

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/203
6 December 1999

(99-5382)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>UNITED STATES</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Environmental Protection Agency - EPA
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable). Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Pesticides
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Review of Environmental Protection Agency Public Participation Policies (8 pages)
5.	<p>ption of content: The EPA Administrator, in a July 1999 EPA report, entitled "Aiming for Excellence - Actions to Encourage Stewardship and Accelerate Environmental Progress, Report of the EPA Innovations Task Force" pledges the Agency to "Evaluate and update EPA's public participation requirements. We will assess how well our regulations and policies ensure public participation in decision making. We will report on what we find and develop an action plan to upgrade requirements and fill gaps". EPA has convened an internal workgroup to conduct a review of EPA public participation regulations and policies in accordance with this pledge. The workgroup is scheduled to give a report to the Administrator by 31 January 2000, which will contain an inventory of EPA regulations and policies regarding public participation and an initial assessment of how well these regulations and policies ensure public participation in decision making. The report will also contain an action plan to update requirements and fill gaps.</p> <p>One of the primary policies being reviewed is the Final EPA Policy on Public Participation (Federal Register/Vol. 46/no. 12/Monday, 19 January 1981), herein referred to as the 1981 Policy. The statements in the 1981 Policy have been the basis for many of EPA's public participation requirements in the nineteen years since its initial publication. The workgroup is seeking public comment on two issues at this time:</p> <p>(1) What changes need to be made to the 1981 Policy on Public Participation?</p> <p>(1a) What is working well, and how does the experience of the past nineteen years suggest the need for improvements in the general procedures for involving the public in EPA programmes and decisions?</p> <p>(2) How can we further engage the public in the effort to revise the 1981 Policy and other EPA regulations and policies which may need to be updated in regard to public participation?</p> <p>(2a) What are the suggested elements of a strategy to further engage the public in updating requirements and filling gaps in EPA's regulations and policies concerning public participation?</p>

6.	Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests
7.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:
8.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: 64 FR 66906, 30 November 1999 (Available in English)
9.	Proposed date of adoption: To be determined.
10.	Proposed date of entry into force: To be determined.
11.	<p>Final date for comments: 30 December 1999. Comments received within the 30-day period designated in this notice will be taken under consideration as the workgroup writes the initial report to the Administrator in January 2000. Comments received after the 30-day period will be reviewed as the Agency further develops and implements an action plan to update the 1981 policy and, as necessary, other regulations and policies.</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p>Detailed instruction on where and how to send comments is in the body of the full text - which will be sent upon request to the address in paragraph 12.</p>
12.	<p>Texts available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>United States SPS Enquiry Point/Notification Authority USDA/FAS/FSTSD ATTN: Carolyn F. Wilson Room 5545 South Agriculture Building Stop 1027 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250 Phone (202) 720-2239 Fax (202) 690-0677 E-mail Address: ofsts@fas.usda.gov</p>