

submission of a collection and control system design plan is required. After review of the design plan and installation of the collections and control system, and initial performance test and report for the system is required. There after, annual compliance reports are required. Owners or operators are required to keep continuous monitoring records of the parameters reported in the initial performance report and records of monthly monitoring of surface methane concentration.

Burden Statement: The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

In the previously approved ICR, the estimated number of respondents for this information collection was 3,837 with 384 responses per year. The annual industry reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information was 15,110 hours. On the average, each respondent reported approximately 0.10 times per year and approximately 39 hours were spent preparing each response. The total annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden for this collection of information was \$890,000. This included an annual cost of \$788,000 associated with capital/startup costs and \$102,000 associated with the annual operation and maintenance costs.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any

previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Dated: October 29, 2002.

Michael M. Stahl,

Director, Office of Compliance.

[FR Doc. 02-28355 Filed 11-6-02; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7405-4]

Notice of Public Scoping Meeting on the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Federal Funding, Construction, Operation and Monitoring of a Coastal Wetlands Restoration Project, the Mississippi River Water Reintroduction Into Maurepas Swamp

On April 26, 2002, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 (EPA) published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the **Federal Register** that it was planning to develop an environmental impact statement on the restoration project as the Federal member of the Task Force created by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, Public Law 101-646 (CWPPRA) designated to carry out the project. The EPA will hold a Scoping Meeting for the EIS on December 11, 2002, at the Garyville/Mt. Airy Magnet School, 240 Highway 54, in Garyville, LA 70051. Formal meeting presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m.; the meeting room will be open with poster displays at 5:30 p.m. Individuals, groups, officials, and Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies are invited to participate in the scoping process to help determine impacts on resources, issues, and alternatives to be examined in detail in the EIS.

Purpose: EPA has determined that the proposed wetlands restoration effort is a Major Federal Action significantly impacting the human environment. The purpose of the EIS is to ensure that decisions are made in accordance with the policies and purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act. The EIS will be considered by the CWPPRA Task Force in its decisions on funding, construction, operations, monitoring and on alternative features and activities associated with carrying out the project.

Summary of Project: The proposed action provides for the reintroduction of Mississippi River water into swamps

south of Lake Maurepas in Louisiana for the purpose of restoring the ecological health and productivity of the swamps. Over time, hydrologic modifications to the riverine system have eliminated the natural inputs of freshwater, nutrients, and sediment that built and maintained the wetlands. These swamps are stressed and dying due to saltwater intrusion and excessive flooding, which is due to subsidence and insufficient accumulation of sediment. The project will divert in excess of 1,500 cubic feet per second of fresh river water through a proposed box-culvert diversion structure in the levee of the Mississippi River, then through an outflow channel for a distance of approximately five miles, and into the Maurepas swamps. The presently proposed water diversion would be constructed in the Garyville, Louisiana area, connecting to the existing Hope Canal north of U.S. Highway 61. As part of this alternative, the Hope Canal is proposed to be enlarged in order to accommodate the estimated flows. The project is estimated to benefit more than 36,000 acres of cypress-tupelo swamps by increasing input of freshwater, sediments, nutrients, and oxygen. The EIS will consider impacts of this project with existing and/or proposed flood control measures of the foreseeable future. Efforts will be made to ensure that severity of existing local drainage problems is not increased as a result of this project. Information from reconnaissance level studies for project development included preliminary site reviews; hydrologic modeling of existing conditions and basic diversion scenarios; baseline ecological field studies; and surveys of elevations and cross-sections, and will be provided in the EIS.

Alternative Actions: The CWPPRA Task Force may determine to fund and construct the restoration project; the CWPPRA Task Force may deny funding and construction of the restoration project; or, the Task Force may determine to take no final action until additional funds are available. The EIS will be utilized in other actions such as the Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit which (1) may be issued as requested, (2) may be issued with conditions, or (3) may be denied.

To Submit Scoping Comments, To Request Additional Information, or To Be Placed on the EIS Mailing List, Contact: Jeanene Peckham at EPA Water Quality Protection Field Office, 707 Florida Blvd., Suite B-21, Baton Rouge, LA, 70801; telephone (225) 389-0736, e-mail peckham.jeanene@epa.gov.

Estimated Date for Release of Draft EIS: Spring 2004.

Responsible Official: Gregg A. Cooke, Regional Administrator.

Oscar Ramirez, Jr.,

Acting Director, Water Quality Protection Division (6WQ).

[FR Doc. 02-28352 Filed 11-6-02; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7405-9]

Notification of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) Standing Committee on Compliance Assistance Meeting; Open Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notification of public NACEPT standing committee on compliance assistance meeting on December 3, 2002.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold an open meeting of the NACEPT Standing Committee on Compliance Assistance (Committee) on Tuesday, December 3, 2002 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Adams Mark Hotel at 111 Pecan Street East, San Antonio, Texas 78205. Seating at the meeting will be on a first-come basis and limited time will be provided for public comment. The meeting will focus on the areas of the Compliance Assistance program on which the Committee has been asked to advise the EPA. These are: (1) Strengthening the national compliance assistance network by helping identify opportunities to enhance communication among compliance assistance providers and by promoting collaboration in compliance assistance planning and tool development; (2) developing and testing performance measurement systems to demonstrate the effectiveness and environmental outcomes of compliance assistance; and (3) acting as a sounding board to provide feedback on compliance assistance policies, strategies or other related matters. A formal agenda will be available at the meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NACEPT is a federal advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463. NACEPT provides advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator and other EPA officials on a broad range of domestic and international environmental policy

issues. NACEPT consists of a representative cross-section of EPA's partners and principal constituents who provide advice and recommendations on policy issues and serve as a sounding board for new strategies. Over the last two years, EPA has undertaken a number of actions to improve our compliance assistance activities. To ensure that the Agency's efforts to improve compliance assistance are implemented in a way that continues to reflect stakeholder needs, NACEPT created a new Standing Committee on Compliance Assistance. This will provide a continuing Federal Advisory Committee forum from which the EPA can continue to receive valuable stakeholder advice and recommendations on compliance assistance activities. For further information concerning the NACEPT Standing Committee on Compliance Assistance, including the upcoming meeting, contact Joanne Berman, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), on (202) 564-7064, or e-mail: berman.joanne@epa.gov.

Inspection of Subcommittee Documents: Documents relating to the above topics will be publicly available at the meeting.

Dated: October 31, 2002.

Frederick F. Stiehl,

Acting Director, Office of Compliance.

[FR Doc. 02-28354 Filed 11-6-02; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-2002-0301; FRL-7279-4]

Experimental Use Permit; Receipt of Application

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt of an application 67979-EUP-E from Syngenta Seeds requesting an experimental use permit (EUP) for the plant-incorporated protectant *Bacillus thuringiensis* VIP3A. The Agency has determined that the application may be of regional and national significance. Therefore, in accordance with 40 CFR 172.11(a), the Agency is soliciting comments on this application.

DATES: Comments, identified by docket ID number OPP-2002-0301, must be received on or before December 9, 2002.

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:

Leonard Cole, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (703) 305-5412; e-mail address: cole.leonard@epa.gov.

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 those persons who are interested in agricultural biotechnology or may be required to conduct testing of chemical substances under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), or the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). 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 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-2002-0301. 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., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The docket telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

2. *Electronic access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "**Federal Register**" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA