

§ 154.29

40 CFR Ch. I (7-1-03 Edition)

issuance of a Notice of Special Review with any registrant who proposes to change voluntarily the composition, packaging, and labeling, or other terms and conditions of registration of his pesticide product in a way which he believes would reduce the risks of use of the product so that it would no longer meet or exceed the risk criteria of §154.7. Meetings for this purpose will be most helpful and productive for both registrants and the Agency if they are requested by registrants shortly after the issuance of the Notice of Special Review.

(e) If the Agency meets with any person or party outside of government concerning a pending Special Review decision, the Agency will not issue a final Special Review decision until 30 days after inclusion of a memorandum concerning that meeting in the public docket. During those 30 days, any person or party may submit written comments to the Agency regarding the subject matter of the meeting in question. The Agency may issue a final Special Review decision without allowing this 30-day period if expedited action is necessary to protect public health or the environment, or if the Agency has invited other parties with potentially opposing viewpoints to the meeting in question (e.g., registrants, users, labor, and environmental groups).

(f) The Agency may decline to meet subsequently with any person or party who asserts unreasonable confidential business information claims pursuant to §154.15(c) for the purpose of circumventing the docketing procedures described in §154.15(b).

§ 154.29 Informal public hearings.

(a) *Timing.* At any time after issuance of a Notice of Special Review and prior to issuance of a Notice of Final Determination, the Administrator may conduct an informal public hearing to gather relevant information or otherwise assist Agency decisionmaking.

(b) FEDERAL REGISTER notice. The Administrator shall issue a notice for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER of any informal public hearing to be held under this section. The notice shall contain the following information:

(1) The time, date, and place of the hearing.

(2) A brief description of the procedures governing participation in the hearing by interested persons.

(3) The issues to be considered at the hearing.

(c) *Transcript.* A verbatim transcript of the hearing shall be prepared and filed in the public docket.

§ 154.31 Notices of Preliminary Determination.

The Administrator shall prepare a Notice of Preliminary Determination after the close of the comment period on a Notice of Special Review.

(a) *Contents of notice.* The Notice of Preliminary Determination shall respond to all significant comments submitted in response to the Notice of Special Review. For each use of a pesticide product that was the subject of the Notice of Special Review, the Notice of Preliminary Determination shall also include, as appropriate:

(1) A determination whether the use satisfies any of the risk criteria set forth in §154.7, and a discussion of the reasons for the determination.

(2) A determination of whether any changes in the composition, packaging, labeling, or restrictions on use of a pesticide product that were proposed in an application submitted after issuance of the Notice of Special Review would reduce the risk so that the use no longer would satisfy any of the risk criteria in §154.7.

(3) If the use satisfies any of the risk criteria set forth in §154.7, a determination of whether the adverse effects posed by the use are unreasonable, taking into account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of the use of the product, and a discussion of reasons for the determination.

(4) If the use is determined to pose an unreasonable adverse effect, a statement of the regulatory action, if any, which the Agency intends to initiate with respect to the use, and a discussion of the reasons for initiating that regulatory action.

(5) A statement that the Administrator is requesting comments from the Secretary of Agriculture and the