Surveys, NAHMS Study Participant Surveys, and NAHMS Descriptive Reports Surveys. NVSL staff plans to obtain feedback from the annual NVSL Performance Surveys. Feedback from these surveys will be used to improve the U.S. Animal Health Report, to improve NAHMS Descriptive Reports, and to evaluate customer/stakeholder satisfaction in an effort to increase participation rates for NAHMS studies. The NVSL surveys will help monitor the NVSL's performance.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of burden on the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.267714 hours per response.

Respondents: Livestock, poultry, and catfish producers; information users; NAHMS Descriptive Report Recipients; Animal Health Report recipients; practicing veterinarians; animal importers/exporters; State and independent laboratories.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 35,700.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 0.2585434.

Estimated annual number of responses: 9,230.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 2,471 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 7th day of December 2007.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E7–24171 Filed 12–12–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2007–0030]

Monsanto Company; Availability of Petition and Environmental Assessment for Determination of Nonregulated Status for Corn Genetically Engineered for Insect Resistance

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has received a petition from the Monsanto Company seeking a determination of nonregulated status for insect-resistant corn derived from a transformation event designated as MON 89034. The petition has been submitted in accordance with our regulations concerning the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms and products. In accordance with those regulations, we are soliciting comments on whether this genetically engineered corn is or could be a plant pest. We are also making available for public comment a draft environmental assessment for the proposed determination of nonregulated status.

DATES: We will consider all comments we receive on or before February 11, 2008.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *http://www.regulations.gov*, select ''Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service'' from the agency drop-down menu, then click ''Submit.'' In the Docket ID column, select APHIS–2007–0030 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site's ''User Tips'' link.
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. APHIS–2007–0030, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS–2007–0030.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690–2817 before coming.

Other Information: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Robyn Rose, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 734–0489, e-mail: *robyn.i.rose@aphis.usda.gov*. To obtain copies of the petition or the environmental assessment, contact Ms. Cindy Eck at (301) 734–0667, e-mail: *cynthia.a.eck@aphis.usda.gov*. The petition and the environmental assessment are also available on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/06_29801p.pdf* and *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/06_29801p_ea.pdf.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The regulations in 7 CFR part 340, ''Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason to Believe Are Plant Pests,'' regulate, among other things, the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests. Such genetically engineered organisms and products are considered ''regulated articles.''

The regulations in § 340.6(a) provide that any person may submit a petition to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) seeking a determination that an article should not be regulated under 7 CFR part 340. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of § 340.6 describe the form that a petition for a determination of nonregulated status

must take and the information that must be included in the petition.

On October 26, 2006, APHIS received a petition seeking a determination of nonregulated status (APHIS No. 06–298–01p) from the Monsanto Company (Monsanto) of St. Louis, MO, for corn (*Zea mays* L.) designated as transformation event MON 89034, which has been genetically engineered for resistance to European corn borer (ECB) and other lepidopteran pests, stating that corn line MON 89034 does not present a plant pest risk and, therefore, should not be a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Monsanto responded to APHIS' subsequent request for additional information and clarification and submitted an addendum to their petition on January 23, 2007. The petition is available for public review and comment.

Analysis

As described in the petition, corn transformation event MON 89034 has been genetically engineered to express the transgenes *cry1A.105* and *cry2Ab2*, both of which were derived from a well-characterized gene sequence from *Bacillus thuringiensis*, and encode insect control proteins. The neomycin phosphotransferase II (*nptII*) gene was used as a selectable marker, but was eliminated by traditional breeding methods in the later stages of development of MON 89034. Thus, MON 89034 contains only the *cry1A.105* and *cry2Ab2* expression cassettes. Expression of the transgenes by corn plants renders the corn line resistant to European corn borer, as well as other lepidopteran pests. Regulatory elements for the transgenes were obtained from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*. These regulatory sequences are not transcribed and do not encode proteins. The DNA was introduced into corn cells using *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation methodology with the T–DNA binary transformation vector designated PV–ZMIR245.

Transformation event MON 89034 has been considered a regulated article under the regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because it contains gene sequences from plant pathogens. MON 89034 corn has been field tested in the United States since 2001 under notifications and permits authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). APHIS has presented two alternatives in the draft environmental assessment (EA) based on its analyses of data submitted by Monsanto, a review of other scientific data, and field tests conducted under APHIS oversight. APHIS may: (1) Take no action (MON 89034 remains a regulated article), or (2) deregulate MON 89034.

In § 403 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*), ''plant pest'' is defined as any living stage of any of the following that can directly or indirectly injure, cause damage to, or cause disease in any plant or plant product: a protozoan, a nonhuman animal, a parasitic plant, a bacterium, a fungus, a virus or viroid, an infectious agent or other pathogen, or any article similar to or allied with any of the foregoing. APHIS views this definition broadly to cover direct or indirect injury, disease, or damage not just to agricultural crops, but also to other plants, for example, native species, as well as to plant parts and plant products whether natural, manufactured, or processed.

MON 89034 corn is subject to regulation by other Federal agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for the regulation of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*). FIFRA requires that all pesticides, including herbicides, be registered prior to distribution or sale, unless exempt from EPA regulation. In cases in which genetically engineered plants allow for a new use of a pesticide or involve a different use pattern for the pesticide, EPA must approve the new or different use. On July 17, 2006, the EPA announced a temporary exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of the *Bacillus thuringiensis* Cry1A.105 protein and the genetic material necessary for its production in corn on field corn, sweet corn, and popcorn when applied/used as a plant-incorporated protectant (PIP). The temporary tolerance exemption will expire on June 30, 2009 (71 FR 40427–40431). On July 17, 2006, EPA announced a temporary exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of the *Bacillus thuringiensis* Cry2Ab2 protein and the genetic material necessary for its production in corn on field corn, sweet corn, and popcorn when applied/used as a PIP. The temporary tolerance exemption will expire on June 30, 2009 (71 FR 40431–40436). Pursuant to its authority under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA, 21 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*), EPA conducted a comprehensive assessment of the Cry1A.105 and Cry2Ab2 proteins and the genetic material necessary for their production in corn concluding that there was a reasonable certainty of no harm from consumption of the protein, as it is digestible in gastric fluid and not considered an allergen.

Under the FFDCA, pesticides added to (or contained in) raw agricultural commodities generally are considered to be unsafe unless a tolerance or exemption from tolerance has been established. Residue tolerances for pesticides are established by EPA under the FFDCA and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) enforces tolerances set by EPA under the FFDCA.

FDA's policy statement concerning regulation of products derived from new plant varieties, including those genetically engineered, was published in the **Federal Register** on May 29, 1992 (57 FR 22984–23005). Under this policy, FDA uses what is termed a consultation process to ensure that human and animal feed safety issues or other regulatory issues (e.g., labeling) are resolved prior to commercial distribution of a bioengineered food. Monsanto submitted a summary of their safety assessment to the FDA on October 13, 2006. The FDA consultation for MON 89034 corn as food and feed is currently underway.

National Environmental Policy Act

A draft EA has been prepared to provide the APHIS decisionmaker with a review and analysis of any potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed determination of nonregulated status for MON 89034. The draft EA was prepared in accordance with (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

In accordance with § 340.6(d) of the regulations, we are publishing this notice to inform the public that APHIS will accept written comments regarding the petition for a determination of nonregulated status from interested or affected persons for a period of 60 days from the date of this notice. We are also soliciting written comments from interested or affected persons on the draft EA prepared to examine any environmental impacts of the proposed determination for the deregulation of the subject corn event. The petition, the draft EA, and any comments received are available for public review, and copies of the petitions and the draft EA are available as indicated under **ADDRESSES** and **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above.

After the comment period closes, APHIS will review all written comments

received during the comment period and any other relevant information. After reviewing and evaluating the comments on the petition and the EA and other data and information, APHIS will furnish a response to the petitioner, either approving or denying the petition. APHIS will then publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the regulatory status of Monsanto's insect-resistant corn event MON 89034 and the availability of APHIS' written regulatory and environmental decisions.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7701–7772 and 7781–7786; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 7th day of December 2007.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E7–24174 Filed 12–12–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2007–0150]

Public Meeting; Veterinary Biologics

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Advance notice of public meeting and request for suggested agenda topics.

SUMMARY: We are issuing this notice to inform producers and users of veterinary biological products, and other interested individuals, that we will be holding our 14th public meeting to discuss regulatory and policy issues related to the manufacture, distribution, and use of veterinary biological products. We are planning the meeting agenda and are requesting suggestions for topics of general interest to producers and other interested individuals.

DATES: The public meeting will be held Monday, April 7, through Wednesday, April 9, 2008, from noon to approximately 5 p.m. on Monday, from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. on Tuesday, and from 8 a.m. to approximately noon on Wednesday.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the Scheman Building at the Iowa State Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on agenda topics, contact Dr. Byron E. Rippke, Director, Policy, Evaluation, and Licensing, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 510 South 17th Street, Suite 104, Ames, IA 50010–8197; phone (515) 232–5785, fax (515) 232–7120, or e-mail *CVB@aphis.usda.gov.* For registration information, contact Ms. Betty Light at the same address and fax number; phone (515) 232–5785 extension 127; or e-mail *Betty.J.Light@aphis.usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Since 1989, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has held 13 public meetings in Ames, IA, on veterinary biologics. The meetings provide an opportunity for the exchange of information between APHIS representatives, producers and users of veterinary biological products, and other interested individuals. APHIS is in the process of planning the agenda for the 14th such meeting, which will be held April 7 through 9, 2008.

The agenda for the meeting is not yet complete. The theme for this year's meeting is influenza. Topics that have been suggested include: (1) Avian, swine, and equine influenza-related topics; (2) pandemic influenza preparedness and related issues; (3) conditional licenses for canine influenza vaccines; (4) influenza diagnostics (rapid and otherwise); and (5) Veterinary Services and Center for Veterinary Biologics related issues. Before finalizing the agenda, APHIS is seeking suggestions for additional meeting topics from the interested public.

We would also like to invite interested individuals to use this meeting to present their ideas and suggestions concerning the licensing, manufacturing, testing, distribution, and regulation of products designed to diagnose, prevent, or treat animal diseases.

Please submit suggested meeting topics and proposed presentation titles to Dr. Byron E. Rippke (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above) on or before January 30, 2008. For proposed presentations, please include the name(s) of the presenter(s) and the approximate amount of time that will be needed for each presentation.

After the agenda is finalized, APHIS will announce the agenda topics in the **Federal Register**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 7th day of December 2007.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E7–24170 Filed 12–12–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign–Trade Zones Board

[Docket 49–2007]

Foreign–Trade Zone 22 Chicago, Illinois

Application for Subzone: Sony Electronics Inc. (Audio, Video, Communications and Information–Technology Products and Accessories), Romeoville, Illinois

An application has been submitted to the Foreign–Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Illinois International Port District, grantee of FTZ 22, requesting special–purpose subzone status for the warehousing and distribution facility of Sony Electronics Inc. (Sony), located in Romeoville, Illinois. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign–Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on December 4, 2007.

The Sony facility (50–150 employees, 25 acres, 562,624 square feet) is located at 99 North Pinnacle Drive, in Romeoville, Illinois. The facility is used for the storage, distribution, packaging, kitting, inspecting, testing and repair of audio, video, communications and information–technology products and accessories.

Zone procedures would exempt Sony from customs duty payments on products that are re–exported. Some 5 percent of the products are re–exported. On its domestic sales, the company would be able to defer duty payments until merchandise is shipped from the facilities and entered for consumption. FTZ designation would further allow Sony to utilize certain customs procedures resulting in increased efficiencies for its logistics and distribution operations. In addition, Sony is requesting authority to choose the duty rates during customs entry procedures that apply to kits and accessory sets, including digital camera and camcorder kits (duty rate ranges from duty–free to 2.1%) for the following imported components: memory sticks, digital still cameras, digital camcorders, refill paper packs, photo printers, DVD players, home theaters and rechargeable battery packs (duty rate ranges from duty–free to 4.5%). The company has also indicated that it will import soft carrying cases (HTS 4202 and 5911, duty rate ranges from 2–17.6%), but that they will be admitted to the zone in privileged foreign status. The request indicates that the savings from FTZ procedures would