

SFIREG OPP Updates

September 2021

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

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/comment-period-extended-epas-analysis-groundwater-model>

EPA is extending the public comment period on its Analysis of Subsurface Metabolism in Groundwater Modeling for an additional 30 days, until July 6, 2021, to give the public and stakeholders more time to review and comment.

June 4, 2021: EPA Hosts Webinar on Electronic Gold Seal Letter Process for Exporting Pesticides

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-hosts-webinar-electronic-gold-seal-letter-process-exporting-pesticides>

EPA is hosting a webinar geared towards pesticide registrants on June 14, 2021, at 1:00 PM EST, to provide a walkthrough of the [Pesticide Submission Portal](#), the digital platform for requesting Certificates of Registration, commonly known as gold seal letters. These letters serve as proof for pesticide exporters that the product is registered with EPA and meets all necessary registration requirements.

For information on how to request a gold seal certificate letter, please visit [M006 PRIA Fee Category](#).

June 15, 2021: EPA releases a revised Carbaryl draft human health risk assessment and a draft ecological risk assessment

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0230>

See the docket (above) for the revised draft human health risk assessment and the draft ecological risk assessment.

June 21, 2021: EPA Administrator Regan Signs Proclamation to Mark National Pollinator Week

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-regan-signs-proclamation-mark-national-pollinator-week>

EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan issued a [proclamation in support of National Pollinator Week](#). The week of June 21, 2021, EPA recognizes the importance of pollinators to America's food systems and ecosystems and raise awareness about how to promote pollinator health where you live.

As part of the agency's ongoing work to protect pollinators, EPA is reinvigorating its commitment to the [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) with the Pollinator Partnership](#).

EPA is also working to minimize pesticide risks to pollinators by taking steps [to improve protections for listed species and their critical habitats under the Endangered Species Act](#).

June 23, 2021: EPA Accepting Nominations to the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-accepting-nominations-pesticide-program-dialogue-committee>

EPA is accepting nominations to serve on the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC). The PPDC is a representative federal advisory committee that provides advice and recommendations to EPA

on issues associated with pesticide regulatory development and reform initiatives, evolving public policy, program implementation, and science related to evaluating and reducing risks from pesticide use.

Nominations were accepted until July 23, 2021.

June 25, 2021: EPA Proposes Registration of the New Fungicide Ipflufenquin

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-new-fungicide-ipflufenquin>

EPA is taking comments on its proposal to register the new active ingredient ipflufenquin, a product that may serve as a beneficial tool in managing several plant diseases, some of which are resistant to other fungicides.

EPA's evaluation included a robust scientific assessment, which was used to conclude that there are no risks of concern for humans. The ecological risk assessment showed there were no risks of concern for any tested non-target, non-listed organism, including birds, honeybees, and terrestrial plants. EPA has determined that ipflufenquin will have no effect on listed species except for listed terrestrial plants and those species that have an obligate relationship (i.e., needed for survival) with a terrestrial plant species.

Comments were accepted for 15 days.

June 25, 2021: EPA Proposes Registration of Products Containing *Bacillus velezensis* strain RTI301 and *Bacillus subtilis* strain RTI477, New Microbial Active Ingredients

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-products-containing-bacillus-velezensis-strain-rti301-and>

EPA is proposing to register five biopesticide products containing *Bacillus velezensis* strain RTI301 and/or *Bacillus subtilis* strain RTI477, two new microbial active ingredients. These biopesticide products, consisting of two manufacturing-use products and three end-use products, utilize natural bacteria to protect seedlings and/or agricultural crops from fungal growth.

EPA's evaluation concluded that these products, when used according to the label instructions, do not present any risks of concern to humans. EPA also concluded the products' registered uses will have no effect on any nontarget species. Therefore, the agency made a "No Effect" determination for listed species and their designated critical habitats.

EPA accepted comments on this proposal for 15 days.

July 2, 2021: EPA Takes Action in Response to Supply-Chain Disruptions for Inert Ingredients

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-takes-action-response-supply-chain-disruptions-inert-ingredients>

EPA is taking action to alleviate a supply-chain issue facing the pesticide industry. EPA is allowing registrants of non-antimicrobial pesticide products to substitute some combination of pre-approved alternate inert ingredients for inert ingredients derived from propylene oxide feedstocks that are in limited supply due to weather events that occurred in the U.S. Gulf Coast in February 2021.

These actions require registrants to self-certify that the substitute inert ingredients serve the same function in the product as propylene glycol and that the change will not impact either the validity of any product-specific data submitted in support of the registration or the product's acute toxicity category or physical/chemical characteristics in a way that would require label modifications. Registrants must also certify that the substitution will not affect the product's fitness for its intended purposes.

This action is time limited, extending to December 31, 2021. Any registrants who wish to make the substitution permanent will have to go through the standard amendment process outlined in PRN 98-10.

July 9, 2021: EPA Takes Steps to Protect Endangered Fish from Pesticide Exposure

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-takes-steps-protect-endangered-fish-pesticide-exposure>

EPA is taking steps to protect more than two dozen endangered and threatened fish species on the west coast in response to two final biological opinions on metolachlor, bromoxynil, prometryn and 1,3-D issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The biological opinions evaluate the impact of these pesticides on 28 federally listed endangered and threatened species of Pacific salmon and steelhead in Washington, Oregon and California. They find that registered uses of these pesticides do not jeopardize the listed salmon and steelhead populations or their critical habitats. The biological opinions also describe reasonable and prudent measures to minimize take that could result from use of these pesticides to individuals of these listed species and their critical habitats.

See the final [biological opinion for 1,3-D and metolachlor](#) and the final [biological opinion for bromoxynil and prometryn](#).

July 12, 2021: EPA Awards \$6 Million to the University of California, Davis to Support Pesticide Safety Outreach

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-6-million-university-california-davis-support-pesticide-safety-outreach>

EPA has selected the Regents of the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) to receive a total of \$6 million over a five-year period to develop materials and projects that promote safe pesticide use. Through this cooperative agreement, UC Davis will establish the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative (PERC) 2.0, the second phase of the currently successful [PERC](#) program.

For more information, visit EPA's [Pesticide Cooperative Agreements](#) webpage.

July 13, 2021: EPA Proposes Registration of a Product Containing Bacillus subtilis strain 3, Bacillus subtilis strain 281, and Bacillus amyloliquefaciens strain 298, New Microbial Active Ingredients

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-product-containing-bacillus-subtilis-strain-3-bacillus>

EPA is proposing to register one biopesticide product containing three new microbial active ingredients: Bacillus subtilis strain 3, Bacillus subtilis strain 281, and Bacillus amyloliquefaciens strain 298.

EPA's evaluation concluded that this product, when used according to the label instructions, does not present any risks of concern to humans. EPA also concluded the product's registered uses will have no effect on any nontarget species. Therefore, the agency made a "No Effect" determination for listed species and their designated critical habitats.

EPA accepted comments on this proposal for 15 days.

July 13, 2021: EPA Seeking Public Comment on Petition Related to Seresto Pet Collars

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-seeking-public-comment-petition-related-seresto-pet-collars>

As part of EPA's work to address concerns raised about pet collars, the agency is asking for public comment on a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity requesting that the agency cancel the registration of insecticide product PNR1427, more commonly known by its brand name Seresto (EPA Registration No. 11556-155), and to suspend the registration pending cancellation.

The public comment period on the petition was open for 60 days until September 10, 2021 in docket ID number [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0409](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0409) at www.regulations.gov.

July 15, 2021: Comment Period Extended for Draft Risk Assessments and Proposed Mitigation Measures for Sulfuryl Fluoride

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/comment-period-extended-draft-risk-assessments-and-proposed-mitigation-measures-sulfuryl>

EPA has extended the public comment period for the draft risk assessments and proposed mitigation measures for sulfuryl fluoride. **Comments are now due by September 23, 2021 and should be submitted to docket [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0136](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0136) at www.regulations.gov.**

July 16, 2021: EPA Offers Virtual Training for Pesticide Applicators in Indian Country

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-offers-virtual-training-pesticide-applicators-indian-country>

EPA is offering a free, two-day training webinar on August 11-12, 2021, to certify participants as private applicators of restricted-use pesticides (RUPs) in Indian country under the [EPA Plan for the Federal Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides within Indian Country \(EPA Plan\)](#).

EPA plans to hold another training on November 17-18, 2021.

July 23, 2021: EPA Proposes Registration of New Nematicide Active Ingredient

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-proposes-registration-new-nematicide-active-ingredient>

EPA is taking comments on its proposal to register the new pesticide active ingredient fluazaindolizine for agricultural use. Fluazaindolizine is a sulfonamide nematicide that EPA expects will play a role in resistance management and integrated pest management programs to help delay the further development of nematicide resistance.

After conducting robust scientific assessments, EPA concluded that there are no risk concerns for humans. The ecological risk assessment showed no risk concerns for non-listed (i.e., not endangered or threatened) fish, aquatic invertebrates, plants, and birds. Risks have been identified for mammals and honey bees near use sites. These risks are mitigated with label instructions requiring soil incorporation and mandatory spray drift restrictions for broadcast applications.

EPA accepted public comments on this proposal for 15 days.

August 2, 2021: EPA Finalizes New, Stronger Safety Measures for Pesticide Paraquat

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-finalizes-new-stronger-safety-measures-pesticide-paraquat>

EPA is releasing the interim decision (ID) for the pesticide paraquat dichloride (paraquat) finalizing new, stronger safety measures to reduce exposure. The ID is part of the legally required registration review process to identify risks as well as actions that can mitigate risks.

The ID builds upon previous work and includes the following enforceable mitigation measures that specify parameters for application and institute restrictions to further protect individuals from exposure:

- Limiting aerial applications and requiring residential buffers.
- Prohibiting pressurized handgun and backpack sprayer applications.
- Requiring enclosed cabs or respirators for groundboom applications.
- Increasing the Restricted Entry Interval (REI) for several crops.

The new safety measures announced today will significantly reduce potential human health risks and are protective of all potential human health outcomes, including Parkinson's disease.

[More information about paraquat and the interim decision is available on EPA's website.](#)

August 3, 2021: EPA Announces Plan for Pet Incident Reporting and Releases Proposed Interim Decisions for Four Pesticides

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-announces-plan-pet-incident-reporting-and-releases-proposed-interim-decisions-four>

EPA is announcing its plan collect pet incident data on MGK-264, piperonyl butoxide (PBO), pyrethrins, and amitraz, pesticides used in a variety of agricultural and non-agricultural settings, including in residential pet products.

In its overall efforts to protect pets under FIFRA, EPA intends to request enhanced incident reporting and sales data for these pet products to align with what is already submitted for spot-on products.

Additionally, EPA is releasing proposed interim decisions (PIDs) for MGK-264, PBO, and pyrethrins to address potential human health and ecological risks, as well as the PID for amitraz. Based on the findings in the draft human health and ecological risk assessments and feedback submitted during public comment periods, EPA is proposing several mitigation measures for MGK-264, PBO, and pyrethrins. For amitraz, the agency did not identify any human health risks of concern.

Public comments will be accepted until October 4, 2021 in the registration review dockets [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0415](#) (MGK-264), [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0498](#) (PBO), [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0885](#) (pyrethrins) and [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-1015](#) (amitraz).

August 10, 2021: EPA Sunsets Temporary Guidance on Respiratory Protection for Agricultural Pesticide Handlers During COVID-19

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-sunsets-temporary-guidance-respiratory-protection-agricultural-pesticide-handlers>

In June 2020, EPA issued [temporary guidance](#) that offered flexibility during the COVID-19 public health emergency to agricultural employers and pesticide handlers regarding respiratory protection requirements related to pesticide uses covered by the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS). Due to improvements in access to NIOSH-approved respirators, fit testing supplies and related services, EPA is terminating the June 2020 guidance and its May 2021 [amendment](#), effective August 19, 2021.

To read the memorandum addressing this termination, please visit the [COVID-19 Enforcement and Compliance Resources](#) web page.

August 13, 2021: EPA Appoints New Members for the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-appoints-new-members-federal-insecticide-fungicide-and-rodenticide-act-scientific>

In July 2021, EPA appointed two new members to serve on the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel (FIFRA SAP). Additionally, the Chair and one other existing member were reappointed.

A list of all current members and their biographies can be found at the SAP [website](#).

August 17, 2021: EPA Announces Electronic Process for Submitting Foreign Purchaser Acknowledgement Statements

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-announces-electronic-process-submitting-foreign-purchaser-acknowledgement-statements>

EPA is now accepting official Foreign Purchaser Acknowledgement Statements (FPAS) and FPAS annual summaries through the Pesticide Submission Portal. This improved process allows for pesticide exporters to submit FPAS electronically rather than physically mailing them, providing a key flexibility during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

To learn more about submitting statements electronically, visit [Importing and Exporting Pesticides](#).

August 18, 2021: EPA Takes Action to Address Risk from Chlorpyrifos and Protect Children's Health

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-action-address-risk-chlorpyrifos-and-protect-childrens-health>

EPA announced it will stop the use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos on all food to better protect human health, particularly that of children and farmworkers.

In a final rule, EPA is revoking all “tolerances” for chlorpyrifos, which establish an amount of a pesticide that is allowed on food. In addition, the agency will issue a Notice of Intent to Cancel under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to cancel registered food uses of chlorpyrifos associated with the revoked tolerances.

Chlorpyrifos has been found to inhibit an enzyme, which leads to neurotoxicity, and has also been associated with potential neurological effects in children. EPA has determined that the current aggregate exposures from use of chlorpyrifos do not meet the legally required safety standard that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from such exposures.

[More information about chlorpyrifos and the final tolerance rule is available on EPA's website.](#)

August 26, 2021: EPA Releases Draft Biological Evaluations of Three Neonicotinoids for Public Comment

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-draft-biological-evaluations-three-neonicotinoids-public-comment>

EPA is releasing its draft biological evaluations (BEs) for clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam, which are part of a group of insecticides known as the neonicotinoids, for public review and comment.

EPA evaluated clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam to determine whether they may affect one or more species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or their designated critical habitats. The

draft BEs find that each of these chemicals is likely to adversely affect certain listed species or their designated critical habitats.

To learn more about the draft biological evaluations for [clothianidin](#), [imidacloprid](#) and [thiamethoxam](#), see [Frequently Asked Questions](#). EPA is accepting public comments until October 25, 2021 via docket [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0575](#) at www.regulations.gov, and will finalize the BEs after reviewing the comments.

August 31, 2021: EPA Updates Aquatic Life Benchmarks for Registered Pesticides

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-updates-aquatic-life-benchmarks-registered-pesticides-0>

EPA, in collaboration with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and the U.S. Geological Survey, has released an updated version of the Aquatic Life Benchmarks. Aquatic Life Benchmarks are estimates of the concentrations below which pesticides are not expected to present a risk of concern for freshwater organisms.

The updated Aquatic Life Benchmarks represent newly registered pesticides or new values for previously registered pesticides and selected degradates. This is the first update to include benchmarks for 18 additional antimicrobial chemicals. EPA's goal is to add to these benchmarks on an annual basis; the last update was published September 28, 2020.

August 31, 2021: EPA Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Amendment to Experimental Use Permit for Genetically Engineered Mosquitoes

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-seeks-public-comment-proposed-amendment-experimental-use-permit-genetically>

EPA is seeking public comment on a proposed amendment to extend and expand an approved Experimental Use Permit (EUP). The EUP currently allows Oxitec Ltd. to field test the use of genetically engineered *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes as a way to reduce mosquito populations in Florida and Texas through April 2022. The proposed amendment would extend field testing in Florida by another 24 months on up to 6,240 acres and expand testing to California on up to 84,600 acres.

The comment period for the proposed amendment will be open until September 30, 2021 in docket [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0274](#) at www.regulations.gov.
