

Environmental Protection Agency

§ 154.27

in the FEDERAL REGISTER with a statement of reasons.

(c) If the Administrator determines after having given notice under §154.21 that one or more of the risk criteria set forth in §154.7 have been satisfied, the Agency shall issue a notice for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER which shall include:

(1) Identification of the pesticide uses for which a Special Review has been initiated and an identification of the criteria which have been satisfied.

(2) A brief discussion of the Agency's reasons for determining that the criteria have been satisfied.

(3) A statement indicating that EPA has established a docket for the Special Review, the contents of the docket, the location of the docket, and the times during which the docket will be available for inspection and copying.

(4) An invitation to all interested persons to submit further information concerning the risks and benefits associated with each use of the pesticide subject to the Special Review.

(5) A brief description of the Special Review process and a statement that registrants and applicants bear an affirmative burden of supporting registration of a pesticide product.

(6) A date by which information in response to the Agency's request for further information must be submitted.

(d) In his discretion, the Administrator may request that the Scientific Advisory Panel hold a public meeting to review the scientific issues related to the Special Review.

§ 154.26 Comment opportunity.

After issuance of a Notice of Special Review that applies to a use of a pesticide product (or category of products), any person may submit to the Agency any information, argument, or both, pertinent to:

(a) Whether the use of a pesticide product satisfies any of the §154.7 risk criteria, with respect to the composition, labeling, packaging, and restrictions on use of the product as currently registered.

(b) Whether the use of a pesticide product would satisfy any of the §154.7 risk criteria if its composition, labeling, packaging, and restrictions on use

were approved in accordance with an application for registration or amended registration pending before the Agency. For further information see §154.27(b).

(c) Whether any risks posed by the use or proposed use of the product that satisfy the §154.7 risk criteria are unreasonable, taking into account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of the use of the product.

(d) What regulatory action, if any, the Agency should take with respect to the use of the product.

§ 154.27 Meetings with interested persons.

(a) In the Special Review process, to assure openness and responsiveness, no person or party outside of government will be afforded special or preferential access to Agency Special Review decisionmakers or to the Agency's Special Review process. At the same time, however, Agency personnel are free to meet and otherwise communicate with persons or parties outside of government, including registrants and manufacturers, users, trade unions, environmental groups and other interested persons, to obtain information, exchange views, explore factual and substantive positions, or discuss regulatory options concerning Special Review decisions.

(b) Meetings between EPA and any person or party outside of government will not result in undue delay in reaching Special Review decisions. During such meetings, the Agency will not commit to take any particular action concerning a pending decision. The Agency may receive and consider information and recommendations from persons or parties outside of government; however, the Agency will make the final administrative decision on a wholly independent basis and in accordance with law.

(c) Any interested person may ask to meet with Agency officials to discuss factual information available to the Agency, to present any factual information, to respond to presentations by other persons, or to discuss what regulatory actions should be taken regarding a pesticide which is or may be the subject of a Special Review. If, at its