

Notices

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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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

June 13, 2007.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Volunteer Programs.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0232.

Summary of Collection: Section 1526 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 2272) permits the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to use volunteers to perform a wide range of activities to carry out the programs of or supported by the Department of Agriculture. 5 U.S.C. 3111 grants agencies the authority to establish programs designed to provide educationally related work assignments for students in non-pay status. While serving as a Farm and Foreign Agriculture Service volunteer, each individual is subject to the same responsibilities and guidelines for conduct to which Federal employees are expected to adhere. These program(s) will provide a valuable service to the agencies while allowing the participants to receive training, supervision and work experience.

Need and Use of the Information: Applicants accepted for the Volunteer Programs will complete the "Service Agreement and Attendance Record". The Agency will use the recording information to respond to the Department of Agriculture and the Office of Personnel Management request for information on Agency Volunteers. Without the information, the Farm Service Agency would be unable to document service performed without compensation by persons in the program.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 60.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 30.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Transfer of Farm Records Between Counties.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0253.

Summary of Collection: Most Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs are administered on the basis of "farm". For program purposes, a farm is a collection of tracts of land that have the same owner and the same operator. Land with different owners may be considered to be a farm if all the land is operated by one person and additional criteria are

met. A farm is typically administered in the FSA county office where the farm is physically located. A farm transfer can be initiated if the farm is being transferred back to the county where the farm is physically located, the principal dwelling on the farm operator has changed, a change has occurred in the operation of the land, or there has been a change that would cause the receiving administrative county to be more accessible. Form FSA-179, "Transfer of Farm Record Between Counties," is used as the request for a farm transfer from one county to another initiated by the producer.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected on the FSA-179 is collected only if a farm transfer is being requested and is collected in a face-to-face setting with county office personnel. The information is used by county office employees to document which farm is being transferred, what county it is being transferred to, and why it is being transferred. Without the information, county offices will be unable to determine whether the producer desires to transfer a farm.

Description of Respondents: Farms.

Number of Respondents: 25,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 29,175.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

Editorial Note: This document was received in the Office of the Federal Register on June 13, 2008.

[FR Doc. E8-13738 Filed 6-17-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2007-0017]

Bayer CropScience; Availability of Petition and Draft Environmental Assessment for Determination of Nonregulated Status for Cotton Genetically Engineered for Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance

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 Bayer CropScience seeking a determination of nonregulated status for cotton genetically engineered for tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate derived from a transformation event designated as GHB614. 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 cotton is or could be a plant pest. We are making available for public comment the petition and draft environmental assessment for the proposed determination of nonregulated status.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before August 18, 2008.

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

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2007-0017> to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.

- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send two copies of your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2007-0017, 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-2007-0017.

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. Patricia Beetham, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-0664, e-mail patricia.k.beetham@aphis.usda.gov. To obtain copies of the petition or the draft environmental assessment, contact Ms. Cindy Eck at (301) 734-0667, e-mail cynthia.a.eck@aphis.usda.gov. The

petition and the draft environmental assessment are also available on the Internet at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/06_33201p.pdf and http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/06_33201p_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 November 28, 2006, APHIS received a petition seeking a determination of nonregulated status (APHIS No. 06-332-01p) from Bayer CropScience (BCS) of Research Triangle Park, NC, for cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*) designated as transformation event GHB614, which has been genetically engineered for tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate, stating that cotton line GHB614 does not present a plant pest risk and, therefore, should not be a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340. BCS responded to APHIS' subsequent request for additional information and clarification on May 11, 2007. The petition is available for public review and comment.

Analysis

As described in the petition, cotton transformation event GHB614 utilizes the enzyme 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase (EPSPS) gene isolated from a previously deregulated cotton event (Event GA21; APHIS petition number 97-099-01) and introduces two amino acid substitutions within the EPSPS gene (designated 2mEPSPS). These modifications decrease the binding affinity to glyphosate, thus producing tolerance to

the herbicide. The 2mEPSPS protein allows the plant to tolerate applications of the broad spectrum herbicide glyphosate. Regulatory elements for the transgenes were obtained from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* and were introduced into cotton cells using *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation methodology. These regulatory sequences are not transcribed and do not encode proteins.

Transformation event GHB614 has been considered a regulated article under the regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because it contains gene sequences from a plant pathogen. GHB614 cotton has been field tested in the United States since 2002 under notifications authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). APHIS has presented three alternatives in the draft environmental assessment (EA) based on its analyses of data submitted by BCS, a review of other scientific data, as well as data gathered from field tests conducted under APHIS oversight. These are the three alternatives that APHIS is considering: (1) Take no action (GHB614 remains a regulated article), (2) deregulate GHB614 in whole, or (3) deregulate GHB614 in part.

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.

GHB614 cotton 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 order to be registered as a pesticide under FIFRA, it must be demonstrated that when used with common practices, a pesticide will not cause unreasonable adverse effects in the environment. Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), as amended (21 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*), 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 U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) enforces the tolerances set by EPA. BCS submitted the appropriate regulatory package to EPA for registering the use of glyphosate herbicide on GHB614 cotton. Safe use of glyphosate has been established by the EPA through the registration of glyphosate for use on cotton and the setting of tolerances for the herbicide.

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. In compliance with the FDA policy, BCS has submitted a food and feed safety and nutritional assessment summary for GHB614 cotton to the FDA. This assessment is pending. As of May 29, 2008, FDA has not announced the completion of BCS' consultation for cotton event GHB614 (see <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/lrd/~biocon.html>).

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 GHB614. 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 potential environmental impacts of the proposed determination for the deregulation of the subject cotton event.

The petition and the draft EA are available for public review, and copies of the petition 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. All public comments received regarding the petition and draft EA will be available for public review. After reviewing and evaluating the comments on the petition and the draft EA and other data, APHIS will furnish a response to the petitioner, either approving (in whole or part) or denying the petition. APHIS will then publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the regulatory status of BCS' herbicide-tolerant cotton event GHB614 and the availability of APHIS' written regulatory and environmental decision.

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 June 2008.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E8–13736 Filed 6–17–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2007–0070]

Interstate Movement of Municipal Solid Waste From Hawaii; 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 the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared a regional programmatic environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact relative to the interstate movement of municipal solid waste from Hawaii to landfills in the States of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The environmental assessment contains a general assessment of the potential environmental effects associated with moving garbage interstate from Hawaii to Idaho, Oregon, and Washington subject to certain pest risk mitigation measures and documents our review and analysis of the environmental impacts associated with, and

alternatives to, such movements. 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Shannon Hamm, Acting Deputy Administrator, Policy and Program Development, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 20, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 734–4957.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The importation and interstate movement of garbage is regulated by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) under 7 CFR 330.400 and 9 CFR 94.5 in order to protect against the introduction into and dissemination within the United States of plant and animal pests and diseases.

On March 13, 2008, we published in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 13525, Docket No. APHIS–2007–0070) a notice¹ in which we announced the availability, for public review and comment, of a regional programmatic environmental assessment relative to the interstate movement of municipal solid waste from Hawaii to landfills in the States of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

The environmental assessment, titled “Regional Movement of Plastic-baled Municipal Solid Waste from Hawaii to Washington, Oregon, and Idaho” (February 2008), considers the movement of a cumulative maximum amount of baled municipal solid waste from the State of Hawaii to any qualified landfill in Washington, Oregon, or Idaho under compliance agreements with APHIS and in accordance with the standards previously established by APHIS regarding baling, handling, spill response, and disposal.

We solicited comments on the regional programmatic environmental assessment for 30 days ending on April 14, 2008. We received three comments by that date, from the State of Idaho, a private citizen, and a law office. All of the commenters raised specific issues regarding the environmental assessment. In an attachment to the finding of no significant impact determination, we respond to each of the issues raised by the commenters.

Based on the information contained in the regional programmatic environmental assessment and following our consideration of the

¹ To view the notice and the comments we received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS–2007–0070>.