

(1) Establish numerical values based on recommended section 304(a) criteria;

(2) Adopt section 304(a) criteria, modified to reflect site-specific conditions;

(3) Adopt criteria derived using other scientifically defensible methods; or

(4) Establish narrative criteria where numeric criteria cannot be determined (40 CFR 131.11).

Consistent with 40 CFR 131.21 (*see: EPA Review and Approval of State and Tribal Water Quality Standards* (65 FR 24641, April 27, 2000)), water quality criteria that States and authorized Tribes adopted before May 30, 2000, are in effect for CWA purposes unless Federal regulations superseded them (*see, for example, the National Toxics Rule*, 40 CFR 131.36; *Water Quality Standards for Idaho*, 40 CFR 131.33). New or revised water quality criteria that States and authorized Tribes adopted into law or regulation on or after May 30, 2000, are in effect for CWA purposes only after EPA approves them.

IX. What Is the Status of Existing Recommended Criteria While They Are Being Revised?

Water quality criteria published by EPA are the Agency's recommended water quality criteria until EPA revises or withdraws the criteria. EPA supports using the current section 304(a) criteria for those chemicals for which criteria are being updated and considers them to be scientifically sound until the Agency publishes revised 304(a) criteria.

Dated: December 22, 2003.

G. Tracy Mehan III,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Water.

[FR Doc. 03-32209 Filed 12-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-OW-FRL-7605-3]

Notice of Availability of Draft Aquatic Life Criteria Document for Diazinon and Request for Scientific Views

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for scientific views.

SUMMARY: This action notifies the public about the availability of a draft aquatic life criteria document for diazinon and requests scientific views. The Clean Water Act (CWA) requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop and publish, and from time to time revise, criteria for water

accurately reflecting the latest scientific knowledge. When final, these criteria will provide EPA's recommendations to States and authorized Tribes as they establish their water quality standards as State or Tribal law or regulation. At this time the Agency is not making a final recommendation, rather the Agency is requesting scientific views on the draft document.

DATES: All significant scientific information must be submitted to the Agency on or before March 30, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Scientific views must be submitted electronically, by mail, or through hand-delivery/courier. Follow detailed instructions as provided in section C of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section. Copies of the criteria document entitled, *Draft Ambient Aquatic Life Water Quality Criteria for Diazinon* (EPA-822-R-03-017) may be obtained from EPA's Water Resource Center by phone at (202) 566-2426, or by e-mail to center.water.resource@epa.gov or by conventional mail to: EPA Water Resource Center, 4101T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460. You can also download the document from EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/diazinon/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Heidi Bell, Health and Ecological Criteria Division (4304), U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460; (202) 566-1089; bell.heidi@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Interested Entities

Entities potentially interested in today's notice are those that produce, use, or regulate diazinon. Categories and entities interested in today's notice include:

Category	Examples of interested entities
State/Local/Tribal Government.	Texas, California, Florida.
Pesticide Producers ..	Syngenta, Makhteshim Agan.
Pesticide Users	Growers of fruit, vegetable, nut and ornamental crops.

This table is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be interested by this notice. This table lists the types of entities that EPA is now aware could potentially be interested by this notice. Other types of entities not listed in the table could also be interested.

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

1. **Docket.** EPA has established an official public docket for this notice under Docket ID No. OW-2003-0062. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any scientific views received, and other information related to this notice. 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 Water Docket in the EPA Docket Center, (EPA/DC) EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Water Docket is (202) 566-2426. To view these documents materials, please call ahead to schedule an appointment. Every user is entitled to copy 266 pages per day before incurring a charge. The Docket may charge 15 cents a page for each page over the 266-page limit plus an administrative fee of \$25.00.

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 Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view scientific views, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket identification number.

Certain types of information will not be placed in the EPA Dockets. Information claimed as CBI and other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute, which is not included in the official public docket, will not be available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. EPA's policy is that copyrighted material will not be placed in EPA's electronic public docket but will be available only in printed, paper form in the official public docket. To the extent feasible, publicly available docket materials will be made available in EPA's electronic public

docket. When a document is selected from the index list in EPA Dockets, the system will identify whether the document is available for viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in section I.B.

It is important to note that EPA's policy is that scientific views, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket as EPA receives them and without change, unless your views and information contain copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. When EPA identifies a scientific view containing copyrighted material, EPA will provide a reference to that material in the version of the scientific view that is placed in EPA's electronic public docket. The entire printed scientific view, including the copyrighted material, will be available in the public docket.

Scientific views submitted on computer disks that are mailed or delivered to the docket will be transferred to EPA's electronic public docket. Scientific views that are mailed or delivered to the Docket will be scanned and placed in EPA's electronic public docket. Where practical, physical objects will be photographed, and the photograph will be placed in EPA's electronic public docket along with a brief description written by the docket staff.

C. How and to Whom Do I Submit Scientific Views?

You may submit scientific views electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket identification number in the subject line on the first page of your scientific views. Please ensure that your scientific views are submitted within the specified period. Scientific views received after the close of the review period will be marked "late." EPA is not required to consider these late scientific views.

1. *Electronically.* If you submit electronic information as prescribed below, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your scientific views. Also include this contact information on the outside of any disk or CD ROM you submit, and in any cover letter accompanying the disk or CD ROM. This ensures that you

can be identified as the submitter of the scientific information and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your scientific views due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your scientific views. EPA's policy is that EPA will not edit your scientific views, and any identifying or contact information provided in the body of the scientific views will be included as part of the scientific views that are placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your scientific views due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your scientific views.

i. *EPA Dockets.* Your use of EPA's electronic public docket to submit scientific views to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving scientific views. Go directly to EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>, and follow the online instructions for submitting scientific views. To access EPA's electronic public docket from the EPA Internet Home Page, select "Information Sources," "Dockets," and "EPA Dockets." Once in the system, select "search," and then key in Docket ID No. OW-2003-0062. The system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your information.

ii. *E-mail.* Scientific views may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to OW-Docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket No. OW-2003-0062. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail scientific views directly to the Docket without going through EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the information that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

iii. *Disk or CD ROM.* You may submit scientific views on a disk or CD ROM that you mail to the mailing address identified in section I.C.2. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

2. *By Mail.* Send your scientific views to: Water Docket in the EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 4101T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington,

DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. OW-2003-0062.

3. By Hand Delivery or Courier.

Deliver your scientific views to: Water Docket, EPA Docket Center, EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC, Attention Docket ID No. OW-2003-0062. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation as identified in section I.B.1.

D. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Scientific views for EPA?

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your scientific views:

1. Explain your scientific 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 scientific views.
4. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
5. Offer alternatives.
6. Make sure to submit your scientific views by the deadline identified.
7. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket identification 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 scientific views.

II. Background and Today's Action

A. What Are Recommended Water Quality Criteria?

Recommended water quality criteria are the concentrations of a chemical in water at or below which aquatic life are protected from acute and chronic adverse effects of the chemical. Section 304(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act requires EPA to develop and publish, and from time to time revise, criteria for water accurately reflecting the latest scientific knowledge. Water quality criteria developed under section 304(a) are based solely on data and scientific judgments. They do not consider economic impacts or the technological feasibility of meeting the criteria in ambient water. Section 304(a) criteria provide guidance to States and Tribes in adopting water quality standards. The criteria also provide a scientific basis for EPA to develop Federally promulgated water quality standards under section 303(c).

B. What Is Diazinon and Why Are We Concerned About It?

Diazinon is an organophosphorus pesticide used throughout the U.S. to control insects in agricultural areas,

households and urban settings. It is mobile and moderately persistent in the environment. Due to its chemical properties and widespread use, diazinon is frequently found in effluents from wastewater treatment plants and in storm water runoff in both urban and agricultural areas. Diazinon is known to be extremely toxic to birds and aquatic life, particularly invertebrates. For these reasons, EPA has developed the following water quality criteria:

C. What Are the Draft National Recommended Water Quality Criteria?

Freshwater:

Aquatic life should not be affected unacceptably if the:

One hour average concentration of diazinon does not exceed 0.10 ug/L more than once every three years on the average (Acute Criterion) and if the four-day average concentration of diazinon does not exceed 0.10 ug/L more than once every three years on the average (chronic criterion).

Saltwater:

Aquatic life should not be affected unacceptably if the:

One-hour average concentration of diazinon does not exceed 0.82 ug/L more than once every three years on the average (acute criterion) and if the four-day average concentration of diazinon does not exceed 0.40 ug/L more than once every three years on the average (chronic criterion).

D. What Specific Questions of Science Does EPA Want Views On?

Though the public is welcome to submit scientific views on any component of the diazinon aquatic life criteria document, EPA is specifically interested in scientific views on the following issues of science:

- The derivation of final chronic values (FCVs) as protective of chronic effects to freshwater and saltwater aquatic life using the available acute and chronic data;
- Scientific information or data made available since the literature search was completed in 1997. For example, information regarding the sub-lethal effects of diazinon (e.g., olfactory or predator-prey response).

E. Where Can I Find More Information on EPA's Revised Process for Developing New or Revised Draft Criteria?

The Agency published detailed information about its revised process for developing and revising criteria in the **Federal Register** on December 10, 1998 (63 FR 68354) and in the EPA document entitled, *National Recommended Water Quality—Correction* (EPA 822-Z-99-001, April 1999). The purpose of the

revised process is to provide expanded opportunities for public input, and to make the criteria development process more efficient. Also, EPA notified the public of its intent to develop aquatic life criteria for diazinon in the **Federal Register** on October 29, 1999 (64 FR 58409). At that time, EPA solicited any pertinent data or scientific views that would be useful in developing the draft aquatic life criteria for diazinon.

Dated: December 23, 2003.

Geoffrey H. Grubbs,

Director, Office of Science and Technology.

[FR Doc. 03-32210 Filed 12-30-03; 8:45 am]

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FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2004–2009

AGENCY: Farm Credit Administration.

ACTION: Notice of approval and availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the approval and availability of the Farm Credit Administration's (FCA or agency) Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2004–2009 (revised Strategic Plan). The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 requires that Federal agencies update their strategic plans at least every 3 years and, in doing so, solicit the views and suggestions of those entities potentially affected by or interested in the plan. In formulating the revised Strategic Plan, the agency solicited input from various constituent groups. Additionally, a draft of the Strategic Plan was made available for comment in October 2003.

DATES: December 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The revised Strategic Plan is available on the agency's Web site at <http://www.fca.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Walker, Executive Assistant, Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, VA 22102–5090, (703) 883–4271; TTY (703) 883–4056.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Farm Credit Administration (FCA or agency) is charged by Congress, as established in Title V of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, with the mandate of overseeing the agricultural Government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) serving rural America. These include the Farm Credit System (System) and the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation. FCA also has statutory responsibility to examine the National Consumer Cooperative Bank, a non-System entity

operating as a federally chartered, privately owned banking corporation.

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) requires that each Federal agency establish a strategic plan that covers a period of not less than 5 years. It also mandates that these plans be updated and revised at least every 3 years. In accordance with GPRA, FCA issued its first strategic plan in 1997. A revised plan was approved in 2000. Thus, the Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2004–2009 represents the second update to the agency's original Strategic Plan completed under GPRA. The revised Strategic Plan describes our mission, our strategic goals, and strategies to achieve those goals over the next 5 years.

The Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2004–2009 is the culmination of an extensive outreach effort. The FCA Board began its work on this plan in April 2003 by initiating a series of strategic planning sessions to seek input from farmers, the Farm Credit Council and other Farm Credit System representatives, academics and economists, the American Bankers Association, the Independent Community Bankers of America, former FCA Board chairmen and FCA senior management. Subsequent planning sessions held by the Board and the Office of the Chief Operating Officer over the next several months were used to establish specific direction for formulation of a draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2004–2009, which the agency released for comment in October 2003 for a 30-day period.

The agency received 24 comment letters on the draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2004–2009. Most of the comment letters (22 of 24) came from the agency's staff. To the extent practicable, applicable comments recommending revisions to specific sections of the draft Strategic Plan were incorporated in the revised Strategic Plan. Most of the revisions made were in the interest of providing clarification and did not represent material changes to the draft Strategic Plan. The most substantive revision was the decision to identify Goal 3 in the Plan, Implementation of the President's Management Agenda, as the third strategic goal rather than an operational goal, as it was defined in the draft Strategic Plan. One commenter felt this goal was also strategic in nature, just as Goals 1 and 2, and the FCA Board ultimately agreed.