to learn about the data, information, and methodologies that the Agency used in revising its risk assessments for methidathion and oxydemethon-methyl. In addition, representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will also provide ideas on possible risk management for methidathion and oxydemethon-methyl.

DATES: The technical briefing will be held on Wednesday, December 8, 1999, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The technical briefing will be held at the Holiday Inn Capital Plaza, 300 J St., Sacramento, CA ((916) 446–0100).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: 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 under ''FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.''

B. 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/.

To access information about organophosphate pesticides, you can also go directly to the Home Page for the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) at http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/. In addition, there is a brief summary now available for both methidathion and oxydemethon-methyl revised risk assessments 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.

2. *In person*. The Agency has established an official record for organophosphates methidathion and oxydemethon-methyl under docket control numbers OPP–34172A for methidathion and OPP–34167A for oxydemethon-methyl. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, and other information related to this action, 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 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 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.

II. What Action is the Agency Taking?

This document announces the Agency's intention to hold a technical briefing for the organophosphate pesticides, methidathion and oxydemethon-methyl. The Agency is presenting the revised risk assessments for methidathion and oxydemethon-methyl to interested stakeholders. This technical briefing is 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 assessment affected the revised risk assessment; and the pesticide use information/data that was used in developing the revised risk assessment. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to ask clarifying questions. In addition, representatives of the USDA will provide ideas on possible risk management.

The technical briefing is 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 methidathion and oxydemethon-methyl 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. 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 risk management and mitigation ideas, and recommendations and proposals for transition.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Chemicals, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: November 9, 1999.

Jack E. Housenger,

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

[FR Doc. 99–29900 Filed 11–17–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP–34191; FRL–6092–3]

Pesticide Reregistration Performance Measures and Goals

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces EPA's progress in meeting its performance measures and goals for pesticide reregistration during 1998. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requires EPA to publish this information annually. The notice discusses the integration of tolerance reassessment with the reregistration process, and describes the status of various regulatory activities associated with reregistration and tolerance reassessment. The notice gives total numbers of chemicals and products reregistered, tolerances reassessed, Data Call-Ins issued, and products registered under the ''fast-track'' provisions of FIFRA. Finally, this notice contains the schedule for completion of activities for specific high priority chemicals.

DATES: This notice is not subject to a formal comment period. Nevertheless, EPA welcomes input from stakeholders and the general public. Written comments, identified by the docket number [OPP–34191], should be received on or before January 18, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by regular mail, electronically, or in person. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit I of the ''SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION'' section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol P. Stangel, Environmental Protection Agency (7508C), 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, telephone: (703) 308–8007, e-mail: stangel.carol@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Important Information

A. Does this Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. Although this action may be of particular interest to persons who are interested in the progress and status of EPA's pesticide reregistration and tolerance reassessment programs, 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 information in this notice, consult the person listed in the ''FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT'' section.

B. How Can I Get Additional Information or Copies of Support Documents?

1. *Electronically*. You may obtain electronic copies of this document and various support documents from the EPA Internet Home page at www.epa.gov. On the Home Page, select ''Laws and Regulations,'' and then look up the entry for this document under ''**Federal Register** -- Environmental Documents.'' You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at www.epa.gov/fedrgstr.

To access information about pesticide reregistration, go directly to the Home Page for the Office of Pesticide Programs at www.epa.gov/pesticides and select ''Pesticide Reregistration'' under ''Select Topic From List,'' the pull-down menu at the top of the screen.

2. *In person*. The official record for this notice, as well as the public version, has been established under docket control number [OPP–34191] (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of any electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI), is available for 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, excluding legal holidays. The Public Information and Records Integrity Branch telephone number is (703) 305–5805.

C. How and to Whom Do I Submit Comments To?

You may submit comments through the mail, in person, or electronically:

1. *By mail*. Submit written comments 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.

2. *In person*. Deliver written comments to Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, in Rm. 119, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

3. *Electronically*. Submit your comments and/or data electronically to opp-docket@epa.gov . Please note that you should not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comment and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number [OPP–36191]. Electronic comments on this notice may also be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

D. How Should I Handle Information That I Believe Is Confidential?

You may claim information that you submit in response to this document as 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 will be included in the public docket by EPA without prior notice.

II. Background

EPA must establish and publish annually in the **Federal Register** its performance measures and goals for pesticide reregistration, tolerance reassessment, and expedited registration, under section 4(l) of FIFRA, as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA). Specifically, such measures and goals are to include:

a. The status of reregistration;

b. The number of products reregistered, canceled, or amended;

c. The number and type of data requests or Data Call-In notices (DCIs) under section3(c)(2)(B) issued to support product reregistration by active ingredient;

d. Progress in reducing the number of unreviewed, required reregistration studies;

e. The aggregate status of tolerances reassessed;

f. The number of applications for registration submitted under subsection (k)(3),expedited processing and review of similar applications, that were approved or disapproved;

g. The future schedule for reregistrations; and

h. The projected year of completion of the reregistrations under section 4.

FIFRA, as amended in 1988, authorizes EPA to conduct a comprehensive pesticide reregistration program--a complete review of the human health and environmental effects of older pesticides originally registered prior to November 1, 1984. Those pesticides meeting today's scientific and regulatory standards may be declared ''eligible'' for reregistration. In order to be so designated, an older pesticide must have a substantially complete data base, and must be found not to cause unreasonable risks to human health or the environment when used in accordance with Agency approved label directions and precautions.

In addition, all pesticides with food uses must meet the safety standard of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996. Under FQPA, EPA must make a determination that pesticide residues remaining in or on food are ''safe''; that is, ''that there is reasonable certainty

that no harm will result from aggregate exposure to the pesticide chemical residue'' from dietary and other sources. In determining allowable levels of pesticide residues in food, EPA must perform a more comprehensive assessment of each pesticide's risks, considering:

- Aggregate exposure (from food, drinking water, and residential uses);
- Cumulative effects from all pesticides sharing a common mechanism of toxicity;
- Possible increased susceptibility of infants and children; and
- Possible endocrine or estrogenic effects.

FQPA requires the reassessment of all existing tolerances (pesticide residue limits in food) and tolerance exemptions within 10 years, to ensure that they meet the safety standard of the law. EPA was directed to give priority to the review of those pesticides that appear to pose the greatest risk to public health, and to reassess 33% of the 9,721[1] existing tolerances and exemptions within 3 years (by August 3, 1999), 66% within 6 years (by August 3, 2002), and 100% in 10 years (by August 3, 2006).

EPA is meeting FQPA's tolerance reassessment requirements through reregistration and several other key program activities. Schedules have been coordinated and integrated so that, in the course of making reregistration eligibility decisions, the Agency also is completing much of tolerance reassessment within the time frames mandated by the new law. EPA has met the FQPA goal of reassessing the first 33% of all food tolerances by August 3, 1999. Among these first completed tolerance reassessments, over 66% are for pesticides identified as posing the greatest potential risks. EPA is focusing attention particularly on priority Group 1 pesticides; over half of the universe of tolerances to be reassessed are included in this category, including tolerances for the organophosphate pesticides (the Agency's highest priority for review), as well as the carbamates, organochlorines, and B_2(probable human) carcinogens. EPA's approach to tolerance reassessment under FQPA, including the three priority Groups, is described fully in the Agency's document entitled, ''Raw and Processed Food Schedule for Pesticide Tolerance Reassessment'' (62 FR 42020, August 4, 1997)(FRL–5734–6).

FQPA has added considerably more complexity to the process of reregistering pesticides. New statutory requirements to consider aggregate exposure and cumulative risk, along with implementing new processes to increase stakeholder involvement and ensure a reasonable period for transition to new pest control tools and practices, have made risk assessment more complex and have lengthened the ''front end'' portion of reregistration. Over the longer run, these changes will enhance protection of human health and the environment and should speed risk reductions. EPA is now conducting reregistration in conjunction with tolerance reassessment, which FQPA mandates be completed by 2006. Reregistration of pesticide active ingredients and products will be completed prior to the statutory deadline for completing tolerance reassessment. However, there are increasing indications that all elements of reregistration, especially those elements also necessary to complete tolerance reassessment, will not be completed for all active ingredients by 2002.

When the ongoing pesticide reregistration program is completed by the year 2006, registration review as mandated by section 3(g) of FIFRA (a new provision adopted as part of the FQPA) will be underway. EPA's goal under the new program is to review every pesticide registration on a 15–year cycle.

III. FQPA and Program Accountability

One of the hallmarks of FQPA is enhanced accountability. EPA has incurred several additional obligations under this law, including the requirement to publish annually a summary of the program's performance measures and goals for reregistration, tolerance reassessment, and expedited registration. The following sections describe EPA's progress in the areas specifically identified by FIFRA section 4(l).

A. Status of Reregistration

Through the reregistration program, EPA is reviewing current scientific data for older pesticides and requiring changes to improve their safety. Pesticides that have sufficient supporting human health and environmental effects data and do not pose unreasonable risks may be declared ''eligible'' for reregistration. EPA presents these findings in Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) documents. At the end of fiscal year 1998 (FY '98) (that is, as of September 30, 1998), the Agency had completed 184 REDs out of a universe of 612 cases, or groups of related pesticide active ingredients subject to reregistration. Eight of the 184 decisions were voluntary cancellations that were counted as REDs because significant progress had been made in developing RED documents for these pesticides by the time the requests for their cancellation were received. An additional 231 reregistration cases were voluntarily canceled before EPA invested significant resources in developing their REDs. A total of 415 reregistration cases (68%), therefore, had completed the reregistration eligibility decision making process by the end of the fiscal year, leaving 197 cases (32%) awaiting such decisions.

The 184 REDs completed by the end of FY '98 include 281 active ingredients and encompass almost 6,800 pesticide products. Eighty-two (82) of these REDs have food uses. Between August 3, 1996, the date when FQPA was enacted, and September 30, 1998, EPA completed 43 REDs, 29 with food uses. The Agency reassessed 638[2] tolerances for these post-FQPA REDs. [Note: Tolerances associated with the 53 food use REDs that were completed before FQPA was enacted will be revisited to ensure that they meet the safety standard of the new law, as set forth in the Agency's August 4, 1997, Schedule for Pesticide Tolerance Reassessment.]

Reducing pesticide risks is an important aspect of the reregistration program. In developing REDs, EPA works with pesticide registrants to develop voluntary measures or regulatory controls needed to effectively reduce risks of concern. Every RED includes some risk reduction measures. The options for reducing risks are extensive and include voluntary cancellation of pesticide products or deletion of uses; declaring certain uses ineligible or not yet eligible (and then proceeding with follow-up action to cancel the uses or require additional supporting data); restricting use of products to certified applicators; limiting the amount or frequency of use; improving use directions and precautions; adding more protective clothing and equipment requirements; requiring special packaging or engineering controls; requiring no-treatment buffer zones; employing ground water, surface water, or other

[1] Although the total number of tolerances existing on August 3, 1996, and subject to FQPA reassessment was initially reported as 9,728, the correct number based on the Agency's recently completed Tolerance Tracking System is 9,721.

[2] Numbers of tolerance reassessments in this report are obtained from EPA's recently completed Tolerance Reassessment Tracking System (TORTS). The Agency has increased confidence in numbers derived from this new system, after completing an intensive quality control check of the entire data base. Where discrepancies are found between old and new tolerance reassessment numbers, those from the new system should take precedence. EPA plans to use these numbers as the baseline for all future tolerance reassessment reports and analyses.

environmental and ecological safeguards; and other measures.

EPA has previously projected its goal in conducting the reregistration program is to complete 34 REDs in FY '99, 20 in FY 2000, and 30 in FY 2001. EPA also intends to reassess tolerances within time frames set forth in FQPA, building on the reassessment of 33% of the existing tolerances by August 3, 1999, giving priority to those food use pesticides that appear to pose the greatest risk. As noted above, the integration of these two programs has added complexity to the reregistration process for food use pesticides.

B. Product Reregistration; Numbers of Products Reregistered, Canceled, and Amended

At the end of the reregistration process, after a RED has been issued and a pesticide reregistration case has been declared eligible for reregistration, individual end-use pesticide products that contain pesticide active ingredients included in the case must still be reregistered. This concluding part of the reregistration process is called ''product reregistration.''

A variety of outcomes are possible for pesticide products going through this final phase of the reregistration process. Ideally, the registrant submits the required product-specific data and revised labeling, which are reviewed and accepted by EPA. At that point, the Agency reregisters the pesticide product. If, however, the product contains multiple active ingredients, the Agency instead issues an amendment to the product's registration, incorporating the labeling changes specified in the RED; a product with multiple active ingredients may not be fully reregistered until the last active ingredient in its formulation is eligible for reregistration. Alternatively, the pesticide producer, or registrant, may request a voluntary cancellation of their end-use product registration. In other situations, the Agency may temporarily suspend a product's registration if the registrant has not submitted required product specific studies within the time frames specified, or may cancel a product's registration because the registrant did not pay the required registration maintenance fee. During FY '98, 746 pesticide products reached one of these outcomes, as shown in the following table 1.

TABLE 1.— PRODUCT REREGISTRATION DECISIONS AND ACTIONS COMPLETED DURING FISCAL YEAR 1998

Products Reregistered	221
Products Amended	53
Products Canceled	337
Products Sent for Suspension	135
TOTAL	746

The status of the universe of 6,796 pesticide products subject to product reregistration based on completed REDs as of August 1999, is shown in table 2 below. This product reregistration status information should be considered a snapshot in time. As registrants and EPA make marketing and regulatory decisions in the future, the status of individual products may change and numbers in the following table 2 may fluctuate.

TABLE 2.— STATUS OF UNIVERSE OF PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO PRODUCT REREGISTRATION, AS OF AUGUST 1999

Products Reregistered	1,204
Products Amended	166
Products Canceled	2,408

TABLE 2.— STATUS OF UNIVERSE OF PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO PRODUCT REREGISTRATION, AS OF AUGUST 1999—Continued

Products Sent for Suspension	150
TOTAL PRODUCTS COMPLETED	3,928

TABLE 2.— STATUS OF UNIVERSE OF PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO PRODUCT REREGISTRATION, AS OF AUGUST 1999—Continued

Products with Decisions Pending	2,868
TOTAL PRODUCTS IN UNIVERSE	6,796

Currently, 2,868 products have product reregistration decisions pending. Some of these products are awaiting science reviews or decisions by EPA. Others are not yet ready for product reregistration decisions; they are associated with more recently completed REDs, and their product-specific data are not yet due to be submitted to, or reviewed by, the Agency. EPA's goal is to complete reregistration decisions for 750 products during fiscal year 1999, and to substantially reduce or eliminate the backlog of pending product reregistration decisions within the next several years.

C. Number and Type of DCIs Issued to Support Product Reregistration by Active Ingredient

The number and type of data requests or Data Call-In notices (DCIs) issued by EPA under FIFRA section 3(c)(2)(B) to support product reregistration for pesticide active ingredients included in fiscal year 1998 REDs are shown in the following table 3.

TABLE 3.—DATA CALL INS ISSUED TO SUPPORT PRODUCT REREGISTRATION FOR FY '98 REDS

Case No.	Case Name	Number of Products Covered in RED[1]	Number of Product Chemistry Studies Required[2]	Number of Acute Toxicology Studies Required[3]	Number of Efficacy Studies Required
0063	Alachlor	13	20	72 (12 not batched)	0
0025	Aluminum Phosphide	23	20	42(5 batches/2 not batched)	1
0025	Magnesium Phosphide	4	20	18 (1 batch/2 not batched)	1
2070	Bromoxynil	23	20	72 (5 batches/7 not batched)	0
0097	Chlorothalonil	210	20	828 (17 batches/121 not batched)	0
0002	DEET	232	20	300 (26 batches/24 not batched)	2

TABLE 3.—DATA CALL INS ISSUED TO SUPPORT PRODUCT REREGISTRATION FOR FY '98 REDS—Continued

Case No.	Case Name	Number of Products Covered in RED[1]	Number of Product Chemistry Studies Required[2]	Number of Acute Toxicology Studies Required[3]	Number of Efficacy Studies Required
0328	1,3-Dichloropropene	17	20	24 (4 batches)	0
0021	Dicofol	31	20	66 (3 batches/8 not batched)	10
2585	Hydramethylnon	30	20	24 (3 batches/1 not batched)	0
2335	Iprodione	40	17	72 (3 batches/9 not batched)	0
0028	Methomyl	31	20	54 (5 batches/4 not batched)	2
0177	Propachlor	8	20	30 (1 batch/4 not batched)	0
2675	Thiodicarb	30	20	60 (2 batches/8 not batched)	0

[1] The number of registered products containing a pesticide active ingredient can change over time. The product count that appears in the RED document may not be the same as the final count, which is prepared just before the RED document is mailed to registrants. This table reflects the final number of products associated with each RED, as they are being tracked for product reregistration.

[2] This column shows the number of product chemistry studies that are required for each product covered by the RED.

[3] In an effort to reduce the time, resources, and number of animals needed to fulfill acute toxicity data requirements, EPA ''batches'' products that can be considered similar from an acute toxicity standpoint. For example, one batch could contain five products. In this instance, if six acute toxicology studies were required, only six studies would be needed rather than 30 studies. Factors considered in the sorting process include each product's active and inert ingredients (e.g., identity, percent composition, and biological activity), type of formulation (e.g., emulsifiable concentrate, aerosol, wet table powder, granular, etc.), and labeling (e.g., signal word, use classification, precautionary labeling, etc.). The Agency does not describe batched products as ''substantially similar,'' because all products within a batch may not be considered chemically similar or have identical use patterns.

D. Progress in Reducing the Number of Unreviewed, Required Reregistration Studies

EPA is making good progress in reviewing scientific studies submitted by registrants in support of pesticides undergoing reregistration. Nearly 28,000 studies (27,728) have been received by the Agency through the reregistration program. Over 75% (20,857) of these studies either have been reviewed (19,583 or over 70%), or have been found to be extraneous (1,274 or almost 5%). (Extraneous studies is a term used to classify those studies that are not needed because the guideline or data requirement has been satisfied by other studies or has changed.) Less than 25% (6,871) of all studies received are ''awaiting review'' for future REDs, to complete the reregistration program. A more detailed account of the number and percent of studies received, reviewed, and awaiting review by reregistration list appears in table 4 below.

The proportion of studies awaiting review by EPA decreased slightly during the past year. At the end of 1997, almost 75% of all studies received in support of reregistration had been reviewed, compared to over 75% at the end of 1998. Thus, the reregistration study ''backlog'' remained fairly constant, but did decrease slightly during 1998.

TABLE 4.— REVIEW STATUS OF STUDIES SUBMITTED FOR PESTICIDE REREGISTRATION

List	Studies Reviewed + Extraneous	Studies Awaiting Review	Total Studies Received
List A	10,423 + 291 = 10,714 (81%)	2,571 (19%)	13,285
List B	5,720 + 661 = 6,381 (68%)	2,956 (32%)	9,337
List C	2,133 + 228 = 2,361 (70%)	1,013 (30%)	3,374
List D	1,307 + 94 = 1,401 (81%)	331 (19%)	1,732
TOTAL LISTS A - D	19,583 + 1,274 = 20,857 (75%)	6,871 (25%)	27,728

E. Aggregate Status of Tolerances Reassessed

EPA recently met the FQPA goal of reassessing 33% of all food tolerances by August 3, 1999, including many tolerances for pesticides identified as posing the greatest potential risks. As required by FQPA, the Agency announced its general schedule for tolerance reassessment in the **Federal Register** on August 4, 1997. This document identified three groups of pesticides to be reviewed; the grouping reflects EPA's overall scheduling priorities for tolerance reassessment. The Agency has given priority to Group 1 pesticides, particularly to the organophosphate pesticides (OPs).

1. *Tolerance reassessment and the organophosphates.* Because of the intense public interest in tolerance reassessment for the OPs, EPA and USDA created the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC) in 1998, to give advice on the best way to conduct the process, beginning with this class of pesticides. With guidance from TRAC, EPA is piloting an approach to tolerance reassessment that allows for much greater transparency and public involvement in developing both risk assessments and risk management decisions. Scientific analyses and risk assessments for the OPs have been made far more accessible to the public through a systematic notice and comment process, complemented by an Agency website (www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/), and supplemented by public meetings and technical briefings.

Through the ongoing public participation process for the OPs, EPA is obtaining additional health and environmental effects data, use data, and other information that is valuable in revising and completing our risk assessments. EPA expects to present its risk management proposals for the first several OPs, inviting public examination, discussion, and comment on both risk mitigation measures and possible transition strategies to alternative pest control approaches,

during FY '99. The Agency also is developing a method for calculating cumulative risk for the OPs as a group, and expects to issue its draft guidance on aggregating exposure by this fall for review and comment. A comprehensive guidance document on combining common mechanism of toxicity and aggregate exposure will be presented to the Scientific Advisory Panel by the end of the calendar year. Although all individual OP tolerances will not be reassessed in the first one-third, EPA is making significant progress with this group of chemicals and expects to complete the reassessments for all OP pesticides by the end of 2000.

2. *Fiscal Year 1998 accomplishments.* During FY '98, EPA reassessed 1,395 tolerances through the reregistration and registration programs and in conducting follow-up activities to revoke tolerances for pesticides that had been canceled previously, many as a result of reregistration. By the end of FY '98, the Agency was well on its way to meeting the first statutory tolerance reassessment deadline, as a cumulative total of 1,981 tolerances had been reassessed under FQPA since August 1996.

Many (809 or 58%) of EPA's 1,395 tolerance reassessment actions during FY '98 were tolerance revocation decisions, implemented through rule making. (Although the Agency made decisions to revoke these tolerances and signed final rule making to effect these decisions during FY '98, some of the rules were not published in the **Federal Register** until after the end of the fiscal year.) Other FY '98 reassessments occurred through reregistration/REDs (276) and through registration (310). Over 73 % of the FY '98 tolerance reassessments were for pesticides in priority Group 1 (1,023); others were for pesticides in Group 2 (202) and Group 3 (170). EPA reassessed 303 OP tolerances, 92 carbamate tolerances, and 350 carcinogen tolerances during FY '98. The Agency completed 224 tolerance reassessments for children's foods (i.e., foods among the top 20 raw agricultural commodities eaten by children age 1 to 6 years old, and among the top 20 commodities consumed by infants, according to a 1989–1991 survey.) 902 of the tolerances reassessed were for pesticide minor uses. Please see the following table 5 for a summary of these FY '98 accomplishments.

TABLE 5.—FISCAL YEAR 1998 TOLERANCE REASSESSMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sources of FY '98 Tolerance Reassessments.	
Reregistration/REDs	276
Registration	310
Tolerance Revocations	809
TOTAL	1,395
Numbers of Reassessments by Priority Group.	
Group 1	1,023 (73%)
Group 2	202 (15%)
Group 3	170 (12%)
TOTAL	1,395 (100%)
Special Types of Tolerances Reassessed.	
Organophosphates	303
Carbamates	92
Carcinogens	350
Kids Foods	224
Minor Uses	902
TOTAL	1,871

3. *Cumulative accomplishments.* EPA is conducting a variety of tolerance reassessment activities throughout the pesticide program that recently enabled the Agency to meet the FQPA goal of reassessing 33% of all food tolerances by August 3, 1999. As mentioned earlier, EPA's Tolerance Reassessment Tracking System (TORTS) is enabling the Agency to compile and consistently report on these tolerance reassessment accomplishments. The Agency has a high degree of confidence in this new data base, which was designed, created, and quality controlled internally, and is being operated in-house. Based on records regarding all 9,721 permanent tolerances subject to reassessment under FQPA, TORTS provides timely, detailed, and accurate reports highlighting many important aspects of the Agency's completed tolerance reassessments. Where discrepancies between old and new tolerance reassessment numbers are found, information from TORTS should take precedence. This system provides a solid baseline for all future Agency tolerance reassessment reports and analyses.

As of August 1999, of the 9,721 tolerances subject to reassessment, EPA has reassessed a net total of 3,290 tolerances. The Agency is accomplishing tolerance reassessment through the reregistration program, the registration program, and by revoking tolerances for pesticides that have been canceled (many as a result of reregistration). (Please see table 6).

TABLE 6.— TOLERANCE REASSESSMENTS COMPLETED POST-FQPA BY FISCAL YEAR, AS OF AUGUST 1999

Tolerances Reassessed Through	During Late FY '96	During FY '97	During FY '98	Total, End of FY '98	During FY '99,So Far	Total, August FY '99
Reregistration/REDs	25	337	276	638	253	891
Registration	0	221	310	531	324	855
Tolerance Revocations	3	0	809	812	513	1,325
Other Decisions	0	0	0	0	219	219
TOTAL TOLERANCES REASSESSED	28	558	1,395	1,981	1,309	3,290

i. *Reregistration/REDs.* EPA is using the reregistration program to accomplish much of the tolerance reassessment. As of August 1999, 891 tolerance reassessment decisions have been completed through reregistration. EPA has reviewed each of these existing tolerances and made the finding that there is a reasonable certainty of no harm, as required by FQPA. Many of the tolerances reassessed through REDs will remain the same while others are subject to modification, i.e., they may be raised, lowered, or revoked. Those that are being revoked are discussed further below. Although the Agency has reassessed all of these tolerances as part of reregistration consistent with FQPA, reached reassessment decisions, and issued formal REDs to document and announce its decisions, the rulemaking that will finally modify or revoke these tolerances has not yet been completed for all chemical cases.

ii. *Registration*. Like older pesticides, all new pesticide registrations must meet the safety standard of FQPA. Many of the registration applications EPA receives are for new uses of pesticides already registered for other uses. To reach a decision on a proposed new food use of an already registered pesticide, EPA must reassess the existing tolerances, as well as the proposed new tolerances, to make sure there is reasonable certainty that no harm will result to the public from aggregate exposure from all uses. As of August 1999, 855 tolerances have been reassessed as a result of the registration process. The Agency has specifically discouraged submission of applications and petitions for any new uses of the organophosphate pesticides, given the associated risk concerns.

iii. *Tolerance revocations*. EPA also has made decisions and has formally revoked, through rule making, a total of 1,325 tolerances. These revoked tolerances represent uses of many different pesticide active ingredients that were canceled in recent years, some due to the Agency's risk concerns; and many others voluntarily, based on lack of support for reregistration. By requiring the systematic updating of scientific data bases for older chemicals, EPA's reregistration program elicited registrant decisions to support or not support their chemicals. Registrants may have chosen not to support a specific use or an entire chemical for economic reasons, or in reaction to the Agency's risk concerns. Now that most unsupported pesticides and uses have been canceled, tolerances for residues also can be revoked; existing stocks of the chemicals are presumed to have been exhausted, and sufficient time will have elapsed for any treated food to clear channels of trade. These tolerance revocation actions are important; although many of the pesticides are no longer used in the United States, commodities treated with them could still have been imported before the revocations became effective.

iv. *Other reassessment decisions*. In addition to those described above, a total of 219 additional tolerance reassessment decisions have been made. These include 65 tolerances reassessed through the Plant Growth Regulator Rule (64 FR 31501, June 11, 1999) (FRL–6076–5); 80 organophosphate meat, milk, poultry, and egg tolerances determined to have no reasonable expectation of finite residue and therefore revoked on July 7, 1999; and 74 Inert Polymer Tolerances that were determined on July 20, 1999, to meet the terms and criteria of the Toxic Substances Control Act Polymer Exemption Rule (and so they also meet the FQPA safety standard).

F. Applications for Registration Requiring Expedited Processing Numbers Approved and Disapproved

By law, EPA must expedite its processing of certain types of applications for pesticide product registration, i.e., applications for end use products that would be identical or substantially similar to a currently registered product; amendments to current product registrations that do not require review of scientific data; and products for public health pesticide uses. During FY '98, EPA considered and approved the following numbers of applications for registration requiring expedited processing (also known as ''fast track'' applications):

Me-too product registrations/fast track: 496
Amendments/fast track: 3,054
Total: 3,550 applications processed by expedited means

Regarding numbers of applications disapproved, the Agency generally notifies the registrant of any deficiencies in the application that need to be corrected or addressed before the application can be approved. Applications may have been withdrawn after discussions with the Agency, but none were formally ''disapproved'' during FY '98.

On a financial accounting basis, EPA devoted approximately 30 full-time equivalents (FTEs) to reviewing and processing applications for me-too product registrations and fast-track label amendments. The Agency spent $2.4 million in direct costs (not including administrative expenses, computer systems, management overhead, and other indirect costs) during FY '98 on expedited processing and reviews.

G. Future Schedule for Reregistrations

EPA is now conducting its reregistration in conjunction with tolerance reassessment under FQPA. That law requires the Agency to reassess all existing tolerances over a 10 year period to ensure consistency with the new safety standard, and to consider pesticides that appear to pose the greatest risk first. The OP pesticides thus are the focal point of EPA's reregistration and tolerance reassessment programs at present (see List 1).

List 1.—The Organophosphate Pesticides

Acephate
Azinphos-methyl
Bensulide
Cadusafos*++
Chlorethoxyfos++
Chlorpyrifos
Chlorpyrifos-methyl++
Chlorthiophos**
Coumaphos+
Dialifor**
Diazinon
Dichlorvos (DDVP)
Dicrotophos
Dimethoate
Dioxathion**
Disulfoton
Ethion
Ethoprop
Ethyl parathion
Fenamiphos
Fenitrothion+
Fenthion
Fonofos**+
Isazophos**++
Isofenphos**+
Malathion
Methamidophos
Methidathion
Methyl parathion
Mevinphos**+
Monocrotophos**
Naled
Oxydemeton-methyl
Phorate
Phosalone**
Phosmet
Phosphamidon**+
Phostebupirim++
Pirimiphos-methyl
Profenofos
Propetamphos
Sulfotepp
Sulprofos**+
Temephos
Terbufos
Tetrachlorvinphos+
Tribufos (DEF)
Trichlorfon+

* Import tolerances only; no U.S. registrations.

** Canceled or proposed for cancellation; will be included in the organophosphate risk assessment if import tolerances remain after other tolerances are revoked.

+ Reregistration Eligibility Decision has been completed.

++ Registered post-'84 (not subject to reregistration).

EPA currently is reviewing each of the OP pesticides individually, and will conduct a cumulative assessment of all these pesticides together when the necessary methodology is complete. The Agency's pilot public participation process for the OPs features unprecedented pesticide information-sharing through the creation of public dockets (both electronic and in printed form), and several opportunities for public comment on each OP. Meanwhile, REDs for other types of pesticides are also in preparation. EPA expects to complete 8 to 10 REDs for the primarily non-OP RED candidates in List 2 below during the remainder of FY '99. In addition, several reregistration cases are in the process of being voluntarily canceled by their registrants.

These voluntary cancellations (and possibly others) will also count as FY '99 REDs (see List 3).

List 2.—Fiscal Year 1999 RED Candidates

Bendiocarb
Captan
EPTC
Folpet
Formetanate HCl
Lamprecide
Niclosamide
Pebulate
Sulfotepp (OP)*
TPTH

* EPA plans to complete a RED for the OP sulfotepp in FY '99, and will consider the pesticide again later in preparing a cumulative assessment for all the OP pesticides.

List 3.— Fiscal Year 1999 Voluntary Cancellations that Count as REDs, as of August 1999

Fonofos (OP)
Isofenphos (OP)
Oxythioquinox
Ryanodine
Vernolate

In prioritizing pesticides for reregistration eligibility review and tolerance reassessment, EPA continues to consider their potential risks, as reflected in the Agency's tolerance reassessment schedule published in the **Federal Register** on August 4, 1997. The Agency is giving highest priority to pesticides in Group 1 and is continuing to follow the schedule for reviewing clusters or waves of priority Group 1 pesticides, published in table 3 of our October 7, 1998, **Federal Register** Notice on Pesticide Reregistration Performance Measures and Goals for 1997 (63 FR 53895–53902) (FRL–6016–5). While focusing intensively on the organophosphates, the Agency also is making good progress in reviewing tolerances for other classes of pesticides in priority Group 1, including the carbamates, organochlorines, and probable B_2 carcinogens. EPA's current schedules for completing reregistration eligibility decisions (REDs) and tolerance reassessments for the carbamates, organochlorines, and carcinogens in Group 1 are presented in tables 7, 8, and 9 below.

TABLE 7.—SCHEDULE (ESTIMATED DATES BY FISCAL YEAR) FOR COMPLETING REDS AND TOLERANCE REASSESSMENTS FOR CARBAMATE PESTICIDES[1]

Chemical	RED	Tolerance Reassessment
Carbamates		
Asulam**	Completed*	2002*
Bendiocarb	1999	1999
Benomyl**	2000	2000
Carbaryl**	2000	2000
Carbofuran	2000	2000
Chlorpropham (CIPC)	Completed*	2002*
Desmedipham	Completed*	2002*
Formetanate HCl	1999	1999
Isopropyl Carbanilate (IPC or Propham)	(Canceled)	Completed
Methiocarb	Completed*	Completed*
Phenmedipham	2000	2000
Thiophanate methyl	2000	2000
Trimethacarb	(Canceled)	2001
Oxime Carbamates		
Aldicarb	2000	2000
Methomyl	Completed	Completed
Oxamyl	2000	2000
Thiodicarb**	Completed	Completed
Thiocarbamates		
Butylate	Completed*	2000*
Diallate	(Canceled)	Completed
EPTC	1999	1999
Molinate**	2000	2000
Pebulate	1999	1999
Thiobencarb	Completed	Completed
Vernolate	1999 (Canceled)	1999

[1] Triallate, which is both a carbamate and a carcinogen, is included in Table 9 below to avoid duplicate counting.

* RED completed before FQPA—needs FQPA reassessment.
** Is also a carcinogen.

TABLE 8.—SCHEDULE (ESTIMATED DATES BY FISCAL YEAR) FOR COMPLETING REDS AND TOLERANCE REASSESSMENTS FOR ORGANOCHLORINE PESTICIDES

Chemical	RED	Tolerance Reassessment
Dicofol *	Completed	Completed
Endosulfan	2000	2000
Lindane *	2000	2000
Methoxychlor	2001	2001

* Is also a carcinogen.

TABLE 9.—SCHEDULE (ESTIMATED DATES BY FISCAL YEAR) FOR COMPLETING REDS AND TOLERANCE REASSESSMENTS FOR CARCINOGENIC PESTICIDES IN GROUP 1

Chemical	RED	Tolerance Reassessment
Acetyldehyde	Completed	Completed
Acetochlor	(post-84)	2001**
Aciflourfen, Sodium salt	2000	2000
Alachlor	Completed	Completed
Amitraz	Completed *	2001
Amitrole	Completed	(no tolerances)
Atrazine	2000	2000
Cacodylic Acid	2000	2000
Captan	1999	1999
Chlorothalonil	Completed	Completed
Creosote	1999	(no tolerances)
Cyanazine	(Canceled effective 12/31/99)	2002
Cypermethrin	2001	Completed
Dacthal (DCPA)	Completed *	2002
Daminozide (Alar)	Completed	(no tolerances)
Diclofop-methyl	2000	2000
Difenoconazole	(post-84)	2003**
Ethalfluralin	Completed *	2002*
Ethylene Oxide	2001	2001
Folpet	1999	1999
Fomesafen	(post-84)	2002**
Heptachlor (non-food)	Completed	(no tolerances)
Hexythiazox	(post-84)	2002**
Imazalil	2000	2000
Iprodione	Completed	Completed
Lactofen	(post-84)	2000**
MGK Repellent 326	2002	(no tolerances)
Mancozeb	2000	2000
Maneb	2000	2000
Metam Sodium	2001	(no tolerances)
Metiram	2000	2000
Metolachlor	Completed *	2002*
Orthophenylphenol	2000	2000
Oryzalin	Completed *	2002*
Oxadiazon	2001	2001
Oxadixyl	(post-84)	2001**
Oxyfluorfen	2000	2000
Oxythioquinox	1999 (Canceled)	2000
Pentachloronitrobenzene (PCNB)	2001	2001
Pentachlorophenol (non-food)	1999	(no tolerances)
Permethrin	2001	2001
Procymidone	(Canceled)	2001 (import tolerance only)
Pronamide	Completed*	2001*
Propargite	2000	2000
Propazine	(Canceled)	2000
Propiconazole	2000	2000
Propylene Oxide	2000	2000
Simazine	2000	2000
Tebuconazole	(post-84)	Completed
Telone	Completed	(no tolerances)
Terbutryn	(Canceled)	2001
Terrazole	2000	2000
TPTH	1999	1999
Triadimefon	2001	2001

TABLE 9.—SCHEDULE (ESTIMATED DATES BY FISCAL YEAR) FOR COMPLETING REDS AND TOLERANCE REASSESSMENTS FOR CARCINOGENIC PESTICIDES IN GROUP 1—Continued

Chemical	RED	Tolerance Reassessment
Triadimenol	(post-84)	2001**
Triallate	2000	2000
Trifluralin	Completed *	2002*
Vinclozolin	1999	Completed

* RED completed before FQPA—needs FQPA reassessment.
** Registered after 1984. No RED needed; however, tolerances must be reassessed.

H. Projected Year of Completion of Reregistrations

EPA is now conducting reregistration in conjunction with tolerance reassessment, which FQPA mandates be completed by 2006. EPA plans to complete reregistration of pesticide active ingredients and products prior to the statutory deadline for completing tolerance reassessment.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection.

Dated: November 2, 1999.

Susan H. Wayland,

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

[FR Doc. 99–30157 Filed 11–17–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6477–2]

Peach Metal Industries, Inc. Superfund Site, Byron, Peach County, Georgia, Notice of Proposed Settlement

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of proposed settlement.

SUMMARY: Under section 122(h) (1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to settle claims for response costs at the Peach Metal Industries, Inc. Site (''Site'') located in Byron, Peach County, Georgia. Briggs & Stratton Corporation (''B&S'') is liable for EPA costs under Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9607(a). EPA and B&S have reached an agreement wherein EPA will not pursue its past costs against B&S, provided that B&S seeks to dismiss its section 106(b) Petition for Reimbursement currently pending before the Environmental Appeals Board. EPA will consider public comments on the proposed settlement for thirty days. EPA may withdraw from or modify the proposed settlement should such comments disclose facts or considerations which indicate the proposed settlement is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. Copies of the proposed settlement are available from: Ms. Paula V. Batchelor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Program Services Branch, Waste Management Division, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, (404) 562–8887.

Written comments may be submitted to Ms. Batchelor at the above address on or before December 20, 1999.

Dated: November 4, 1999.

Anita Davis,

Acting Chief, CERCLA Program Services Branch, Waste Management Division.

[FR Doc. 99–30156 Filed 11–17–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than December 13, 1999.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (A. Linwood Gill III, Assistant Vice President) 701 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23261-4528:

1. F&M National Corporation, Winchester, Virginia; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of The State Bank of the Alleghenies, Covington, Virginia.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Philip Jackson, Applications Officer) 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690-1413:

1. Iowa State Financial Services Corporation, Fairfield, Iowa; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Iowa State Bank & Trust Company, Fairfield, Iowa.

2. Iowa State Financial Services Corporation, Fairfield, Iowa; to merge with North Linn Corporation, Coggon, Iowa, and thereby indirectly acquire Linn County State Bank, Coggon, Iowa.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, November 12, 1999.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99–30070 Filed 11–17–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–F

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The FTC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget