similar to the risk assessed by EPA under the previous Special Review. 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–181064] (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