

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 docket and EPA's electronic public docket. If you submit the copy that does not contain CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM clearly that it does not contain CBI. Information not marked as CBI will be included in the public docket and EPA's electronic public docket 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. Make sure to submit your comments by the deadline in this notice.
7. 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. What Action is the Agency Taking?

EPA has received a pesticide petition as follows proposing the establishment and/or amendment of regulations for residues of a certain pesticide chemical in or on various food commodities under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a. EPA has determined that this petition contains data or information regarding the elements set forth in FFDCA section 408(d)(2); however, EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficiency of the submitted data at this time or whether the data support granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Agricultural commodities, Feed additives, Food additives, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: January 16, 2003.

Debra Edwards,

Acting Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Summaries of Petitions

The petitioner summaries of the pesticide petitions are printed below as required by FFDCA section 408(d)(3). The summaries of the petitions was prepared by the petitioners and represent the views of the petitioners. The petition summary announces the availability of a description of the analytical methods available to EPA for the detection and measurement of the pesticide chemical residues or an explanation of why no such method is needed.

6E4638, 8E5011, 6F6751, and 7F4897

EPA has received pesticide petitions (PP 6E4638, 8E5011, 6F6751, and 7F4897) from the Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4), and Syngenta Crop Protection, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, P.O. Box 231, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903 and 410 Swing Road, Greensboro, NC 27419, proposing pursuant to section 408(d) of the FFDCA, 21 U.S.C. 346a(d), to amend 40 CFR part 180 to establish tolerances for residues of S-metolachlor on grasses grown for seed (6E4638), spinach (8E5011), sugar beets and sunflowers (7F4897), and tomato (6F6751). Grasses grown for seed and tomato petitions have been the subject of previous **Federal Register** notices on March 4, 1998, and April 14, 1997, these petitions have been amended to request the establishment of tolerances for S-metolachlor, by establishing a tolerance for residues of S-metolachlor [acetamide, 2-chloro-N-(2-ethyl-6-methylphenyl)-N-(2-methoxy-1-methylethyl)-, (S)] (CAS Number 873921-9) and its metabolites, determined as the derivatives, 2-[(2-ethyl-6-methylphenyl)amino]-1-propanol and 4-(2-ethyl-6-methylphenyl)-2-hydroxy-5-methyl-3-morpholinone, each expressed as the parent compound in or on the raw agricultural commodity (RAC) grass forage, grass hay, spinach, sugar beet, sugar beet dried pulp, sugar beet molasses, sugar beet tops, sunflower, sunflower meal, and tomato at 12, 0.2, 0.5, 0.5, 1.0, 3.0, 15.0, 0.5, 1.0, and 0.1 (respectively) parts per million (ppm). EPA has determined that the petition

contains data or information regarding the elements set forth in section 408(d)(2) of the FFDCA; however, EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficiency of the submitted data at this time or whether the data supports granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

A. Residue Chemistry

1. *Plant metabolism.* The qualitative nature of S-metolachlor residues in plants is adequately understood based upon available EPA approved corn, potato, and soybean metabolism studies. The metabolism of S-metolachlor involves conjugation with glutathione, breakage of this bond to form the mercaptan, conjugation of the mercaptan with glucuronic acid, hydrolysis of the methyl ether, and conjugation of the resultant alcohol with a neutral sugar. EPA has determined that residues of concern in plants include parent and metabolites, determined as the derivatives CGA-37913 and CGA-49751.

2. *Analytical method.* The Pesticide Analytical Manual (PAM) Vol. II, Pesticide Regulation (§ 180.368) lists a gas chromatography nitrogen phosphorous detector (GC/NPD) method (Method 1) for determining residues in or on plants and a gas chromatography mass spectrometry detector (GC/MSD) method for determining residues in livestock commodities. These methods determine residues of S-metolachlor and its metabolites as either CGA-37913 or CGA-49751 following acid hydrolysis. The limit of quantitation (LOQ) for the method is 0.03 ppm for CGA-37913 and 0.05 ppm for CGA-49751.

3. *Magnitude of residues—Grasses grown for seed.* This petition is supported by six field residue tests conducted on grasses grown for seed. Quantitative measurements of the metolachlor hydrolysates, CGA-37913 and CGA-49751, were made for all samples and reported as parent equivalents. In all residue tests, the active ingredient (a.i.) was applied post-emergence at a maximum of 2.0 lbs. a.i./acre at the early regrowth stage prior to weed emergence. The maximum residue in forage was 27 ppm (60-day PHI). Residues in forage declined with increasing PHI. Maximum residues in straw, screenings, and seed were 0.11 ppm, 0.04 ppm, and < 0.08 ppm, respectively.

i. *Spinach.* Magnitude of residue data on the spinach were collected from 12 field trials. In 1994, four field trials were conducted to collect magnitude of residue data in or on spinach. The treated plots each received one post-seeding, pre-emergence, broadcast