

## Environmental Protection Agency

## § 155.30

may also include pesticides for which a Registration Standard will be under development during the upcoming year, but which are not scheduled for issuance until the succeeding year. The notice will invite comment and submission of information on the individual pesticides on the list.

### § 155.27 Agency review of data.

EPA will independently (or using the services of disinterested contractors or consultants) review available data in preparation for the development of a Registration Standard, and will be responsible for the drafting of the Registration Standard based on such data reviews. The Agency will not permit registrants to prepare, or assist in the preparation of, data reviews or other Registration Standard documents. The Agency may, however, meet with registrants to discuss its pending reviews, decisions, or documents, in accordance with the meeting procedures in § 155.30, and the docketing procedures in § 155.32.

### § 155.30 Meetings and communications.

EPA personnel may, upon their own initiative or upon request of any interested person or party, meet or communicate with persons or parties outside of government concerning a Registration Standard under development. Such meetings or communications will conform to the following policies and procedures:

(a) *Purpose.* Meetings and communications may be for the purpose of receiving and considering information, exchanging views, exploring factual and substantive positions, discussing regulatory options or for any other purpose deemed appropriate by the Agency in its deliberations concerning development of a Registration Standard. The Agency will not commit to take any particular action concerning a Registration Standard under development during discussions with any person or party outside of government. The Agency will make its final administrative decision on a wholly independent basis, and in accordance with law.

(b) *Meetings with persons or parties outside of government.* Requests by re-

sponsible persons or parties outside of government to meet with Agency personnel concerning a Registration Standard under development should be directed in writing to the Registration Division. Reasonable requests will ordinarily be granted on a timely basis. EPA will decide the time and place of such meetings, and the Agency personnel who will attend. EPA may decline to meet with persons or parties who assert unreasonable claims of confidential business information for the purpose of circumventing the docketing procedures in § 155.32. EPA may also decline to meet if the number or frequency of meetings would delay unduly the issuance of the Registration Standard. Further, no person or party outside government will be accorded special or preferential access to Agency pesticide decisionmaking or to the Agency's decisional process.

(c) *Information submitted to the Agency concerning a Registration Standard under development.* (1) Information, comments, data, or other written material submitted to the Agency at any time concerning a Registration Standard under development may be claimed by the submitter to be confidential business information. The burden of identifying claimed confidential business information rests with the submitter, or, in meetings, with the participants from outside of government who wish to assert a claim of confidentiality.

(2) To assert a claim of confidentiality for all or any part of a written submission concerning a Registration Standard under development, the submitter must furnish three copies of the material. Two copies must be complete, with claimed confidential business information clearly marked in the text. Items in the document that are claimed confidential should be numbered consecutively throughout the document. The third copy must have the claimed confidential business information excised from the text without closing up or paraphrasing the remaining text. The deletions should be consecutively numbered to correspond to the numbering of the complete copies. Each copy must be marked on the cover as to whether it contains claimed confidential business information.