

Done in Washington, DC, this 1st day of March 1996.

Lonnie J. King,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-5378 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

[Docket No. 96-008-1]

Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases; Notice of Solicitation for Membership

ACTION: Notice of solicitation for membership.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice that we anticipate renewing the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases for a 2-year period. The Secretary is soliciting nominations for membership for this Committee.

DATES: Consideration will be given to nominations received on or before April 22, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Nominations received should be addressed to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. John Williams, Chief Staff Veterinarian, Emergency Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 41, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-8073.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases (Committee) advises the Secretary of Agriculture on actions necessary to keep foreign diseases of livestock and poultry from being introduced into the United States. In addition, the Committee advises on contingency planning and on maintaining a state of preparedness to deal with these diseases, if introduced.

The Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be elected by the Committee from among its members.

Terms will expire for the current members of the Committee in June 1996. We are soliciting nominations from interested organizations and individuals to replace members on the Committee. An organization may nominate individuals from within or outside its membership. The Secretary will select members to obtain the broadest possible representation on the Committee, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Regulation 1041-1. Equal opportunity practices, in line with the USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the

needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

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[FR Doc. 96-5377 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

[Docket No. 95-076-2]

Plant Genetic Systems (America), Inc.; Availability of Determination of Nonregulated Status for Corn Line Genetically Engineered for Male Sterility and Glufosinate Herbicide Tolerance as a Marker

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our determination that a corn line developed by Plant Genetic Systems (America), Inc., designated as event MS3 that has been genetically engineered for male sterility and tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate as a marker is no longer considered a regulated article under our regulations governing the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms. Our determination is based on our evaluation of data submitted by Plant Genetic Systems (America), Inc., in its petition for a determination of nonregulated status, an analysis of other scientific data, and our review of comments received from the public in response to a previous notice announcing our receipt of the Plant Genetic Systems (America), Inc., petition. This notice also announces the availability of our written determination document and its associated environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 22, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The determination, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, the petition, and all written comments received regarding the petition may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect those documents are asked to call in advance of visiting at (202) 690-2817.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. James White, Biotechnology Permits, BBEP, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (301) 734-7612. To obtain a copy of the determination or the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, contact Ms. Kay Peterson at (301) 734-7612; E-mail: mkpeterson@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 16, 1995, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a petition (APHIS Petition No. 95-228-01p) from Plant Genetics Systems (America), Inc., (PGS) of Des Moines, IA, seeking a determination that a corn line designated as transformation MS3 (event MS3) that has been genetically engineered for male sterility and tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate as a marker does not present a plant pest risk and, therefore, is not a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

On November 16, 1995, APHIS published a notice in the Federal Register (60 FR 57570-57571, Docket No. 95-076-1) announcing that the PGS petition had been received and was available for public review. The notice also discussed the role of APHIS, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration in regulating the subject corn line and food products derived from it. In the notice, APHIS solicited written comments from the public as to whether the subject corn line posed a plant pest risk. The comments were to have been received by APHIS on or before January 16, 1996.

APHIS received a total of six comments on the subject petition from seed companies, State departments of agriculture, and a seed farm. All of the comments were in support of the subject petition.

Analysis

Event MS3 has been genetically engineered with a gene from *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* encoding a ribonuclease called barnase, which inhibits pollen formation and results in male sterility of the transformed plants. The subject corn line also contains the *bar* gene isolated from the bacterium *Streptomyces hygroscopicus* that encodes a phosphinothricin acetyltransferase (PAT) enzyme, which, when introduced into a plant cell, inactivates glufosinate. Linkage of the *barnase* gene, which induces male sterility, with the *bar* gene, a glufosinate tolerance gene used as a marker, enables identification of the male sterile line

before the plant begins to flower. Event MS3 was transformed via immature embryo electroporation in yellow dent corn material. Expression of the introduced genes is controlled in part by the P35S promoter derived from the plant pathogen cauliflower mosaic virus and the 3' nos sequence from the plant pathogen *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.

Event MS3 has been considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because it contains regulatory gene sequences derived from the plant pathogens mentioned above. However, evaluation of field data reports from field tests of the subject corn line conducted under APHIS permits or notifications since 1992 indicates that there were no deleterious effects on plants, nontarget organisms, or the environment as a result of the subject corn plants' release into the environment.

Determination

Based on its analysis of the data submitted by PGS and a review of other scientific data, comments received, and field tests of the subject corn line, APHIS has determined that corn line event MS3: (1) Exhibits no plant pathogenic properties; (2) is no more likely to become a weed than corn developed by traditional breeding techniques; (3) is unlikely to increase the weediness potential for any other cultivated or wild species with which it can interbreed; (4) will not harm threatened or endangered species or other organisms, such as bees, which are beneficial to agriculture; and (5) will not cause damage to raw or processed agricultural commodities. Therefore, APHIS has concluded that corn line event MS3 and any progeny derived from hybrid crosses with other nontransformed corn varieties will not exhibit new plant pest properties, i.e., properties substantially different from any observed for event MS3 corn plants already field tested, or those observed for corn in traditional breeding programs.

The effect of this determination is that PGS' corn line designated as event MS3 is no longer considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Therefore, the notification requirements pertaining to regulated articles under those regulations no longer apply to the field testing, importation, or interstate movement of PGS' corn line event MS3 or its progeny. However, the importation of the subject corn line or seeds capable of propagation is still subject to the restrictions found in APHIS' foreign quarantine notices in 7 CFR part 319.

National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine the potential environmental impacts associated with this determination. The EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)(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; 60 FR 6000–6005, February 1, 1995). Based on that EA, APHIS has reached a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with regard to its determination that corn event MS3 and lines developed from it are no longer regulated articles under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Copies of the EA and the FONSI are available upon request from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 29th day of February, 1996.

Terry L. Medley,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96–5376 Filed 3–6–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

Forest Service

Cavanah Analysis Area Multi-Resource Management Projects, Placer County, CA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for proposed timber harvest, plantation thinning, fuelbreak construction, wildlife habitat improvement projects, and upgrading of the Robinson Flat (#43) road within the North Fork Middle Fork American River watershed in accordance with the requirements of 36 CFR 219.19. The project area is located within portions of T.14N., R.12E., Section 1; T.14N., R.13E. Sections 5, 6, 7, 8; T.15N., R.12E., Sections 24, 25, 36; and T.15N., R.13E., Sections 15–22 and 27–33, MDB&M.

If upgrading of the #43 road is part of the selected alternative in the EIS project, a site specific Forest Plan amendment will be part of the Record of Decision.

The agency invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis. In addition, the agency gives notice of

the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments should be made in writing and received by April 8, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning the project should be directed to Rich Johnson, District Ranger, Foresthill Ranger District, 22830 Foresthill Road, Foresthill CA 95631.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Bradford, Environmental Coordinator, Foresthill Ranger District, Foresthill, CA 95631, telephone (916) 478–6254.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Cavanah Analysis Area is located in the North Fork Middle Fork American River watershed. It lies south of Screwauger Canyon, west of the top of Mosquito Ridge, east of the #44 road and Little Grisley Creek and north of the Greek Store site. This area is part of the larger Cavanah Ecosystem Management Area.

The proposed fuelbreak (Defensible Fuel Profile Zone or DFPZ) would be parallel to the Mosquito Ridge (#96) road from the Greek Store area north to Little Bald Mountain. This proposal would create a fuelbreak with widely spaced trees and a low shrub understory. The creation of the DFPZ will change the appearance of the existing vegetation. Current visual quality objective for the foreground viewing area on the Mosquito Ridge (#96) road is Retention. This means that management activities are not evident to the casual forest user. A visual management zone in the immediate foreground of the Mosquito Ridge road (within the DFPZ) would be established to meet this objective. By establishing this zone this proposal meets current standards and guidelines for visual quality objectives for Management Area #99 (Mosquito) in the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

The proposed improvement of the Robinson Flat (#43) road is designed to make the section of the road west of Little Bald Mountain drivable by passenger cars, which would improve the motorized recreational experience in the Robinson Flat and Mosquito Ridge areas. The proposal will need Management Practice L2 (Multi-Resource Road Access Development) available in the Management Area (#91—Sunflower) in order to accomplish this project. In the current Tahoe LRMP, this management practice is not available in this Management Area. If this proposal is part of the