

SFIREG OPP Updates

June 2021

April 8, 2021: EPA Proposes to Conditionally Register Combination Insecticide for Residential Outdoor Use

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-conditionally-register-combination-insecticide-residential-outdoor-use>

EPA is accepting public comments on its proposed decision to conditionally register the first residential outdoor use of the insecticides cyclaniliprole and flonicamid on roses, flowers, shrubs, and small (non-fruit bearing) trees. The agency is proposing to register three new products: an individual manufacturing-use product for each of the two active ingredients and one end-use product formulated with both active ingredients.

EPA is proposing specific mitigation measures on the end-use product label to address potential ecological risks.

EPA accepted public comments on this proposal via docket numbers [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0013](#) (flonicamid) and [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0458](#) (cyclaniliprole) at www.regulations.gov for 30 days.

April 15, 2021: EPA Releases Analysis of Groundwater Model for Public Comment

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-analysis-groundwater-model-public-comment>

EPA is releasing its *Analysis of Subsurface Metabolism in Groundwater Modeling* for public comment. This report evaluates assumptions used in Pesticide in Water Calculator groundwater modeling, which EPA developed to estimate pesticide concentrations in vulnerable groundwater sources and is used in human dietary risk assessments.

EPA took comments on the *Analysis* for 45 days, starting on April 15, 2021.

April 20, 2021: EPA Opens Comment Period on Draft Biological Opinion on Malathion

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-opens-comment-period-draft-biological-opinion-malathion>

EPA is seeking public comment on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) [draft biological opinion for the registration of malathion](#), an insecticide that is commonly used to control mosquitoes and a variety of insects that attack fruits, vegetables, landscaping plants, and shrubs.

The draft biological opinion includes FWS's preliminary findings that 78 listed species could be jeopardized, and 23 critical habitats could be adversely modified by the use of malathion. The biological opinion also provides several categories of potential reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs), actions that could be taken or refined to a species-specific level to prevent jeopardy to the species or adverse modification of critical habitat.

The public comment period will be open for 60 days and will close on June 19, 2021. The draft biological opinion is included in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0231 at www.regulations.gov.

April 21, 2021: EPA Approves Emergency Exemption for Surface Coating that Continuously Kills COVID-19

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-approves-emergency-exemption-surface-coating-continuously-kills-covid-19>

EPA approved emergency exemption requests from Georgia, Utah, and Minnesota, allowing BIAXAM, a supplemental residual surface coating. EPA is issuing an emergency exemption for BIAXAM to be used in Delta Air Lines planes and facilities in those three states.

April 23, 2021: EPA Addresses Ecological Risks Posed by Aminopyralid

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-addresses-ecological-risks-posed-aminopyralid>

EPA is releasing for public comment the proposed interim decision (PID) for aminopyralid, a pyridine herbicide used to control broadleaf weeds and woody brush in both agricultural and non-agricultural settings.

Based on the findings in the 2020 draft [ecological](#) risk assessment and feedback submitted during the public comment period, EPA is proposing new measures to reduce potential spray drift to protect non-target organisms. Additionally, the agency is proposing the following new mitigation measures to address potential residues in compost in the aminopyralid PID.

Public comments will be accepted for 60 days in docket ID number [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0749](#) at www.regulations.gov. **Comment period closes June 22, 2021.**

April 23, 2021: EPA Holds Online Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Meeting in May

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-holds-online-pesticide-program-dialogue-committee-meeting-may-0>

EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) will hold an online public meeting of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) on May 12-13, 2021.

[Learn more about the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee.](#)

April 28, 2021: EPA Updates Disinfectant Policy to Align with CDC Science

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-updates-disinfectant-policy-align-cdc-science>

In order to respond to the public's needs over this past year of the pandemic, EPA has allowed for expedited review and approval of surface disinfectant products for use against SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, adding over 500 products to EPA's List N.

[Recent information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) notes that the risk of being infected with COVID-19 by touching contaminated surfaces is considered low. Given this new information, EPA is no longer prioritizing Public Health Emergency requests for new products that address surface transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

April 28, 2021: EPA Protects Aquatic Ecosystems by Finalizing Irgarol Antifoulant Paint Cancellation

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-protects-aquatic-ecosystems-finalizing-irgarol-antifoulant-paint-cancellation>

EPA is releasing the interim decision for irgarol, which finalizes the cancellation of its use as an active ingredient in antifoulant paint. After completing an ecological risk assessment, EPA determined that irgarol, which is used in antifoulant paint and as a materials preservative in algicidal paints, is toxic to both freshwater and marine plants, including causing the bleaching of coral.

The interim decision will also protect Americans' health by requiring irgarol powders—which are used to preserve sealants, vinyl roofing, cements, and other building materials—to be sold in packaging that reduces users' exposure.

the interim decision will be available in docket ID number EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0003 at www.regulations.gov.

April 30, 2021: Attend EPA's Webinar about the Experimental Use Permit for the Oxitec Genetically Engineered Aedes aegypti Mosquitoes

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/attend-epas-webinar-about-experimental-use-permit-oxitec-genetically-engineered-aedes>

On May 5, 2021, EPA is hosting a webinar for the public to learn about the approval of an [experimental use permit](#) (EUP) to allow Oxitec Ltd. to field test the use of genetically engineered Aedes aegypti mosquitoes as a way to reduce mosquito populations.

Like all pesticides, Oxitec's mosquitoes, genetically engineered for population control, are regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Data submitted by Oxitec have demonstrated that genetically engineered Aedes aegypti mosquitoes meet the FIFRA approval standard and have been shown to not cause unreasonable adverse effects to humans or the environment. The EUP contains significant protections, including weekly monitoring and sampling of the mosquito population in the treatment areas, that also enabled the agency to determine the product meets the FIFRA safety standard.

May 7, 2021: EPA Extends Respiratory Protection Flexibilities for Agricultural Pesticide Handlers During COVID-19

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-extends-respiratory-protection-flexibilities-agricultural-pesticide-handlers-during>

EPA is committed to protecting the health and safety of Americans, especially during the COVID-19 public health emergency. In June 2020, EPA issued [temporary guidance regarding respiratory protection requirements for agricultural pesticide handlers](#) that offers flexibility during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Due to the continued concerns regarding personal protective equipment shortages in the agricultural sector, EPA is extending the “annual fit test delay” to September 30, 2021 as part of the previously issued guidance.

May 10, 2021: EPA Launches New Electronic Confidential Statement of Formula Application

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-launches-new-electronic-confidential-statement-formula-application>

EPA is launching an electronic Confidential Statement of Formula application (eCSF builder) to support pesticide registration applications. The new electronic tool is consistent with the agency's desire to continuously improve and modernize internal processes and digital workflows.

To register a new pesticide product with EPA, companies must submit a Confidential Statement of Formula (CSF) application. The form lists all the product's components and their percent by weight along with various additional information. Currently, CSF applications must be submitted to EPA in hard copy.

May 21, 2021: EPA Accepting Public Comments on Nominees for the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-accepting-public-comments-nominees-federal-insecticide-fungicide-and-rodenticide-0>

EPA is accepting public comments on nominations for membership on the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel ([FIFRA SAP](#)).

The agency anticipates selecting new members to serve on the panel to replace members whose terms will soon expire. Current members of the FIFRA SAP are also eligible for reappointment during this period.

Public comments on the nominees should be submitted to docket [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0293](#) on www.regulations.gov on or before June 21, 2021. For additional information, please see the Federal Register notice, docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0293, or contact [Steven Knott](#) (knott.steven@epa.gov), M.S., DFO, Office of Program Support, EPA (202-564-0103).

May 25, 2021: EPA Opens Application Period for Grants Dedicated to Sustainable Pest Control in Agriculture

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-opens-application-period-grants-dedicated-sustainable-pest-control-agriculture>

EPA is accepting applications for a \$1 million dollar grant initiative through the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) that encourages smart, sensible, and sustainable pest control in agriculture. Through these grants, EPA will support projects that explore innovative practices, technologies, education, and non-regulatory solutions that adopt integrated pest management (IPM) strategies.

EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$1 million in total federal funding to support 10 projects – one from each EPA region. Interested groups can apply at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=333775>. Applications must be submitted by July 9, 2021, to be considered. Awarded projects will start in the fourth quarter of 2021.

May 25, 2021: EPA Releases Draft Risk Assessments and Proposes Mitigation for Residential Fumigation Using Sulfuryl Fluoride

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-draft-risk-assessments-and-proposes-mitigation-residential-fumigation-using>

EPA is taking the next step in the registration review process for the pesticide sulfuryl fluoride by releasing draft risk assessments for public comment. The agency is also proposing additional safety measures to better protect the public when this pesticide is used to fumigate homes.

Sulfuryl fluoride is a fumigant used to control pests in homes. It is a restricted-use pesticide, meaning it can only be used by a certified applicator or someone under the certified applicator's direct supervision.

The [Sulfuryl Fluoride Draft Interim Re-entry Mitigation Measures Memorandum](#) released today outlines the new safety measures EPA is proposing for fumigation uses and is in response to the EPA Office of Inspector General's December 2016 [Report No. 17-P-0053](#) that was conducted to assess which additional safety measures could be taken to prevent serious injuries from use of this pesticide during residential fumigation. This report recommended EPA make changes to how this pesticide can be used and do an assessment of the clearance devices used to determine safe reentry levels in homes after fumigation.

Comments are due July 26, 2021 for the *Draft Interim Re-entry Mitigation Measures Memorandum* and DRAs. The documents are available in docket ID number [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0136](#) at www.regulations.gov.

May 26, 2021: EPA Releases Updated Occupational Pesticide Handler and Post-application Exposure Calculators

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-updated-occupational-pesticide-handler-and-post-application-exposure>

EPA has updated the [Occupational Pesticide Handler Exposure Calculator](#) and [Occupational Pesticide Post-application Exposure Calculator](#) with the latest available data and sources to provide the agency with more efficiency in completing risk assessments and ensuring transparency to the public and affected stakeholders.

EPA uses these tools to carry out risk assessments to make informed decisions when approving new pesticides, new uses of registered pesticides, and during regular reviews of existing pesticides. The calculators also help state and local governments, pesticide manufacturers, academics, and others evaluate the potential for health effects to a person who might be exposed to pesticides as part of their work.

[Learn more about the calculators and how EPA assesses pesticide risks on our website.](#)

June 2, 2021: EPA Proposes Registration of Products Containing Purpureocillium lilacinum strain PL11, a New Microbial Active Ingredient

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-products-containing-purpureocillium-lilacinum-strain-pl11-new>

EPA is proposing to register several biopesticide products containing Purpureocillium lilacinum strain PL11, a new microbial active ingredient that controls plant-parasitic nematodes.

These biopesticide products will be used on food crops (i.e., fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices) and non-food crops (i.e., cotton, tobacco and turf) in agricultural and commercial settings. Since some of these products are proposed for use on food crops, a tolerance exemption for pesticide residues will also be established.

EPA's evaluation included a robust scientific assessment, which was used to conclude that these products, when used according to the label instructions, do not present any risks of concern to human health. The proposed product labels contain language to address potential adverse effects to nontarget insects and nontarget aquatic invertebrates.

EPA is accepting public comments on this proposal via docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0079 at www.regulations.gov for 15 days. **Comments due June 17, 2021.**

June 4, 2021: Comment Period Extended for EPA's Analysis of Groundwater Model

EPA is extending the public comment period on its *Analysis of Subsurface Metabolism in Groundwater Modeling* to give the public and stakeholders more time to review and comment.

The current comment period was set to close on June 6, 2021, and EPA is extending the comment period for an additional 30 days. **Comments can be submitted through July 6, 2021**, to the docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0241 at www.regulations.gov