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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 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 your estimate.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternatives.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket ID number in the subject line on the first page of your response. It would also be helpful if you provided the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation related to your comments

II. Background

A. What Action is the Agency Taking?

EPA has assessed the risks of atrazine and reached an Interim Reregistration Eligibility Decision (IREDD) for this triazine pesticide. Provided that risk mitigation measures are adopted, atrazine fits into its own risk cup--its individual, aggregate risks are within acceptable levels. A chemical used mainly to control weeds on corn,

sorghum, and sugarcane, atrazine residues in food do not pose risk concerns. The Agency's drinking water, occupational, residential and ecological risk assessments for atrazine indicate risks of concern. Intermediate-term (seasonal) dietary risk from drinking water exceeds the Agency's level of concern (> 100% cPAD (chronic population adjusted dose)) at the 99.9th exposure percentile for infants, children 1–6 years of age, and adults in 34 community water systems primarily in the Midwest.

Further, there are some concerns for workers who mix, load, and apply atrazine to agricultural and turf sites and for homeowners who apply atrazine products to home lawns. In addition, there are risks of concern for adults and children exposed to atrazine-treated lawns after applications.

For ecological effects, the Agency has conducted a screening level assessment for terrestrial impacts and a refined exposure assessment for aquatic impacts of atrazine use. These assessments indicate that atrazine is likely to result in community- and population-level risk at 10 to 20 parts per billion. The ecological assessment does not address the potential for effects on amphibians endocrinology and reproductive and developmental responses. The Agency will consider amphibian risk after the Agency obtains further data and will address any risks identified in a revision to the IRED to be published by October 31, 2003.

To mitigate risks of concern posed by the uses of atrazine, the Agency considered the mitigation proposal submitted by the technical registrants, as well as comments and mitigation ideas from other interested parties, and has decided on a number of label amendments to address the dietary (drinking water), worker, and residential concerns. In addition, to further address drinking water concerns and to address ecological concerns, the Agency and the technical registrants have agreed to a performance standard for atrazine that must be met in community water systems, prohibition of use in watersheds if the standard is not met, and monitoring data requirements as described in a Memorandum of Agreement between the primary technical registrants of atrazine and the Agency. Results of the risk assessments, the necessary label amendments to mitigate those risks, and information on the Agreement between the Agency and the technical registrants are presented in the IRED.

The interim risk management decision document for atrazine was made through the pilot public

participation process, which increases transparency and maximizes stakeholder involvement in EPA's development of risk assessments and risk management decisions. 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 pesticide risk assessments and risk management decisions. EPA and USDA began implementing this pilot process in August 1998, to increase transparency and opportunities for stakeholder consultation.

EPA worked extensively with affected parties to reach the decisions presented in this interim risk management decision document, which conclude the pilot public participation process for atrazine. As part of the pilot public participation process, numerous opportunities for public comment were offered as this interim risk management decision document was being developed.

The risk assessments for atrazine were released to the public through notices published in the **Federal Register** on February 14, 2001 (66 FR 10287) (FRL–6765–3), and May 6, 2002 (67 FR 30379) (FRL–6836–1).

EPA's next step under FQPA is to complete a cumulative risk assessment and risk management decision for the triazine pesticides, which share a common mechanism of toxicity. This interim risk management decision document on atrazine cannot be considered final until this cumulative assessment is complete.

When the cumulative risk assessment for the triazine pesticides has been completed, EPA will issue its final tolerance reassessment decision for atrazine and further risk mitigation measures may be needed.

B. What is the Agency's Authority for Taking this Action?

The legal authority for this IRED falls under FIFRA, as amended in 1988 and 1996. Section 4(g)(2)(A) of FIFRA directs that, after submission of all data concerning a pesticide active ingredient, "the Administrator shall determine whether pesticides containing such active ingredient are eligible for reregistration," before calling in product-specific data on individual end-use products, and either reregistering