

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND PUBLIC REPORT  
DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

Title 3. California Code of Regulations  
Amend Section 6860  
Pertaining to Toxic Air Contaminants

This Initial Statement of Reasons is required by Government Code section 11346.2 and the public report specified in section 6110 of Title 3, California Code of Regulations (3 CCR). Section 6110 meets the requirements of Title 14 CCR section 15252 and Public Resources Code section 21080.5 pertaining to certified state regulatory programs under the California Environmental Quality Act.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION / PESTICIDE REGULATORY PROGRAM  
ACTIVITIES AFFECTED

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) proposes to amend 3 CCR section 6860. The pesticide regulatory program activities that will be affected by the proposal are those pertaining to air monitoring and evaluation under its general reevaluation mandate and under the mandates of Assembly Bill 1807 (Chapter 1047, Statutes of 1983, and amended by Chapter 1380, Statutes of 1984, AB 3219), the Toxic Air Contaminant Act. In summary, this action would designate the pesticide chemical methidathion as toxic air contaminant (TAC) pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) section 14023.

SPECIFIC PURPOSE AND FACTUAL BASIS

With the enactment of California's TAC Act, the Legislature created the statutory framework for the evaluation and control of chemicals as TACs. The statutes are contained in FAC sections 14021-14027. FAC section 14021 defines a TAC as "an air pollutant that may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious illness, or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health."

DPR evaluates pesticides as TACs pursuant to FAC section 14022. FAC section 14022 requires the evaluations to be conducted in consultation with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and the Air Resources Board. Upon completion of a pesticide evaluation, FAC section 14023(a) requires DPR, in consultation and with the participation of OEHHA, to prepare a report on the health effects of the pesticide due to airborne emissions resulting from its use. The report assesses the availability and quality of data on health effects, including potency, mode of action, and other relevant biological factors, of the substance. The report must include OEHHA's written findings. FAC section 14023(b) requires a review of the report by a panel of independent scientists known as the Scientific Review Panel (SRP). The SRP reviews the scientific data upon which the report is based, the supporting scientific procedures and methods used, and the conclusions and assessments on which the report is based. The SRP then submits its written findings to DPR. Based on the results of this comprehensive evaluation and review, the law requires the DPR Director to determine whether the candidate pesticide is a TAC.

Title 3 CCR section 6890 provides the criteria the Director must use. If the candidate pesticide is determined to be a TAC, FAC section 14023(d) requires the Director to list that pesticide as a TAC in regulation.

Methidathion is a non-systemic, organophosphate insecticide/acaricide used to control sucking and chewing insects such as scale, moths, and aphids, on a wide variety of crops. Methidathion is applied by aerial or calibrated power-operated ground equipment at rates varying from 0.25 to 5.0 pounds of active ingredients per acre.

Methidathion is moderately water-soluble and has the potential to run off into surface water depending on use conditions and environmental factors. Methidathion has been detected in California surface water as a result of rain runoff from wintertime dormant spray applications. In the atmosphere in the gas phase, methidathion is expected to undergo rapid atmospheric reaction to form the corresponding oxon, methidaoxon which is physiologically active. This conversion of methidathion to methidaoxon may also occur on surfaces. Methidathion has been reported to travel a significant distance from application sites.

DPR has conducted an evaluation and risk assessment of methidathion. It is contained in the report, "*Methidathion (Supracide®) Risk Characterization Document*, February 2007." This report is listed in the "Documents Relied Upon" section of this initial statement of reasons and is available from DPR.

The SRP has reviewed the draft version of the methidathion report and submitted its written findings to DPR on April 25, 2007. In its findings, the SRP concluded:

The Panel reviewed the draft version of report "*Methidathion (Supracide®) Risk Characterization Document*," prepared by DPR and reviewed by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, as well as the scientific procedures and methods used to support the data, the data itself and the conclusions and assessments on which the report is based. The Panel has also reviewed and considered public comments, and agency responses to comments. The Panel concludes that the report, with the revisions specified by the SRP, is based upon sound scientific knowledge, and represents a balanced assessment of our current scientific understanding.

Based on the *Methidathion (Supracide®) Risk Characterization Document*, February 2007, the Panel recommends that the Director of DPR initiate regulatory steps to list methidathion as a Toxic Air Contaminant pursuant to FAC section 14023(d).

Based on the results of the evaluation of methidathion, the findings of the SRP, and the criteria listed in section 6890 for identifying pesticides as TACs, the Director has declared methidathion to be a TAC (DPR, 2007).

The proposed regulatory action adds methidathion to section 6860(a).

#### CONSULTATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

As described above, DPR has consulted with OEHHA and the Air Resources Board. In addition, DPR has consulted with the California Department of Food and Agriculture during the development of the text of proposed regulations as specified in FAC section 11454.2, and the February 6, 1992, Memorandum of Agreement which was developed as provided in section 11454.2.

Copies of correspondence with these agencies are contained in the rulemaking file.

#### ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 11346.2(b))

DPR has not identified any feasible alternatives to the proposed regulatory action that would lessen any possible adverse economic impacts, including any impacts on small businesses, and invites the submission of suggested alternatives.

As discussed in the Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action that was published in the *California Regulatory Notice Register*, DPR has determined that the adoption of this regulation will not have a significant cost impact on businesses.

#### IDENTIFICATION OF ANY SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT THAT CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO OCCUR FROM IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSAL

The proposal in effect pertains to designating the pesticide chemical methidathion as a TAC in section 6860(a). DPR's review of the proposed action showed that no significant adverse environmental effect to California's air, soil, water, plants, fish, or wildlife can reasonably be expected to occur from implementing the proposal. Therefore, no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed to lessen any significant adverse effects on the environment.

#### EFFORTS TO AVOID UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS

The proposed regulatory action does not duplicate or conflict with the Code of Federal Regulations.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON

1. DPR. 2007. *Methidathion (Supracide®) Risk Characterization Document*. Department of Pesticide Regulation, Sacramento, California.
2. Froines, J.R. 2007. Findings of the *Scientific Review Panel on the Proposed Identification of Methidathion as a Toxic Air Contaminant*. Findings of the Scientific Review Panel, John R. Froines, Ph.D., Chair. April 25, 2007.
3. DPR 2007. *Notice of Proposed Decision Concerning the Director's Declaration of Methidathion as Toxic Air Contaminants*. Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Director, Department of Pesticide Regulation. May 24, 2007.
4. OEHHA. 2006. Findings of the Active Ingredient: Methidathion. Anna M. Fan, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. November 17, 2006.
5. OEHHA. 2007. Findings of the Active Ingredient: Methidathion (Erratta). Anna M. Fan, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. February 9, 2007.