

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-ORD-2017-0496; FRL-11545-01-ORD]

Availability of the Protocol for the Nitrate and Nitrite IRIS Assessment (Oral)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing a 30-day public comment period associated with release of the document *Protocol for the Nitrate and Nitrite IRIS Assessment (Oral)*. This document communicates the rationale for conducting the human health assessment of Nitrate and Nitrite, describes screening criteria to identify relevant literature, outlines the approach for evaluating study quality, and describes the methods for dose-response analysis.

DATES: The 30-day public comment period begins November 9, 2023 and ends December 11, 2023. Comments must be received on or before December 11, 2023.

ADDRESSES: The Protocol for the Nitrate and Nitrite IRIS Assessment (Oral) will be available via the internet on the IRIS website at <https://www.epa.gov/iris> and in the public docket at <http://www.regulations.gov>, Docket ID: EPA-HQ-ORD-2017-0496.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the docket, contact the ORD Docket at the EPA Headquarters Docket Center; email: Docket_ORD@epa.gov.

For technical information on the protocol, contact Mr. Dahnish Shams, Center for Public Health & Environmental Assessment; email: shams.dahnish@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background Information on the IRIS Program and Systematic Review Protocols

EPA's IRIS Program is a human health assessment program that evaluates quantitative and qualitative information on effects that may result from exposure to chemicals found in the environment. Through the IRIS Program, EPA provides high quality science-based human health assessments to support the Agency's regulatory activities and decisions to protect public health.

As part of developing a draft IRIS assessment, EPA presents a methods document, referred to as the protocol, for conducting a chemical-specific

systematic review of the available scientific literature. EPA is seeking public comment on components of the protocol including the described strategies for literature searches, criteria for study inclusion or exclusion, considerations for evaluating study methods, information management for extracting data, approaches for synthesis within and across lines of evidence, and methods for derivation of toxicity values. The protocol serves to inform the subsequent development of the draft assessment and is made available to the public. EPA may update the protocol based on the evaluation of the literature, and any updates will be posted to the docket and on the IRIS website.

II. How to Submit Technical Comments to the Docket at <https://www.regulations.gov>

Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD-2017-0496 for Nitrate/Nitrite, by one of the following methods:

- www.regulations.gov: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

- Email: Docket_ORD@epa.gov.

- Fax: 202-566-9744.

- Mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (ORD Docket), Mail Code: 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460. The phone number is 202-566-1752.

For information on visiting the EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room, visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is 202-566-1744. The public can submit comments via www.regulations.gov or email.

Instructions: Direct your comments to docket number EPA-HQ-ORD-2017-0496 for nitrate/nitrite. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the closing date will be marked "late," and may only be considered if time permits. It is EPA's policy to include all comments it receives in the public docket without change and to make the comments available online at <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided, unless a comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information for which disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information through <https://www.regulations.gov> or email that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected. The <https://www.regulations.gov> website is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity

or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an email comment directly to EPA without going through <https://www.regulations.gov>, your email address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses. For additional information about EPA's public docket, visit the EPA Docket Center homepage at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

Docket: Documents in the docket are listed in the <https://www.regulations.gov> index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other materials, such as copyrighted material, are publicly available only in hard copy. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in <https://www.regulations.gov> or as a hard copy at the ORD Docket in the EPA Headquarters Docket Center.

Wayne Cascio,

Director, Center for Public Health & Environmental Assessment.

[FR Doc. 2023-24746 Filed 11-8-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0509; FRL-7661-05-OCSPP]

Notice of Approval Status; Certifying Authorities' Amended Plans for Certification of Commercial and Private Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides; Batch Four

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing its approval or conditional approval of 26 amended certification plans for certifying applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) from the following certifying authorities: Arkansas

Department of Agriculture (ADA), Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe’s Water, Energy and Environment Committee (CRST–WEEC), Clemson University Division of Regulatory and Public Service Programs, Department of Pesticide Regulation (CUDPR), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Guam Environmental Protection Agency (Guam-EPA), Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA), Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Board of Pesticides Control (ME BPC), Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), Missouri Department of Agriculture (MODA), Montana Department of Agriculture (MTDA), New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA), Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF), Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPN), the Santee Sioux Nation (SSN), Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TNDA), Texas Department of Agriculture (TXDA), the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation’s Natural Resources Department (TAT/NRD), Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), the White Earth Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (WE), and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (WDATCP). The 26 plans listed in this batched notice represents the fifth notification announcing the approval of the federal, state, territory, and tribal certification plans that have gone through the review and approval process. The amended plans are consistent with the existing regulatory requirements, including revisions made

in 2017 to enhance and improve the competency of certified applicators of RUPs and persons working under their direct supervision. The 2017 regulatory revisions are intended to further reduce potential exposure of RUPs to certified applicators and those working under their direct supervision, other workers, the public, and the environment. Federal, state, territory, and tribal certifying authorities with existing certification plans were required to revise their existing plans to conform with the updated federal standards for RUP applicator certification and receive EPA approval by the established regulatory deadline.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For technical information contact:
The designated EPA point of contact for the Certification Plan of interest as listed in Table 1 of Unit I.B.

For general information contact:
Carolyn Schroeder, Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division (7508M), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460–0001; telephone number: (202) 566–2376; email address: *schroeder.carolyn@epa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General information

A. Does this action apply to me?

You may be potentially affected by this action if you are a federal, state, territory, or tribal agency who administers a certification program for pesticides applicators. You may also be potentially affected by this action if you are: A registrant of RUP products; a person who applies RUPs, including those under the direct supervision of a certified applicator; a person who relies upon the availability of RUPs; someone who hires a certified applicator to apply an RUP; a pesticide safety educator; or other person who provides pesticide safety training for pesticide applicator certification or recertification. The following list of North American

Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide to help readers determine whether this document applies to them. Potentially affected entities may include:

- Agricultural Establishments (Crop Production) (NAICS code 111).
- Nursery and Tree Production (NAICS code 111421).
- Agricultural Pest Control and Pesticide Handling on Farms (NAICS code 115112).
- Crop Advisors (NAICS codes 115112, 541690, 541712).
- Agricultural (Animal) Pest Control (Livestock Spraying) (NAICS code 115210).
- Forestry Pest Control (NAICS code 115310).
- Wood Preservation Pest Control (NAICS code 321114).
- Pesticide Registrants (NAICS code 325320).
- Pesticide Dealers (NAICS codes 424690, 424910, 444220).
- Industrial, Institutional, Structural & Health Related Pest Control (NAICS code 561710).
- Ornamental & Turf, Rights-of-Way Pest Control (NAICS code 561730).
- Environmental Protection Program Administrators (NAICS code 924110).
- Governmental Pest Control Programs (NAICS code 926140).

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 these documents and other related information?

For assistance in locating documents related to the approved plans identified in this notice, please consult the designated EPA point of contact for the Certification Plan of interest as listed in Table 1 of this unit, or the general contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

TABLE 1—DESIGNATED EPA POINT OF CONTACTS FOR THE CERTIFICATION PLANS

EPA region	Certification plan	EPA point of contact	POC phone	Email
Region 1	MDAR	Andrea Szylvian	(617) 918–1198	<i>szylvian.andreacommatt@epa.gov</i>
Region 3	ME BPC	Camille Lukey	(215) 814–2930	<i>lukey.camille@epa.gov</i>
Region 4	PDA	Richard Corbett	(404) 562–9008	<i>corbett.richard@epa.gov</i>
Region 5	VDACS	Donald Baumgartner	(312) 886–7835	<i>baumgartner.donald@epa.gov</i>
	CUDPR			
	FDACS			
	TNDA			
	IDA			
	ODA			
	WDATCP			
	WE			

TABLE 1—DESIGNATED EPA POINT OF CONTACTS FOR THE CERTIFICATION PLANS—Continued

EPA region	Certification plan	EPA point of contact	POC phone	Email
Region 6	ADA LDAF NMDA ODAFF TXDA	Eric Nystrom	(214) 665–6752	<i>nystrom.eric@epa.gov</i>
Region 7	KDA MODA PBPN SSN	Shawn Hackett	(913) 551–7774	<i>hackett.shawn@epa.gov</i>
Region 8	CRST–WEEC MTDA TAT/NRD UDAF	Kevin Martin	(303) 312–6085	<i>martin.kevin@epa.gov</i>
Region 9	Guam-EPA	Katy Wilcoxen	(415) 947–4205	<i>wilcoxen.katy@epa.gov</i>
Region 10	ISDA	Bethany Plewe	(208) 378–5753	<i>plewe.bethany@epa.gov</i>

II. What is the Agency's authority for taking this action?

Section 11 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*, requires certifying authorities to have an EPA-approved certification plan to certify applicators of RUPs. The Certification of Pesticide Applicators (CPA) regulation at 40 CFR part 171 was amended in 2017 (Ref. 1). As a result, federal, state, territory, and tribal certifying authorities with existing certification plans were required to revise their existing certification plans to conform with the updated federal standards for the certification of applicators of RUPs and submit their revisions to EPA by March 2020 for EPA review and approval. The CPA regulation specifies that the existing certification plans remain in place until the revised plans are approved by EPA on or before the regulatory deadline established in 40 CFR 171.5. The Agency has since issued a final rule extending the original deadline for certification plans to comply with the updated federal standards under the 2017 CPA rule to November 4, 2023 (Ref. 2).

III. What action is the Agency taking?

This action gives notice that the following 26 certifying authorities' certification plans submitted to the Agency meet or exceed the standards of 40 CFR part 171: ADA, CRST–WEEC, CUDPR, FDACS, Guam–EPA, IDA, ISDA, KDA, LDAF, MDAR, ME BPC, MODA, MTDA, NMDA, ODA, ODAFF, PBPN, PDA, SSN, TAT/NRD, TNDA, TXDA, UDAF, VDACS, WDATCP, and WE. EPA hereby gives notice that the 26 amended certification plans for certifying applicators of RUPs listed in this document are now approved or conditionally approved plans; the certifying authorities may certify RUP

applicators and continue with implementation of the certification plans as outlined in the approved plans.

With this announcement, EPA has approved or conditionally approved 67 out of the 68 federal, state, territory, and tribal certification plans submitted to the Agency prior to the November 2023 regulatory deadline. The 26 plans listed in this batched notice represents the fifth notification announcing the approval of the federal, state, territory, and tribal certification plans that have gone through the review and approval process. EPA also provides information regarding the reviews and approvals of these certification plans, and where copies of these approved plans are available, on its website at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/certification-standards-pesticide-applicators>.

One remaining plan, which is a Tribal-EPA memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation (SBT), will not be finalized by the November 4, 2023 deadline. After the November 2023, deadline, the existing MOA will no longer be valid. By default, the Tribe's jurisdiction will be covered by the EPA Plan for the Federal Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides within Indian Country (EPA Plan) (Ref. 3) until the MOA is approved. Alternatively, if the Tribe responds in writing that it wants to opt out of the EPA Plan in the interim, they may do so. The Tribe, in any case, may continue to work with EPA to finalize their MOA. EPA will notify the Tribe that they may not continue to issue new or renew certifications under its existing MOA until the modified plan is approved. EPA will work with the Tribe on transitioning to the EPA Plan pending the approval of their MOA, including establishing a transition phase

for existing applicators to get certified under the EPA Plan.

III. References

The following is a list of documents that are related to the issuance of this Notice. For assistance in locating these other documents, please consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

1. EPA. Pesticides; Certification of Pesticide Applicators; Final Rule. **Federal Register**. 82 FR 952, January 4, 2017 (FRL–9956–70).
2. EPA. Pesticides; Certification of Pesticide Applicators; Further Extension to Expiration Date of Certification Plans; Final Rule. **Federal Register**. 87 FR 50953, August 19, 2022 (FRL–9134.1–04–OCSPP).
3. EPA. Notice of Approval Status; EPA Plan for the Federal Certification of Applicators Within Indian Country. **Federal Register**. 88 FR 68604, October 4, 2023 (FRL–7661–04–OCSPP).

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 136–136y.

Dated: November 3, 2023.

Mary Elissa Reaves,

*Director, Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division,
Office of Pesticide Programs.*

[FR Doc. 2023–24745 Filed 11–8–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA–HQ–OA–2023–0030, FRL–11537–01–OA]

Notice of Meeting of the EPA Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that the next