which are not usually a concern for exposures to residues on treated surfaces.

(7) Physical activities involved in irrigation. The Agency's proposed exception would allow only those irrigation tasks for which contact with the treated surfaces would be limited to the feet, lower legs, hands, and forearms. These tasks would include tasks such as operating irrigation gates, adjusting irrigation valves, and checking for or unclogging obstructions in areas with low crops or widely spaced rows. Carrying irrigation equipment that was in the treated area during application on one's shoulder or against one's chest would NOT meet these criteria.

Therefore, the Agency solicits specific information about potential worker exposure to pesticide residues during various irrigation activities, including moving, installing, operating, maintaining, checking, repairing, and unclogging irrigation equipment. The Agency also seeks comment and information about whether the irrigation-related tasks that would be performed if the exception is granted would result in exposures just to the feet, lower legs, hands, and forearms, or whether many such tasks would result in more widespread exposures due to contact with residues on medium to tall crops or on residue-laden irrigation equipment.

(8) Finally, EPA requests comment on whether to allow employers of earlyentry irrigation workers to choose whether to provide the PPE specified on the pesticide label for early entry or the exception-based PPE (coveralls plus chemical-resistant gloves and footwear). For any toxicity category pesticide, the label-specified PPE might be more protective, because it might include coveralls over other work attire and/or protective eyewear. However, since the exposures are limited to the feet, lower legs, hands, and forearms, this extra PPE may not be necessary. Conversely, the coveralls plus chemical-resistant gloves and chemical-resistant footwear PPE in the proposed exception are more protective than the early-entry PPE required for toxicity III and IV (signal word CAUTION) pesticides, where chemical-resistant footwear is not required (labels will require coveralls, chemical-resistant gloves, shoes, and socks). EPA requests comment on whether to require chemical-resistant footwear for all irrigation workers under this exception, because of the long period of potential exposure. The Agency did not include protective evewear in the proposed exception, since exposure is limited to feet, lower legs, hands, and forearms. Also many

pesticides that are highly irritating to skin (and are excluded from this exception) are also highly irritating to the eyes. Therefore, many of the products most irritating to the eyes also will be excluded from the exception. However, EPA solicits comment on whether protective eyewear should be included in the minimum PPE requirement for early-entry irrigation workers under any exception due to concern about workers rubbing or wiping residues into their eyes from hands, gloves, or sleeves.

VI. Public Docket and Electronic Comments

A record has been established for this rulemaking under docket number "OPP 250098" (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 confidential business information (CBI), is available for inspection from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in Room1132 of the Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. Written comments should be mailed to: Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C) Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

As part of an interagency ''streamlining'' initiative, EPA is experimenting with submission of public comments on selected Federal **Register** actions electronically through the Internet in addition to accepting comments in traditional written form. This proposed exception is one of the actions selected by EPA for this experiment. From the experiment, EPA will learn how electronic commenting works, and any problems that arise can be addressed before EPA adopts electronic commenting more broadly in its rulemaking activities. Electronic commenting through posting to the EPA Bulletin Board or through the Internet using the ListServe function raise some novel issues that are discussed below in this Unit.

To submit electronic comments, persons can either "subscribe" to the Internet ListServe application or "post" comments to the EPA Bulletin Board. To "Subscribe" to the Internet ListServe application for this proposed exception, send an e-mail message to: listserver@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov that says ''Subscribe RIN-2070-AC69 <first name> <last name>.'' Once you are subscribed to the ListServe, comments should be sent to: RIN-2070-AC69@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov. All comments and data in electronic form should be identified by the docket number OPP-250098 since all five documents in this separate part provide the same electronic address.

For online viewing of submissions and posting of comments, the public access EPA Bulletin Board is also available by dialing 202–488–3671, enter selection "DMAIL," user name "BB—USER" or 919–541–4642, enter selection "MAIL," user name "BB— USER." When dialing the EPA Bulletin Board type <Return> at the opening message. When the "Notes" prompt appears, type "open RIN– 2070–AC69" to access the posted messages for this document. To get a listing of all files, type "dir/all" at the prompt line. Electronic comments can also be sent directly to EPA at:

Docket-OPPTS@epamail.epa.gov.

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. To obtain further information on the electronic comment process, or on submitting comments on this proposed exception electronically through the EPA Bulletin Board or the Internet ListServe, please contact John A. Richards (Telephone: 202–260–2253; FAX: 202–260–3884; Internet: richards.john@epamail.epa.gov).

Persons who comment on this proposed rule, and those who view comments electronically, should be aware that this experimental electronic commenting is administered on a completely public system. Therefore, any personal information included in comments and the electronic mail addresses of those who make comments electronically are automatically available to anyone else who views the comments. Similarly, since all electronic comments are available to all users, commenters should not submit electronically any information which they believe to be CBI. Such information should be submitted only directly to EPA in writing as described earlier in this Unit.

Commenters and others outside EPA may choose to comment on the comments submitted by others using the RIN–2070–AC69 ListServe or the EPA Bulletin Board. If they do so, those comments as well will become part of EPA's record for this rulemaking. Persons outside EPA wishing to discuss comments with commenters or