

Determination

Based on APHIS' analysis of field, greenhouse, and laboratory data submitted by Pioneer, references provided in the petition, information described in the EA, comments provided by the public, and information provided in APHIS' response to those public comments, APHIS has determined that 98140 corn will not pose a plant pest risk and should be granted nonregulated status for the following reasons: (1) Gene introgression from Pioneer HT corn into wild relatives in the United States and its territories is extremely unlikely and is not likely to increase the weediness potential of any resulting progeny nor adversely affect genetic diversity of related plants any more than would introgression from traditional corn varieties; (2) it exhibits no characteristics that would cause it to be weedier than the non-genetically engineered parent corn line or any other cultivated corn; (3) horizontal gene transfer is unlikely to occur between Pioneer HT corn and soil bacteria; (4) based on its lack of toxicity and allergenicity, it does not pose a risk to non-target organisms, including beneficial organisms and federally listed threatened or endangered species, and species proposed for listing; (5) considering its cultivation in the agroecosystem, it does not pose a risk to non-target organisms, including threatened and endangered species, or designated critical habitat as a result of the use of EPA-registered glyphosate and ALS-inhibiting herbicides, as these have been safely used in corn for many years; (6) it does not pose a threat to biodiversity as it does not exhibit traits that increase its weediness, its unconfined cultivation should not lead to increased weediness of other cultivated corn, and it exhibits no changes in disease susceptibility; (7) its commercial use should not have significant effects on agricultural practices; (8) compared to current corn pest and weed management practices, cultivation of Pioneer HT corn should not impact standard agricultural practices in corn cultivation including those for organic growers; (9) it should not cause significant impacts on the development of herbicide resistant weeds or cumulative impacts in combination with other herbicide tolerant crops; (10) agronomic performance, disease and insect susceptibility, and compositional profiles of Pioneer HT corn are similar to those of its parent line and other corn cultivars grown in the United States, therefore no direct or indirect plant pest

effects on raw or processed plant commodities are expected; (11) when considered in light of other actions, APHIS identified no significant environmental impacts that would result from a determination to grant nonregulated status to Pioneer HT corn.

National Environmental Policy Act

To provide the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of any potential environmental impacts associated with the determination of nonregulated status for 98140 corn, an EA was prepared. The 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). Based on that 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 determination that Pioneer's 98140 corn line and lines developed from it are no longer regulated articles under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Copies of the EA and FONSI are available as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** and **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** sections of 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 3rd day of December 2009.

Kevin Shea

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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BILLING CODE: 3410-34-S

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Arizona Counties Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Arizona Counties Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Pinetop, Arizona. The purpose of the meeting is to review and recommend funding of project proposals in accordance with Public Law 110-343 (the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act).

DATES: The meeting will be held January 7, 2010 starting at 10 a.m. Should this meeting be postponed due to inclement weather, the alternate meeting date is December 12, 2010.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the conference room of the Arizona Game and Fish Department Regional Office, 2878 East White Mountain Boulevard, Pinetop, Arizona 85935. Send written comments to Julia Faith Rivera, Coordinator, Eastern Arizona Counties Resource Advisory Committee, c/o Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 640, Springerville, Arizona 85938 or electronically to jfrivera@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julia Faith Rivera, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, (928) 333-4301.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public and opportunity for public input will be provided. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring Public Law 110-343 related matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting.

Dated: December 3, 2009.

Chris Knopp,

Forest Supervisor, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Muncie, IN; Fremont, NE; Maryland; and West Lafayette, IN Areas; Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Servicing These Areas

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The designations of the official agencies listed below will end on June 30, 2010. We are asking persons or governmental agencies interested in providing official services in the areas presently served by these agencies to submit an application for designation. In addition, we are asking for comments on the quality of services provided by the following designated agencies: East Indiana Grain Inspection, Inc. (East Indiana); Fremont Grain Inspection Department, Inc. (Fremont); Maryland Department of Agriculture (Maryland); and Titus Grain Inspection, Inc. (Titus).