

EIS No. 970481, DRAFT EIS, STB, Conrail Acquisition (Finance Docket No. 33388) by CSX Corporation and CSX Transportation Inc., and Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS), Control and Operating Leases and Agreements, To serve portion of eastern United States, Due: February 02, 1998, Contact: Michael Dalton (202) 565-1530.

EIS No. 970482, DRAFT EIS, FTA, FL, Central Florida Light Rail Transit System Transportation Improvement to the North/South Corridor Project, Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) and Minimum Operable Segment (MOS), Orange and Seminole Counties, FL, Due: February 09, 1998, Contact: J. Anthony Dittmeier (404) 562-3512.

Amended Notices

EIS No. 970433, FINAL EIS, FHW, PA, US 202 Section 700 Corridor, Improvements, from PA 63 in Montgomeryville to the PA-611 Bypass in Doylestown Township, COE Section 404 Permit and Right-of-Way, Montgomery and Bucks Counties, PA, Due: January 30, 1998, Contact: Ronald W. Carmichael (717) 221-3461. Published FR 11-14-97—Review Period extended.

Dated: December 16, 1997.

B. Katherine Biggs,

Associate Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 97-33242 Filed 12-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5937-9]

Investigator-Initiated Grants: Request for Applications

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of request for applications.

SUMMARY: This document provides information on the availability of the fiscal year 1998 investigator-initiated grants program announcements, in which the areas of research interest, eligibility and submission requirements, evaluation criteria, and implementation schedule are set forth. Grants will be competitively awarded following peer review.

DATES: Receipt dates vary depending on the specific research area within the solicitation and are listed in

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance (8703R), 401 M Street SW, Washington DC 20460, telephone (800) 490-9194. The complete announcement can be accessed on the Internet from the EPA home page: <http://www.epa.gov/ncerqa>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In its Requests for Applications (RFA) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites research grant applications in the following areas of special interest to its mission: (1) Regional Scale Analysis and Assessment, (2) Water and Watersheds (joint with the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture), (3) Technology for a Sustainable Environment (joint with the National Science Foundation), (4) Bioremediation (joint with the Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, and Office of Naval Research), and (5) Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (ECOHAB) (joint with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration). Applications must be received as follows: February 12, 1998, for topic (1); February 17, 1998, for topic (3); February 23, 1998, for topic (5); February 27, 1998, for topic (4); and April 1, 1998 for topic (2).

The RFAs provide relevant background information, summarize EPA's interest in the topic areas, and describe the application and review process.

Contact person for the Regional Scale Analysis and Assessment RFA and Water and Watersheds RFA is Barbara Levinson (levinson.barbara@epamail.epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6911; for Technology for a Sustainable Environment is Barbara Karn (karn.barbara@epamail.epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6824; for Bioremediation is Robert Menzer (menzer.robert@epamail.epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6849, and for Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms is Sheila Rosenthal (rosenthal.sheila@epamail.epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6916.

Dated: December 10, 1997.

Stephen A. Lingle,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 97-33226 Filed 12-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-50837; FRL-5761-4]

Receipt of a Notification to Conduct Small-Scale Field Testing of a Genetically Engineered Microbial Pesticide

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), in cooperation with Washington State University (WSU), of a notification (71233-NMP-R) of intent to conduct small-scale field testings involving species of fluorescent *Pseudomonas* bacteria, which have been genetically engineered to express antimicrobial genes from similar *Pseudomonas* species inhabiting the rhizosphere of wheat. The Agency has determined that the application may be of regional and national significance. Therefore, in accordance with 40 CFR 172.11(a), the Agency is soliciting comments on this application.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before January 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: By mail, submit written comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, deliver comments to: Rm. 1132, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit II. of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this document may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the comment that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public docket by EPA without prior notice. The public docket is available for public inspection in Rm. 1132 at the Virginia address given above, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William R. Schneider, PM 90, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511W), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: 5th floor CS1 2800 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, (703) 308-8683, e-mail: schneider.william@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

Notice of receipt of this notification does not imply a decision by the Agency on this notification.

These small-scale field tests are designed to evaluate fluorescent *Pseudomonas strains* that are able to control the plant pathogens that cause the following diseases in wheat: take-all, *Rhizoctonia* root rot, and *Pythium* root rot. The bacteria will be applied to the seeds prior to planting. In accordance with 40 CFR 172.3, these small-scale field tests will be conducted on a cumulative total of no more than 10 acres of land and any food or feed crops will be destroyed. Each test site will include a containment border such as a 20 foot wide unplanted area, fallow-field, or sod-berm, and will be direct-seeded in accordance with no-till practices to reduce or eliminate run-off of water from the site. The genetically-modified construct and the naturally-occurring wild type parental control strain will have been selected for a rifampicin-resistance marker gene to facilitate monitoring.

The object of the genetic manipulations is to combine: (1) The properties of *Pseudomonas* isolates that produce efficacious levels of antibiotics effective against the microorganisms that cause wheat diseases with (2) other *Pseudomonas* isolates that colonize wheat roots well. The antibiotic genes will be stably inserted into the chromosome of the recipient strain and both the recipient and the donor strains will be fluorescent pseudomonads. For example, in the proposed 1997 tests, the genes for phenazine-1-carboxylate from *Pseudomonas fluorescens* 2-79, isolated from wheat, were transferred into the chromosome of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Q8R1-96, which is a better wheat root colonizer than strain 2-79. The plasmid used to introduce the *phzA*, *-B*, *-C*, *-D*, *-E*, *-F*, and *-G* genes is not maintained by the recipient strain and, thus, is eliminated, leaving the phenazine biosynthetic genes in the Q8R1-06 chromosome.

Following the review of the ARS/WSU notification and any comments received in response to this notice, EPA

may approve the tests, ask for additional data, require additional modifications to the test protocols, or require EUP applications to be submitted. In accordance with 40 CFR 172.50, under no circumstances shall the proposed tests proceed until the submitters have received notice from EPA of its approval of such tests.

II. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this notice, as well as the public version, has been established for this notice under docket control number "OPP-50857" (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The official record is located at the Virginia address in "ADDRESSES" at the beginning of this document.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:
opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comment and data will also be accepted on disks in Wordperfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number "OPP-50837." Electronic comments on this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection.

Dated: December 15, 1997.

Kathleen D. Knox,

Acting Director, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 97-33228 Filed 12-18-97; 9:30 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-30444; FRL-5761-1]

Novartis Seeds, Inc.; Application to Register a Pesticide Product

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt of an application to register a plant pesticide containing an active ingredient involving a changed use pattern of the product pursuant to the provisions of section 3(c)(4) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted by January 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: By mail, submit written comments identified by the document control number [OPP-30444] and the file symbols to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (7502C), Information Resources and Services Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, bring comments to: Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 1132, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instructions under "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION." No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this document may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the comment that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public docket by EPA without prior notice. The public docket is available for public inspection in Rm. 1132 at the Virginia address given above, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Michael Mendelsohn, Regulatory Action Leader, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511W), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location and telephone number: Rm. CS51B6, Westfield Building North Tower, 2800 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202, (703) 308-8715; e-mail: mendelsohn.mike@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA received an application from Novartis Seeds, Inc., 3054 Cornwallis Road, P.O. Box 12257, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2257, to amend the plant pesticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* European Corn Borer Control Protein (EPA Registration Number 66736-1)