

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**[EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0445; FRL-11370-03-OCSPP]****Pesticides; White Paper: Framework for Interagency Collaboration To Review Potential Antibacterial and Antifungal Resistance Risks Associated With Pesticide Use; Notice of Availability and Request for Comment****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency) is announcing the availability of and soliciting public comment on a framework for expanding interagency collaboration to improve the communication and knowledge base within the federal family to fully consider potential adverse impact of pesticides on efficacy of human and animal drugs. In particular, the use of antifungal and antibacterial pesticides, that can potentially lead to resistance in human and animal pathogens and may compromise the effectiveness of medically important antibacterial and antifungal drugs.

DATES: Submit your comments on or before August 1, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0445, through <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Additional instructions on commenting and visiting the docket, along with more information about dockets generally, is available at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan Jennings, Immediate Office (7501M), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (706) 355-8574; email address: jennings.susan@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Executive Summary****A. What is the Agency's authority for taking this action?**

This action is being taken under the authority of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*).

B. What action is the Agency taking?

EPA is announcing the availability of and requesting comment on a framework that outlines a process for EPA's collaboration with other federal agencies that recognizes the benefits of these pesticides to agriculture while minimizing their impact on public health and considers the goals of the One Health approach. While developing this framework, EPA has coordinated with HHS and USDA, under the oversight of the White House Executive Office of the President. Each of these agencies is charged with protecting health in areas that are directly impacted by resistance resulting from pesticides or drug products used to protect humans, animals, or plants. This framework clarifies that EPA intends to establish a process with those other federal agencies to consider their input when EPA evaluates antibacterial and antifungal pesticide products that may adversely impact the efficacy of human or animal drugs.

EPA is issuing this white paper to provide information and clarification to pesticide applicants, growers, the public health community, and the public about EPA's process for considering resistance issues related to regulatory decisions on antibacterial and antifungal pesticides with other federal agencies. While the requirements in FIFRA and the EPA regulations are binding on EPA and applicants, this white paper is not binding on EPA personnel, pesticide registrants and applicants, or the public. EPA may depart from the framework where circumstances warrant and without prior notice. Likewise, pesticide applicants may assert that the framework is not applicable to a specific pesticide or decision. Registrants and applicants may also propose alternative processes to the final framework in any application to EPA.

This framework is being published with a 30-day public comment period. EPA will consider any feedback received in producing the final framework, which EPA intends to issue by the end of 2024.

C. Why is the Agency taking this action?

Antimicrobial resistance in bacteria and fungi is a top threat to the public's health and a priority across the globe. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that there are nearly 3 million antimicrobial-resistant infections and more than 35,000 associated deaths in the U.S. each year. According to USDA, plant diseases are also persistent threats to agricultural crops and global food security, having a significant impact on yields and quality.

These diseases result in billions of dollars in economic losses and management inputs each year to crops, landscapes, and forests in the U.S. Plant diseases reduce yields, lower product quality or shelf-life, decrease aesthetic or nutritional value, and may contaminate food and feed with toxic compounds.

Some antibacterial and antifungal pesticides used in agriculture and in other settings belong to the same class as or share mechanisms of action with important antimicrobial drugs used in human and veterinary medicine.

On September 26, 2023, EPA and the other federal agencies issued a document entitled "Concept Note: Soliciting Feedback from Stakeholders on the Structure of a Proposed Framework to Assess the Risk to the Effectiveness of Human and Animal Drugs Posed by Certain Antibacterial or Antifungal Pesticides" (88 FR 65998) (FRL-11370-01-OCSPP). The concept note was intended to be the first step in creating a process to improve assessments of potential risks to human and animal health where the use of certain pesticides could potentially result in antimicrobial resistance that compromises the effectiveness of medically important antibacterial and antifungal drugs. The concept note solicited stakeholder input on the proposed structure for the process and potential solutions, research, and mitigation approaches to reduce the spread of resistance. The concept note posed several questions about how resistance occurs and is spread. The Agency received many comments; however, very few directly responded to the specific charge questions asked by the concept paper. The agencies did not receive sufficient information to resolve the many scientific questions about assessing the potential risk of antifungal or antibacterial pesticides to adversely impact the efficacy of human or animal drugs.

D. Does this action apply to me?

This action is directed to the public in general, although this action may be of particular interest to those persons who may be interested in assessments of potential risks to human and animal health where the use of certain pesticides could potentially result in antimicrobial resistance that compromises the effectiveness of medically important antibacterial and antifungal drugs. Since other entities may also be interested, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be interested in 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**.

E. What should I consider as I prepare my comments for EPA?

1. Submitting CBI

Do not submit CBI information to EPA through email or <https://www.regulations.gov>. If you wish to include CBI in your comment, please follow the applicable instructions at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets#rules> and clearly mark the information that you claim to be CBI. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes 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. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

2. Tips for Preparing Your Comments

When preparing and submitting your comments, see the commenting tips and instructions at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

II. Request for Comments

EPA is seeking comment on the document entitled “Pesticides: White Paper: Framework for Interagency Collaboration to Review Potential Antibacterial and Antifungal Resistance Risks Associated with Pesticide Use Pesticides; Notice of Availability and Request for Comment” (also referred to as the framework document), a copy of which is available in the docket.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*

Dated: June 26, 2024.

Michal Freedhoff,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[CERCLA 01-2024-0015; EPA-R01-SFUND-2024-0214; FRL-11942-01-R1]

Prospective Purchaser Proposed Settlement Agreement and Covenant Not To Sue Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as Amended; in Re: Olin Chemical Superfund Site, Located in Wilmington, Massachusetts

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of proposed settlement agreement; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) is hereby providing notice of a proposed prospective purchaser settlement agreement between EPA and prospective purchaser Wilmington Woburn Industrial, LLC (“Settling Party”), which has an agreement to acquire the property located at 51 Eames Street in Wilmington, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, encompassing approximately 50 acres (“Property”), from Olin Corporation (“Contract”), embodied in an Administrative Agreement for Payment of Response Costs by Prospective Purchaser (“Settlement Agreement”). The proposed Settlement Agreement, EPA Region 1 CERCLA Docket No. 01-2024-0015, pertains to the Olin Chemical Superfund Site in Wilmington, Massachusetts (“Site”) and the Property, which is a portion of the Site. The proposed Settlement Agreement is entered into pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (“CERCLA,” also known as the Superfund law), and the authority of the Attorney General of the United States to compromise and settle claims of the United States.

On September 28, 2023, the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts entered the Consent Decree in *United States of America and Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. American Biltrite Inc., et al.* case (1:23-cv-11044), in which American Biltrite Inc., NOR-AM Agro LLC, Olin Corporation, and Stepan Company (“Settling Defendants”) agreed to implement the remedy selected in the Record of Decision issued by EPA for the Site on March 30, 2021 (“Record of Decision”). The proposed Settlement Agreement requires the Settling Party to provide full cooperation, assistance, and access to persons authorized to conduct response actions at the Property, including Settling Defendants’ implementation, under EPA oversight, of the remedy embodied in the Record of Decision in accordance with the Consent Decree. The proposed Settlement Agreement also requires the Settling Party to perform certain remedial design and remedial action activities pursuant to the Contract in coordination with Settling Defendants and in accordance with the terms of the Consent Decree and associated Statement of Work. Under the proposed Settlement Agreement, the Settling Party will make a payment to EPA of \$73,202.39 as well as pay EPA for future

costs in supporting, developing, implementing, overseeing, or enforcing the Agreement. The Settling Party consents to and will not contest the authority of the United States to enter into this proposed Settlement Agreement or to implement or enforce its terms. The Settling Party recognizes that this proposed Settlement Agreement has been negotiated in good faith and that this Agreement is entered into without the admission or adjudication of any issue of fact or law.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by August 1, 2024.

ADDRESSES: The proposed Settlement Agreement and related Site documents are available at EPA’s website <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/olin> or by going to <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.ars&id=0100438&doc=Y&colid=67528®ion=01&type=AR>. The proposed Settlement Agreement and related Site documents are available for public inspection at the U.S. EPA, Region 1, SEMS Records and Information Center, 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, Boston, MA 02109 by appointment only (by calling 617-918-1440 or by emailing r1.records-sems@epa.gov). The proposed Settlement Agreement is also available for public inspection at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for Docket ID No. EPA-R01-SFUND-2024-0214. Submit your comments online via <https://www.regulations.gov> (Docket ID No. EPA-R01-SFUND-2024-0214). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Maximilian Boal, Senior Enforcement Counsel, Office of Regional Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1, 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, Mail Code: 4-02, Boston, MA 02109, (617) 918-1750, email: boal.maximilian@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (“CBI”) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For the full EPA public comment policy,