

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.

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

Lonnie J. King,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[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