
II. Overview of the Agency’s Effort To Address Pesticide Resistance

Pesticides can be used to control a variety of pests, such as insects, weeds, rodents, bacteria, fungi, etc. Over time many pesticides have gradually lost their effectiveness because pests have developed resistance—a significant decrease in sensitivity to a pesticide, which reduces the field performance of these pesticides. The Agency is concerned about resistance issues and believes that managing the development of pesticide resistance, in conjunction with alternative pest-management strategies and Integrated Pest Management programs, is an important part of sustainable pest management. To address the growing issue of resistance and preserve the useful life of pesticides, the Agency is beginning to embark on a more widespread effort and several activities that are aimed at combating and slowing the development of pesticide resistance.

One such activity, which is the subject of this PR Notice, is today’s release and request for comment on draft PR Notice 2016–X, “Guidance for Pesticide Registrants on Pesticide Resistance Management Labeling.” Draft PR Notice 2016–X updates PR Notice 2001 and applies to all conventional, agricultural pesticides (i.e., herbicides, fungicides, bactericides, insecticides and acaricides). This draft PR Notice focuses on pesticide labels and is aimed at improving information about how pesticide users can minimize and manage pest resistance.

Another such activity, involves the release of draft PR Notice 2016–XX, “Guidance for Herbicide Resistance Management Labeling, Education, Training, and Stewardship.” Draft PR Notice 2016–XX applies to herbicides, and communicates the Agency’s current thinking and approach to addressing herbicide-resistant weeds by providing guidance on labeling, education, training, and stewardship for herbicides undergoing registration review or registration (i.e., new herbicide active, new uses proposed for use on herbicide-resistant crops, or other case-specific registration actions). Draft PR Notice 2016–XX will also be published in today’s Federal Register. In the future, the Agency plans to evaluate other types of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, bactericides, insecticides, and acaricides) to determine whether and what guidance may be appropriate for these types of pesticides. If the Agency releases future guidance on these other types of pesticides, we plan to seek input from the public.

III. What guidance does this PR Notice provide?

Draft PR Notice 2016–X, which revises and updates PR Notice 2001–5, applies to all conventional, agricultural pesticides (i.e., herbicides, fungicides, bactericides, insecticides and acaricides). The updates in draft PR Notice 2016–X focus on pesticides labels and are aimed at improving information about how pesticide users can minimize and manage pest resistance. The draft PR Notice 2016–X updates PR Notice 2001–5 with the following three categories of changes:

• Provides additional guidance, and recommended format, for resistance management statements or information to place on labels.
• Includes references to external technical resources for guidance on resistance management (e.g., professional scientific societies, resistance action committees for different types of pesticides).
• Updates the instructions on how to submit changes to existing labels in order to enhance resistance management language.

This draft PR Notice also references updates draft revisions to Chapter 11.VIG of EPA’s Label Review Manual (LRM), which illustrates the generic format for resistance management labeling along with examples of various labeling scenarios that registrants may encounter. The Agency requests comments on the updates to this draft PR Notice and this chapter of the LRM.

IV. Do PR Notices contain binding requirements?

The PR Notice discussed in this notice is intended to provide guidance to EPA personnel and decision-makers, as well as pesticide registrants. While the requirements in the statute and Agency regulations are binding on EPA and the applicants, this PR Notice is not binding on either EPA or pesticide registrants, and EPA may depart from the guidance where circumstances warrant and without prior notice. Likewise, pesticide registrants may assert that the guidance is not appropriate generally or not applicable to a specific pesticide or situation.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.

Dated: May 23, 2016.

Jack E. Housenger,
Director, Office of Pesticide Programs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Chism, Biological and Economic
many pesticides have gradually lost their effectiveness because pests have developed resistance—a significant decrease in sensitivity to a pesticide, which reduces the field performance of these pesticides. The Agency is concerned about resistance issues and believes that managing the development of pesticide resistance, in conjunction with alternative pest-management strategies and Integrated Pest Management programs, is an important part of sustainable pest management. To address the growing issue of resistance and preserve the useful life of pesticides, the Agency is beginning to embark on a more widespread effort and several activities that are aimed at combating and slowing the development of pesticide resistance.

One such activity, which is the subject of this FR Notice, is today’s release and request for comment on draft PR Notice 2016–XX, “Guidance for Herbicide Resistance Management Labeling, Education, Training, and Stewardship.” Draft PR Notice 2016–XX, which only applies to herbicides, communicates the Agency’s current thinking and approach to address herbicide-resistant weeds by providing guidance on labeling, education, training, and stewardship for herbicides undergoing registration review or registration (i.e., new herbicide actives, new uses proposed for use on herbicide-resistant crops, or other case-specific registration actions). It is part of a holistic, proactive approach to slow the development and spread of herbicide-resistant weeds, and prolong the useful lifespan of herbicides and related technology. The Agency is focusing on the more holistic guidance for herbicides first because they are the most widely used agricultural chemicals, no new herbicide mechanism of action has been developed in last 30 years, and herbicide-resistant weeds are rapidly increasing. In the future, the Agency plans to evaluate other types of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, bactericides, insecticides, and acaricides) to determine whether and what guidance may be appropriate for these types pesticides. If the Agency releases future guidance on these other types of pesticides, we plan to seek input from the public.

Another such activity, involves the release of draft PR Notice 2016–X, “Guidance for Pesticide Registrants on Pesticide Resistance Management Labeling. Draft PR Notice 2016–X, which updates PR Notice 2001–5, applies to all conventional, agricultural pesticides (i.e., herbicides, fungicides, bactericides, insecticides, and acaricides). Draft PR Notice 2016–X focuses on pesticide labels and is aimed at improving information about how pesticide users can minimize and manage pest resistance. This draft PR Notice will also be published in today’s Federal Register.

III. Background on Herbicide Resistance

For the purposes of draft PR Notice 2016–XX and this FR Notice, the Agency defines herbicide resistance as the inherited ability of a plant to survive and reproduce following exposure to a dose of herbicide normally lethal to the wild type. Resistance may be naturally occurring or induced by such techniques as genetic engineering or selection of variants produced by tissue culture or mutagenesis.

The development and spread of herbicide-resistant weeds in agriculture is a widespread problem that has the potential to fundamentally change production practices in United States agriculture. While herbicide-resistant weeds have been known since the 1950s, the number of species and their geographical extent, has been increasing rapidly in the last decade. As of March 2016, Heap reports that there are 249 weed species with confirmed herbicide resistance worldwide and 80 unique weed species with herbicide resistance in the United States (Heap, 2016). Considering that some weed species have developed resistance to more than one mechanism of action (MOA) independently, there are 155 weed species/MOA combinations with confirmed resistance (Heap, 2016). These 155 combinations have shown resistance to herbicides with 18 different MOAs. In the United States, 48 states have reported the presence of herbicide-resistant weeds and there are over 80 crops and sites (e.g. roadways, pastures, and railways) with herbicide-resistant weeds.

As noted earlier, draft PR Notice 2016–XX primarily focuses on herbicides at this time for several reasons. First, herbicides are the most widely used agricultural chemicals. Over 285 million acres were treated on nearly 800,000 farm operations in 2012 (USDA, 2014). Second, unlike fungicides and insecticides, there have been no new herbicide MOAs developed in the last 30 years. Therefore, users do not have a new MOA to control herbicide-resistant weeds and it’s important to protect the long term efficacy of these chemistries. Third, the number of herbicide-resistant weeds and the affected acreage infested is rapidly increasing. Finally, growers are facing severe economic impacts from...
herbicide-resistant weeds with up to 100% crop loss in some cases.

IV. What guidance does this PR Notice provide?

This draft PR Notice communicates the Agency’s approach to addressing herbicide-resistant weeds by providing guidance on labeling, education, training, and stewardship for herbicides undergoing registration or registration review. The Agency’s guidance divides 28 herbicide MOAs into three categories of concern (low, moderate, high) based on the risk of developing herbicide-resistant weeds. The guidance also includes 11 elements that are focused on labeling, education, training, and stewardship strategies. Herbicides with the least concern for developing herbicide-resistant weeds will have the fewest resistance management elements, and herbicides with the greatest concern will have the most elements. The guidance in this draft PR Notice 2016–XX is intended to provide herbicide users and registrants with useful strategies that, when implemented, will slow herbicide resistance and prolong the useful life of herbicides. The beneficiaries of this draft PR Notice will be growers of crops that are, or may be, affected by herbicide-resistant weed and the registrants of herbicides. This draft PR Notice is applicable to all herbicides regulated by the Agency. Once the Agency receives and considers public comments on this draft PR Notice, we expect to revise and finalize the draft PR Notice by late 2016.

V. Do PR Notices contain binding requirements?

The PR Notice discussed in this FR Notice is intended to provide guidance to EPA personnel and decision-makers, as well as pesticide registrants. While the requirements in the statute and Agency regulations are binding on EPA and the applicants, this PR Notice is not binding on either EPA or pesticide registrants, and EPA may depart from the guidance where circumstances warrant and without prior notice. Likewise, pesticide registrants may assert that the guidance is not appropriate generally or not applicable to a specific pesticide or situation.

VI. References

The following is a listing of the documents that are specifically referenced in this document. The list includes these documents and other information considered by EPA, including documents that are referenced within the documents that are included in the docket, even if the referenced document is not physically located in the docket. For assistance in locating these other documents, please consult the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.


Dated: May 23, 2016.
Jack E. Housenger, Director, Office of Pesticide Programs.

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Deletion of Consent Agenda Items From Sunshine Act Meeting

May 25, 2016.

The following consent agenda has been deleted from the list of items scheduled for consideration at the Wednesday, May 25, 2016, Open Meeting and previously listed in the Commission’s Notice of May 18, 2016. Items 1, 5 and 6 on the consent agenda have been adopted by the Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA

| 1 | MEDIA | PMCM TV, LLC Licensee of Station WJLP(TV), Middletown Township, New Jersey. SUMMARY: The Commission will consider an Order concerning a Consent Decree entered into between the Commission and PMCM TV, LLC regarding compliance with children’s programming requirements. |
| 2 | ENFORCEMENT | Enforcement Bureau Action. SUMMARY: The Commission will consider whether to take an enforcement action. |
| 3 | ENFORCEMENT | Enforcement Bureau Action. SUMMARY: The Commission will consider whether to take an enforcement action. |
| 4 | ENFORCEMENT | Enforcement Bureau Action. SUMMARY: The Commission will consider whether to take an enforcement action. |
| 5 | ENFORCEMENT | Enforcement Bureau Action. SUMMARY: The Commission will consider whether to take an enforcement action. |
| 6 | ENFORCEMENT | Enforcement Bureau Action. SUMMARY: The Commission will consider whether to take an enforcement action. |

Federal Communication Commission.
Marlene H. Dortch,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2016–13089 Filed 6–2–16; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COUNCIL

[Docket No.: 106032016–1111–02]

Notice of Funding Availability for the Spill Impact Component of the RESTORE Act

AGENCY: Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) announces the Notice of Funding Availability for the Spill Impact Component of the of the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act), 33 U.S.C. 1321(t)(3).

DATES: State Expenditure Plans (SEPs), the first step in the process, will be accepted on a rolling basis, starting with the date of publication of the NOFA on Grants.gov, May 25, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristin Smith, Council staff, telephone number: 504–444–3558.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council is authorized to award grants pursuant to the Spill Impact Component of the Resources and Ecosystems