

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-7138-3]

**Meeting on Development of a Metals Assessment Framework****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** EPA assesses the hazard and risk of metals and metal compounds in implementing its various legislative mandates. Public comments on recent Agency actions and examination of lead's bioaccumulation potential by an ad hoc technical panel of the Agency's Risk Assessment Forum have demonstrated the need for the development of comprehensive, cross-agency guidance for assessing the hazards and risks of metal and metal compounds that could be the basis for future Agency actions. The goal of this cross-agency guidance will be to articulate a consistent approach for assessing the hazards and risks of metals and metal compounds, based on application of all available data to a uniform and expanded characterization framework. This guidance will be applied to assessments of human health and ecological risk, ranging from site-specific situations to national assessments carried out for the purposes of priority setting, information collection, and/or air and water quality standards setting. This could involve reviewing a broad range of physico-chemical properties and may suggest more of a case-by-case (*i.e.*, metal by metal) approach to evaluating metals and metal compounds.

Under the auspices of the Agency's Science Policy Council, the Agency is embarking on the development of this assessment framework for metals. The first step in the process is formulation of an Action Plan that will identify key scientific issues specific to metals and metal compounds that need to be addressed by the framework, potential approaches to consider for inclusion in the framework including models and methods, an outline of the framework, and the necessary steps to complete the framework.

EPA is announcing a public meeting to provide an opportunity for interested parties to provide the Agency with information relevant to development of the framework. Eastern Research Group, Inc., (ERG) an EPA contractor, is organizing and convening the meeting. EPA is particularly interested in the public's perspectives on the following:

a. What organizing principles should the framework follow?

b. What scientific issues should the framework address?

c. What methods and models should be considered for inclusion in the framework?

d. What specific steps should be taken to further involve the public and the scientific community in the development of the framework?

The purpose of this meeting is for EPA to collect comments from the public. Therefore, although EPA staff will be present to accept the comments, EPA will not evaluate or respond to comments at the meeting. In addition, although EPA will review the comments submitted as it proceeds, it will not formally respond to each individual comment. EPA is not reconsidering any past Agency actions, and therefore EPA is not soliciting comments on past Agency actions. Because EPA is not soliciting comments on past Agency actions, comments regarding past Agency actions will not be considered.

EPA plans to provide the Action Plan to the Science Advisory Board in a consultation. Following the consultation, EPA will proceed with development of the framework which will be subsequently reviewed by the Science Advisory Board.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held Wednesday, February 20, 2002 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. EPA urges participants to register with ERG by February 14, 2002 to attend.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Washington Capitol Hotel, 550 C Street SW., Washington DC 20024. To attend, register by February 14, 2002 by calling ERG at 781-674-7374 or sending a facsimile to 781-674-2906. You may also register by sending e-mail to [meetings@erg.com](mailto:meetings@erg.com). If registering by e-mail, please provide complete contact information and identify the meeting by name and date. Space is limited, and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Please let ERG know if you wish to make comments.

Comments may be mailed to the Technical Information Staff (8623D), NCEA-W, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, or delivered to the Technical Information Staff at 808 17th Street, NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20006; telephone: 202-564-3261; facsimile: 202-565-0050. The EPA mail room does not accept courier deliveries. Electronic comments may be e-mailed to: [nceadc.comment@epa.gov](mailto:nceadc.comment@epa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For meeting information, registration, and logistics, contact ERG, 110 Hartwell

Avenue, Lexington, Massachusetts 02421; telephone: 781-674-7374; facsimile: 781-674-2906.

For information on development of the framework, contact John Whalan; USEPA (Code 7601D), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington DC 20460, telephone: 202-564-8461; facsimile: 202-564-8452; or e-mail: [whalan.john@epa.gov](mailto:whalan.john@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Presentations**

Members of the public who are interested in making a short presentation on a particular issue at the meeting are requested to indicate this interest at the time of registration. EPA would appreciate provision of a short summary of the presentation, which should be no more than one page. Please provide this summary in written and electronic format upon arrival at the meeting. Presentations should be no more than 15 minutes in duration. Because EPA is seeking a variety of opinions, the facilitator will ensure that there is a balance of viewpoints.

**Comments**

Comments should be in writing. Please submit one unbound original with pages numbered consecutively, and three copies of the comments. For attachments, provide an index, number pages consecutively with the comments, and submit an unbound original and three copies.

Please note that all comments received in response to this notice will be placed in a public record. For that reason, commentors should not submit personal information (such as medical data or home address), Confidential Business Information, or information protected by copyright. Due to limited resources, acknowledgments will not be sent.

Dated: February 1, 2002.

**William H. Farland,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development.*

[FR Doc. 02-2836 Filed 2-5-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[OPP-00758; FRL-6822-5]

**Tribal Pesticide Program Council; Notice of Public Meeting****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC), will hold a 2-day

meeting, beginning on March 7, 2002, and ending on March 8, 2002. This notice announces the location and times for the meetings and sets forth the tentative agenda topics.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on March 7, 2002, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and March 8, 2002, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On March 7 and 8 at 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.; the Tribal caucus is closed to EPA and the general public.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel-Crystal City, 1300 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Georgia A. McDuffie, Field and External Affairs Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 605-0195; fax number: (703) 308-1850; e-mail address: mcduffie.georgia@epa.gov.

Lillian Wilmore, Tribal Pesticide Program Council Facilitator, P.O. Box 470829; Brookline Village, MA 02447-0829; telephone number: (617) 232-5742; fax number: (617) 277-1656; e-mail address: naecology@aol.com.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. General Information**

*A. Does this Action Apply to Me?*

This action is directed to the public in general. This action may, however, be of interest to Tribes with pesticide programs or pesticide interests. 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**.

*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," "Regulations and Proposed Rules," 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/>.

2. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control number

OPP-00758. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received during an applicable comment period, 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.

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

You may submit comments through the mail, in person, or electronically. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPP-00758 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

1. *By mail.* Submit your comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460.

2. *In person or by courier.* Deliver your comments to: 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 comments electronically by e-mail to: [opp-docket@epa.gov](mailto:opp-docket@epa.gov), or you can submit a computer disk as described above. Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect 6.1/8.0 or ASCII file format. All comments in electronic form must be identified by docket control

number OPP-00758. Electronic comments may also be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

*D. How Should I Handle CBI that I Want to Submit to the Agency?*

Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. You may claim information that you submit to EPA in response to this document as CBI 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. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public version of the official record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public version of the official record without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

*E. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?*

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide copies of any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at the estimate that you provide.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternative ways to improve the notice or collection activity.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the deadline in this notice.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, be sure to identify the docket control number assigned to this action in the subject line on the first page of your response. You may also provide the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation.

**II. Tentative Agenda**

This unit provides tentative agenda topics for the 2-day meeting.

1. TPPC State of the Council Report.
2. Presentation and questions and answers by EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, Field and External Affairs Division.
3. Reports from Working Groups and TPPC participation in other meetings:

Subsistence, Tribal Strategy, Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Spray Drift, Environmental Justice (Fish Consumption), FOSTTA and POPs Issue, Water Quality and Pesticides Management, Worker Protection, and basic elements of Tribal Pesticide Program - Pesticide Assessment.

4. Tribal caucus.
5. EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) related issues:
  - i. New guidance for cooperative agreements and funding.
  - ii. Data collections issues - Form 5700-33H.
6. Section 18 and other Tribal authority issues - including a training session on section 18s.
7. Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) - Report on Tribal training.
8. Federal inspector credentials criteria.
9. Tribal caucus.
10. Report from: American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO), Report from Tribal Operations Committee (TOC), Report from Tribal Science Council (TSC), and Report from National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC).

**List of Subjects**

Environmental protection, Pesticides.

Dated: January 24, 2002.

**Jay S. Ellenberger,**

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

[FR Doc. 02-2835 Filed 2-5-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-S**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[OPP-181084; FRL-6821-8]

**Tetraconazole; Receipt of Application for Emergency Exemption, Solicitation of Public Comment**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** EPA has received specific exemption requests from the Minnesota and North Dakota Departments of Agriculture to use the pesticide tetraconazole (CAS No. 112281-77-3) to treat up to 1,660,000 acres of sugar beets to control *Cercospora* leaf spot. The Applicants propose the use of a new chemical which has not been registered by the EPA. Therefore, EPA is soliciting public comment before making the decision whether or not to grant the exemptions.

**DATES:** Comments, identified by docket control number OPP-181084, must be received on or before February 21, 2002..

**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-181084 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andrea Conrath, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-9356; fax number: (703) 308-5433; e-mail address: conrath.andrea@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

This listing is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be regulated by this action. Other types of entities not listed in the table in this unit could also be regulated. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes have been provided to assist you and others in determining whether or not this action applies to certain entities. To determine whether you or your business is affected by this action, you should carefully examine the applicability provisions. 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," "Regulations and Proposed Rules," 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/>.

2. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control number OPP-181084. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received during an applicable comment period, 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.

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

You may submit comments through the mail, in person, or electronically. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPP-181084 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

1. *By mail.* Submit your comments to: Public Information and Records