

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2019–0050]

Monsanto Company; Determination of Nonregulated Status for Insect Resistant Cotton

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our determination that the cotton event designated as MON 88702, which has been genetically engineered for resistance to certain insects, primarily *Lygus* spp., is no longer considered regulated under our regulations governing the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms. Our determination is based on evaluation of information Monsanto Company submitted in its petition for a determination of nonregulated status, our analyses, and public comments received in response to previous notices announcing the availability of the petition for nonregulated status and our associated environmental assessment and plant pest risk assessment. This notice also announces the availability of our written determination and finding of no significant impact.

DATES: This change in regulatory status will be recognized January 19, 2021.

ADDRESSES: You may read the documents referenced in this notice and the comments we received at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2019-0050>, or in our reading room 1620 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) 799–7039 before coming.

Supporting documents are also available on the APHIS website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/biotechnology/permits-notifications-petitions/petitions/petition-status>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Cindy Eck, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 851–3892; email: cynthia.a.eck@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of the plant pest provisions of the Plant Protection Act (PPA) (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*), the regulations in 7 CFR part 340, regulate, among other things, the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of organisms and products modified or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests.

Pursuant to the terms set forth in a final rule published in the **Federal Register** on May 18, 2020 (85 FR 29790–29838, Docket No. APHIS–2018–0034),¹ 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.

APHIS received a petition (APHIS Petition Number 19–091–01p) from Monsanto Company (Monsanto) on May 28, 2019, seeking a determination of nonregulated status for a cotton event designated as MON 88702, which has been genetically engineered for resistance to certain insects, primarily *Lygus* spp. The Monsanto petition stated that this cotton is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk and, therefore, should not be regulated under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

According to our process² for soliciting public comment when

¹ Although this final rule (termed the SECURE rule) published revisions to 7 CFR part 340 with phased effective dates beginning August 17, 2020 (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/bfs/fedregister/BRIS-2020518.pdf>), the SECURE rule stated that the petition evaluation process found in the previous regulations would continue to be used for a period of time following that August 17, 2020 effective date. This product was evaluated in accordance with that process.

² On March 6, 2012, APHIS published in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 13258–13260, Docket No. APHIS–2011–0129) a notice describing our public review process for soliciting public comments and information when considering petitions for determinations of nonregulated status for organisms developed using genetic engineering. To view the

considering petitions for determination of nonregulated status of organisms developed using genetic engineering, APHIS accepts written comments regarding a petition once APHIS deems it complete. On September 26, 2019, APHIS published a notice³ in the **Federal Register** (84 FR 50818–50819, Docket No. APHIS–2019–0050) announcing the availability of the Monsanto petition for public comment. Thirty-five comments were received. Fifteen comments from the agricultural, academic, and private sector were in support of Monsanto's petition. Fourteen comments from individuals were opposed to approval of Monsanto's petition. Six comments provided input on analyses to be considered in the environmental assessment (EA), or comments on insect-resistant crops in general. APHIS evaluated the issues raised during the initial comment period and, where appropriate, incorporated a discussion of them within a draft EA.

A second opportunity for public involvement was provided on October 16, 2020, with a notice⁴ published in the **Federal Register** (85 FR 65789–65790, Docket No. APHIS–2019–0050) announcing the availability of the draft EA and draft plant pest risk assessment (PPRA) for public review and comment. That comment period closed November 16, 2020. APHIS received 14 comments. Most were supportive of Monsanto's petition request; three were opposed. None of the comments identified new information or data regarding the draft EA or draft PPRA.

National Environmental Policy Act

After reviewing and evaluating the comments received during the comment period on the draft EA, draft PPRA, and other information, APHIS has prepared a final EA, which provides the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of any potential environmental impacts associated with the determination of nonregulated status of MON 88702 cotton. The EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et*

notice, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2011-0129>.

³ To view the notice, the petition, supporting documents, and the comments we received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2019-0050>.

⁴ See footnote 3.

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). Based on our EA, the response to public comments, and other pertinent scientific data, APHIS has reached a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with regard to the preferred alternative identified in the EA (to make a determination of nonregulated status of MON 88702 cotton).

Determination

Based on APHIS' analysis of field and laboratory data submitted by Monsanto, references provided in the petition, peer-reviewed publications, information analyzed in the EA, the PPRA, the public comments, and information provided in APHIS' response to those public comments, APHIS has determined that MON 88702 cotton is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk and therefore is no longer subject to our regulations governing the introduction of certain organisms developed using genetic engineering.

Copies of the signed determination document, PPRA, final EA, and FONSI, as well as the previously published petition and supporting documents, are available as indicated under **ADDRESSES** and from the person listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section in this notice.

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 12th day of January 2021.

Michael Watson,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2021–00956 Filed 1–15–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meetings of the Nebraska Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Announcement of public meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) that the Nebraska State Advisory Committee to the Commission will hold virtual meetings on Monday, February 22, 2021 from 10:00 a.m.–

11:00 a.m. (CT); Monday, March 1, 2021 from 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. (CT); and Wednesday, March 10, 2021 from 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. (CT). The purpose of these meetings is to review and approve the Committee's draft report to the Commission on the use of Native American symbols, names, and imagery in school mascots.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melissa Wojnaroski at mwojnaroski@usccr.gov, or by phone at (202) 618–4158.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Access: These meetings will be held on:

- Monday, February 22, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (CT)
 - *Join online (audio/visual):* <https://tinyurl.com/y3h8xdo3>
 - *Join by phone (audio only):* 800–360–9505; Access code: 199 004 6752
- Monday, March 1, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (CT)
 - *Join online (audio/visual):* <https://tinyurl.com/y6ctrto5>
 - *Join by phone (audio only):* 800–360–9505; Access code: 199 073 3890
- Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (CT)
 - *Join online (audio/visual):* <https://tinyurl.com/y6xucvps>
 - *Join by phone (audio only):* 800–360–9505; Access code: 199 518 6743

These meetings are available to the public through the registration links above. If joining only via phone, callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plans. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Individuals who are deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339 and providing the Service with the call-in number found through registering at the web link provided for each meeting.

Members of the public are entitled to make comments during the open period at the end of each meeting. Members of the public may also submit written comments; the comments must be received in the Regional Programs Unit within 30 days following the respective meeting. Written comments may be emailed to Melissa Wojnaroski at mwojnaroski@usccr.gov. Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Unit at (202) 618–4158. Records and documents discussed during the meeting will be available for public viewing as they become available at

www.facadatabase.gov. Persons interested in the work of this advisory committee are advised to go to the Commission's website, www.usccr.gov, or to contact the Regional Programs Unit at the above phone number or email address.

Agenda: Monday, February 22, 2021 from 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. (CT); Monday, March 1, 2021 from 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.; (CT) and Wednesday, March 10, 2021 from 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. (CT).

- I. Welcome and Roll Call
- II. Announcements and Updates
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Discussion of draft report
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Next Steps
- VII. Adjournment

Dated: January 13, 2021.

David Mussatt,

Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.

[FR Doc. 2021–01057 Filed 1–15–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs

Request for Comments for the Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 requires federal agencies to modernize their data management practices to develop and support evidence-based policymaking. The Act requires the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), or the head of an agency designated by the Director, to establish the Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building (Advisory Committee). In a letter dated September 3, 2019, OMB delegated managerial and administrative responsibility for this Federal advisory committee to the Department of Commerce Office of Under Secretary for Economic Affairs (OUSEA).

DATES: Comments must be received by Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

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

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** www.regulations.gov. Docket ID—EAB–2021–0001–0001.
- By email directly to Evidence@bea.gov. Begin with the phrase