

data on plant pests, weeds, and biological control agents, which may be used to control plant pests or noxious weeds.

This program allows the States and PPQ to conduct surveys to detect and measure the presence of exotic plant pests and weeds and to enter survey data into a national computer-based system known as the National Agricultural Plant Information System (NAPIS). This, in turn, allows APHIS to obtain a more comprehensive picture of pest conditions in the United States as well as detect, in collaboration with the National Plant Diagnostic Network and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), population trends that could indicate an agricultural bioterrorism act.

The information generated by this program is used by States to predict potential pest situations in the United States and by Federal interests (e.g., PPQ and CSREES) to promptly detect and respond to the occurrence of new exotic pests and to provide documentation on plant pests to facilitate and record the location of those pest incursions that could directly hinder the export of U.S. farm commodities. The system also provides data management support for PPQ pest programs such as imported fire and gypsy moth.

The CAPS program entails the use of several information collection activities, including a cooperative agreement and a Specimens for Determination Form (PPQ Form 391).

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 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 the burden of the information collection, 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 information collection 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 0.1091824 hours per response.

Respondents: State cooperators participating in the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 103.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 352.932.

Estimated annual number of responses: 36,352.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 3,969 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 17th day of October, 2003.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-26786 Filed 10-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-094-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection in support of regulations for user fees for processing applications and permits to import certain animals and animal products.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before December 22, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 03-094-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development,

PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 03-094-1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 03-094-1" on the subject line.

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.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding user fee regulations for the importation of animals and animal products, contact Mrs. Kris Caraher, Section Head, User Fees Section, Financial Systems and Services Branch, Financial Management Division, MRPBS, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 54, Riverdale, MD 20737-1232; (301) 734-5743. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Veterinary Services User Fees for Permit Applications.

OMB Number: 0579-0167.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture charges applicants a fee for processing applications for permits to import animals and animal products (including byproducts, organisms, vectors, and germ plasm). Regulations regarding user fees to reimburse APHIS for processing permit applications and for providing other import- and export related services for live animals and birds and animal products are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations, title 9, part 130. Veterinary Services, APHIS, is responsible for reviewing the import applications and issuing permits.

The user fees vary depending on such factors as the type of application or the type of animal or product. In order to determine the appropriate fees, Veterinary Services may need to contact applicants for additional information.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 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 the burden of the information collection, 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 information collection 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 0.02 hours per response.

Respondents: Importers, brokers, and the importing public.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 2,350.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated annual number of responses: 2,350.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 47 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 17th day of October, 2003.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-26787 Filed 10-22-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-053-2]

Hydrilla; Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the continued release of the nonindigenous leaf-mining flies *Hydrellia pakistanae* Deonier and *H. balciunasi* Bock (Diptera: Ephydriidae) as biological control agents to reduce the severity of infestations of the aquatic weed hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) in the continental United States. Based on its finding of no significant impact, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are available for public inspection 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Tracy A. Horner, Ecologist, Environmental Services, PPD, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 149, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-5213.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is considering an application by a researcher at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, MS, for a permit for the continued release of the nonindigenous leaf-mining flies *Hydrellia pakistanae* Deonier and *H. balciunasi* Bock (Diptera: Ephydriidae) in the continental United States. These agents, which have previously been released in the United States, would be used by the applicant for the biological control of the aquatic weed hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*

(L.F.) Royle (Hydrocharitaceae) in new areas infested with hydrilla.

Hydrilla, which is native to the warmer areas of Asia, was first discovered in the United States in 1960. A submersed aquatic plant, it has the ability to multiply profusely, producing long, thick stands. It has become a major nuisance in many aquatic systems, displacing native aquatic plants such as pondweeds and eel grass, causing navigational interference, hindering waterflow, and detracting from recreational use of water bodies.

The biological control agents *H. pakistanae* and *H. balciunasi*, which have been released previously in several States, have the potential to reduce the severity of infestations of hydrilla in other areas of the continental United States. *H. pakistanae* and *H. balciunasi* are flies in the family Ephydriidae. Female *Hydrellia* spp. lay their eggs on hydrilla, and after several days, the eggs hatch into larvae. The larvae of both species damage hydrilla plants by mining leaves.

On May 23, 2003, we published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 28190-28191, Docket No. 03-053-1) a notice in which we announced the availability, for public review and comment, of an environmental assessment (EA) that examined the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed release of these biological control agents into additional areas of the United States.

We solicited comments on the EA for 30 days ending June 23, 2003. We did not receive any comments by that date.

In this document, we are advising the public of our finding of no significant impact (FONSI) regarding the continued release of the nonindigenous leaf-mining flies *Hydrellia pakistanae* Deonier and *H. balciunasi* Bock (Diptera: Ephydriidae) as biological control agents to reduce the severity of infestations of hydrilla in the continental United States. The finding, which is based on the EA, reflects our determination that release of these biological control agents will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

The EA and FONSI may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/> by following the link for "Document/Forms Retrieval System," then clicking on the triangle beside "6-Permits-Environmental Assessments" and selecting document number 0035. You may request paper copies of the EA and FONSI by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the EA when requesting copies. The EA and FONSI