Notices

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[DA–96–06]

Request for Comments on a Compelling Public Interest for the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The 1996 Federal Agricultural Improvement Reform Act provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may grant authority to implement the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact (the Compact) based upon a finding of a compelling public interest in the Compact region. The Secretary is asking all interested parties to submit written comments regarding the Compact and the existence of a compelling public interest in the Compact region.

DATES: Comments are due no later than June 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments (two copies) should be sent to USDA/AMS/Dairy Division, Order Formulation Branch, Room 2971, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090–6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John F. Borovies, Branch Chief, USDA/AMS/ Dairy Division, Order Formulation Branch, Room 2971, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090– 6456 (202) 720–6274.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 147 of the 1996 Federal Agricultural Improvement Reform (FAIR) Act (Pub. L. 104–127) establishes Congressional consent for the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact (the Compact) entered into by the States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont subject to several conditions. The Act provides that ''Based upon a finding by the Secretary of a compelling public interest in the Compact region, the Secretary may grant the States that have ratified the

Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, as of the date of enactment of this title, the authority to implement the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact.'' The Secretary is requesting that all interested parties submit written comments regarding the existence of a compelling public interest in the Compact region.

All persons who desire to submit written data, views or arguments regarding whether a compelling public interest exists in the Compact region should send two copies of their views to USDA/AMS/Dairy Division, Order Formulation Branch, Room 2971, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090–6456, by the 30th day after publication of this notice in the Federal Register. All written submissions made pursuant to this notice will be made available for public inspection in the Dairy Division during regular business hours.

Dated: April 30, 1996.

Lon Hatamiya,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96–11169 Filed 5–02–96; 8:45 am]

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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96–024–1]

Cornell University and University of Hawaii; Receipt of Petition for Determination of Nonregulated Status for Papaya Lines Genetically Engineered for Virus Resistance

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 Cornell University and the University of Hawaii seeking a determination of nonregulated status for papaya lines designated as 55–1 and 63– 1 that have been genetically engineered for virus resistance. 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 public comments on whether these papaya lines present a plant pest risk.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before July 2, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 96–024–1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 96–024–1. A copy of the petition and any comments received 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 access to that room to inspect the petition or comments are asked to call in advance of visiting at (202) 690–2817.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Keith Reding, Biotechnology Permits, BBEP, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737– 1237; (301) 734–7612. To obtain a copy of the petition, contact Ms. Kay Peterson at (301) 734–7612; e-mail: mkpeterson@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 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 determination of nonregulated status must take and the information that must be included in the petition.

On February 20, 1996, APHIS received a petition (APHIS Petition No. 96–051–01p) from Cornell University, Geneva, NY, and the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI (Cornell/Hawaii), requesting a determination of