

please consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

D. 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.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the deadline in this document.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, be sure to identify the docket ID 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. Background

A. What Action is the Agency Taking?

EPA is making available the preliminary comparative ecological assessment for nine rodenticides, which included those addressed in the Reregistration Eligibility Decisions (REDs) for the rodenticide cluster (brodifacoum, bromadiolone, bromethalin, chlorophacinone, diphacinone,) and zinc phosphide, as well as three other rodenticides, warfarin, difethialone, and cholecalciferol. This notice starts a 60-day public comment period for the preliminary comparative ecological assessment. The Agency's preliminary assessment titled: "Potential Risks of Nine Rodenticides to Birds and Nontarget Mammals: A Comparative Approach," is available in the docket.

As additional comments, reviews, and risk assessment modifications become available, these will also be docketed for the nine rodenticides listed in this notice. The Agency cautions that these assessments are preliminary assessments only and that further refinements will be appropriate for some, if not all, of these nine rodenticides. This document reflects only the work and analysis conducted as of the time it was produced and it is appropriate that, as new information becomes available and/or additional analyses are performed, the conclusions contained, therein, may change.

The Agency is providing an opportunity, through this notice, for interested parties to provide written comments and input to the Agency on the preliminary ecological assessment for the chemicals specified in this notice. Such comments and input could address, for example, the availability of additional data to further refine the assessment or address the Agency's risk assessment methodologies and assumptions as applied to these specific chemicals. Comments should be limited to issues raised within the preliminary assessment. Failure to comment on any such issues as part of this opportunity will in no way prejudice or limit a commenter's opportunity to participate fully in later notice and comment processes. All comments should be submitted by February 28, 2003 using the methods in Unit I. Comments will become part of the Agency record for each rodenticide to which it pertains.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Chemicals, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: January 18, 2003.

Lois A. Rossi,

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

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-2002-0318; FRL-7281-3]

S-metolachlor; Notice of Filing a Pesticide Petition to Establish a Tolerance for a Certain Pesticide Chemical in or on Food

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initial filing of a pesticide petition proposing the establishment of regulations for residues of a certain pesticide chemical in or on various food commodities.

DATES: Comments, identified by docket ID number OPP-2002-0318, must be received on or before February 28, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. Follow the detailed instructions as provided in Unit I. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joanne I. Miller, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200

Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: 703-305-6224; e-mail address: miller.joanne@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

You may be potentially affected by this action if you are an agricultural producer, food manufacturer, or pesticide manufacturer. Potentially affected entities may include, but are not limited to:

- (NAICS 111), e.g., Crop Production
- (NAICS 112), e.g., Animal Production
- (NAICS 311), e.g., Food Manufacturing
- (NAICS 32532), e.g., Pesticide Manufacturing
- (NAICS 32561), e.g., Antimicrobial Pesticide

This listing is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be affected by this action. Other types of entities not listed in this unit could also be affected. The NAICS codes have been provided to assist you and others in determining whether this action might apply to certain entities. To determine whether you or your business may be affected by this action, you should carefully examine the applicability provisions in this Notice of Filing a Pesticide Petition to Establish a Tolerance for a Certain Pesticide Chemical in or on Food regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

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

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket identification (ID) number OPP-2002-0138. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA. This docket facility is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.,