

Comments: Comments presented during the meeting should be submitted to Edocket. In addition, please submit one unbound original set of comments with pages numbered consecutively at the meeting. For attachments, provide an index and number pages consecutively with the comments. Because all comments received will be placed in Edocket, commentors should not submit personal information (such as medical data or home address), Confidential Business Information, or information protected by copyright.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: During their September 2002 review of the Agency's draft action plan for the development of a metals framework, the EPA Science Advisory Board emphasized the importance of engaging the outside community so as to contribute to the knowledge base the Agency would draw from in developing guidance on the risk assessment of metals. As part of the effort to engage stakeholders and the scientific community and to build on existing experience, the Agency commissioned ERG to organize external experts to lead the development of scientific papers on issues and state-of-the-art approaches to metals risk assessment. (Some individual EPA experts contributed specific discussions on topic(s) for which he or she has scientific expertise or knowledge of current Agency practice.)

On September 22, 2003, EPA published a **Federal Register** Notice announcing the availability of, and opportunity to comment on, five draft scientific white papers titled: (1) Issue Paper on the Environmental Chemistry of Metals, (2) Issue Paper on Metal Exposure Assessment, (3) Issue Paper on the Ecological Effects of Metals, (4) Issue Paper on the Human Health Effects of Metals, and (5) Issue Paper on the Bioavailability and Bioaccumulation of Metals. The draft issue papers are available primarily via the Internet on the Risk Assessment Forum's web page at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/raf/recordisplay.cfm?deid=59052>.

Comments will be received on the draft papers until November 7, 2003.

The public meeting will provide further opportunity for the Agency to receive stakeholder input. EPA is particularly interested in the public's perspectives on the following:

1. For the purpose of deriving general principles that can be applied in the assessment of metals, do the issue papers provide an appropriate level of detail?

2. Are there additional chemical, biological and physical processes that

should be considered for metals assessment? If so, please describe and provide references.

3. Are you aware of any models, approaches or methods not considered in the reports that, if implemented, would substantially reduce uncertainty in the Agency's metal assessments? If so, which ones are ready for application now (or in the next few years), and which types of assessments would benefit most from their application (e.g., hazard ranking/characterization, national, or site-specific assessments)?

4. What other suggestions do you have to improve the utility of these papers as the Agency develops a metals assessment framework?

The purpose of this meeting is for EPA to receive additional scientific comment from the public on the issue papers. Therefore, although EPA staff will be present, EPA will not evaluate or respond to comments at the meeting. Likewise, EPA is not soliciting comments on past Agency actions.

The views expressed in the draft papers are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the EPA. For this reason, disposition of scientific comments received on these papers will be made at the author's or author team's discretion. The material contained in the papers may be used in total, or in part, as source material for the Agency's framework for metals risk assessment and EPA's evaluation of this material will therefore include consideration of the Assessment Factors recently published by EPA for use in evaluating the quality of scientific and technical information.

Dated: October 7, 2003.

Peter W. Preuss,

Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-2003-0342; FRL-7331-4]

Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee and PPDC Registration Review Work Group; Notice of Public Meetings

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA's Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) will hold a public meeting on October 29 and 30, 2003. An agenda is being developed and

will be posted on EPA's website. Agenda topics will include a report from the PPDC's Registration Review Work Group; endangered species; non-governmental stewardship activities; pesticide budget/fees and output efficiencies; certification and training; and follow-up to issues discussed at the April 2003 PPDC meeting. In addition, the PPDC Registration Review Work Group will hold two separate public meetings on the following dates: October 17 and October 28, 2003. Agendas for the PPDC Registration Review Work Group meetings will also be posted on EPA's website.

DATES: The PPDC meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 29, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Thursday, October 30, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The PPDC Registration Review Work Group will hold a public meeting on Friday, October 17, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Tuesday, October 28, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The PPDC meeting will be held at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Conference Center, 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA. The telephone number to the NRECA Conference Center is (703) 907-5500. The NRECA Conference Center is located adjacent to the Ballston Metro Station and about a 15 minute taxi ride from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

The PPDC Registration Review Work Group meeting on October 17, 2003, will be held at EPA's Offices at 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Mall #2, Room 1110 (the Fishbowl), Arlington, VA. The PPDC Registration Review Work Group meeting on October 28, 2003, will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The telephone number to the Hyatt Regency Crystal City is (703) 413-6873.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Margie Fehrenbach, Office of Pesticide Programs, Mail code 7501C, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: 703-308-4775; fax number: 703-308-4776; e-mail address: Fehrenbach.Margie@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general; however, persons may be interested who work in agricultural settings or persons who are concerned about implementation of the Federal