

Docket No. 96-098-1, 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. 96-098-1. 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 4:30p.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. Ved Malik, BSS, PPQ, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (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 January 8, 1997, APHIS received a petition (APHIS Petition No. 97-008-01p) from Dupont Agricultural Products (Dupont) of Wilmington, DE, requesting a determination of nonregulated status under 7 CFR part 340 for high oleic acid soybean sublines G94-1, G94-19, and G168 (sublines G94-1, G94-19, and G168) derived from transformation event 260-05. The Dupont petition states that the subject soybean sublines should not be regulated by APHIS because they do not present a plant pest risk.

As described in the petition, sublines G94-1, G94-19, and G168 have been

genetically engineered to contain the GmFad 2-1 gene, which causes a coordinate silencing of itself and the endogenous GmFad 2-1 gene. Suppression of the GmFad 2-1 gene in developing soybeans prevents the addition of a second double bond to oleic acid, resulting in a greatly increased oleic acid content only in the seed. The resulting oil contains an abundance of monosaturated oleic acid (82-85%), a reduced concentration of polysaturated fatty acids, and lower palmitic acid content. While the subject soybean sublines also contain the GUS and Amp marker genes, tests indicate that these genes are not expressed in the transgenic soybean plants. The added genes were introduced into meristems of the elite soybean line A2396 by the particle bombardment method, and their expression is controlled in part by gene sequences derived from the plant pathogens *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* and cauliflower mosaic virus.

Dupont's soybean sublines G94-1, G94-19, and G168 are currently considered regulated articles under the regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because they contain gene sequences derived from plant pathogenic sources. The subject soybean sublines have been evaluated in field trials conducted since 1995 under APHIS notifications. In the process of reviewing these notifications for field trials, APHIS determined that the vectors and other elements were disarmed and that the trials, which were conducted under conditions of reproductive and physical containment or isolation, would not present a risk of plant pest introduction or dissemination.

In the Federal Plant Pest Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 150aa *et seq.*), "plant pest" is defined as "any living stage of: Any insects, mites, nematodes, slugs, snails, protozoa, or other invertebrate animals, bacteria, fungi, other parasitic plants or reproductive parts thereof, viruses, or any organisms similar to or allied with any of the foregoing, or any infectious substances, which can directly or indirectly injure or cause disease or damage in any plants or parts thereof, or any processed, manufactured or other products of plants." APHIS views this definition very broadly. The definition covers direct or indirect injury, disease, or damage not just to agricultural crops, but also to plants in general, for example, native species, as well as to organisms that may be beneficial to plants, for example, honeybees, rhizobia, etc.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a statement of policy on foods derived from new plant varieties in the Federal Register on May

29, 1992 (57 FR 22984-23005). The FDA statement of policy includes a discussion of the FDA's authority for ensuring food safety under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 201 *et seq.*), and provides guidance to industry on the scientific considerations associated with the development of foods derived from new plant varieties, including those plants developed through the techniques of genetic engineering. Dupont has begun the consultative process with FDA on the subject soybean sublines.

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 Determination of Nonregulated Status from any interested person for a period of 60 days from the date of this notice. The petition and any comments received are available for public review, and copies of the petition may be ordered (see the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice).

After the comment period closes, APHIS will review the data submitted by the petitioner, all written comments received during the comment period, and any other relevant information. Based on the available information, APHIS will furnish a response to the petitioner, either approving the petition in whole or in part, or denying the petition. APHIS will then publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing the regulatory status of Dupont's high oleic acid soybean sublines G94-1, G94-19, and G168 derived from transformation event 260-05 and the availability of APHIS' written decision.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 150aa-150jj, 151-167, and 1622n; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(c).

Done in Washington, DC, this 24th day of February 1997.

Terry L. Medley,

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-5023 Filed 2-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## Forest Service

### Central Zone Noxious Weed Control Project; Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties, Idaho

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the potential

environmental effects of noxious weed treatment on the Fernan and Wallace Districts (Central Zone). Treatment sites would be at various locations across the zone and are within the Coeur d' Alene Basin Ecosystem, Wallace and Fernan Ranger Districts, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties, Idaho.

The proposed action to control populations of noxious and undesirable weeds is designed to prevent the spread of these weeds and promote the retention and health of native and/or desirable plants within this ecosystem. The proposed action would use an integrated pest management approach to control weeds. This approach includes mechanical, biological, cultural, and chemical control. Most treatment sites are located near or along forest roads, trails, or recreation sites.

The major species considered for control include spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*), meadow hawkweed (*Hieracium pratense*), dalmation toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), common St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*), hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Other species may include common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*), sulphur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*), Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*), Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*). New invader species which are unknown at this time to occur on the zone would be a high priority for control.

This project-level EIS will tier to the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) (USDA Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, September 1987), and references the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Weed Pest Management EIS, (USDA Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, October 1989); the Bonners Ferry Ranger District Noxious Weed Management Project Final EIS (USDA Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, September 1995), the Priest Lake Noxious Weed Control Final EIS (USDA Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, 1997) and the St. Joe Noxious Weed Draft EIS (USDA Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, 1996).

**DATES:** Written comments and suggestions should be received no later than April 14, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments and suggestions on the proposed management activities or requests to be placed on the project mailing list to Kristen Philbrook, Project Leader, Fernan Ranger District, 2502 E. Sherman Ave., Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kristen Philbrook, EIS Team Leader, Fernan Ranger Station, (208) 769-3000.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The primary purposes for weed control are as follows:

- (1) Prevent or limit the spread of noxious weeds that displace native vegetation in the Coeur d' Alene ecosystem;
- (2) Eliminate new invaders before they become established;
- (3) Prevent or limit the spread of weeds into areas containing little or no infestation in order to promote the retention and health of native and/or desirable species;
- (4) Reduce weed seed sources along travel routes;
- (5) Comply with Federal and State laws regulating management of noxious weeds.

Approximately 60 treatment sites have been identified across the Wallace and Fernan Ranger Districts. Infestations that are discovered would be treated within the scope of the Final EIS and Record of Decision. The Forest Plan provides guidance for management activities within the potentially affected areas through its goals, objectives, standards and guidelines, and management-area direction. The Forest Plan directs that forest pests be managed by an integrated pest management approach. The decisions to be made are what action, if any, should be taken to control weeds in the Coeur d' Alene Ecosystem, where treatment should be applied, and what types of treatment(s) should be used.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives. One of these will be the "no action" alternative in which none of the proposed treatment activities would be implemented. Additional alternatives will represent the range of control methods currently available for treatment of weeds.

Public participation is an important part of the analysis and will play an important role in developing the alternatives. The mailing list for public scoping will be developed from responses to this NOI, and to a Scoping Notice sent out to interested individuals, organizations and agencies. In addition, the public is encouraged to

visit with Forest Service officials during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will also be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed actions. Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS.

The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in June, 1997. At that time, the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the draft environmental impact statement in the Federal Register. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the Federal Register.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions (*Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978)). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts (*City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 2338 (E.D. Wis. 1980)). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day scoping comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns regarding the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the

Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

I am the responsible official for this environmental impact statement. My address is Fernan Ranger District, 2502 E. Sherman Ave. Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814.

Dated: February 18, 1997.

Susan Matthews,

*District Ranger.*

[FR Doc. 97-4979 Filed 2-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

### Procurement List Additions

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Additions to the Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** This action adds to the Procurement List commodities and a service to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 31, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 28, 1996 and January 7, 1997, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (60 FR 33711 and 61 FR 964) of proposed additions to the Procurement List.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodities and service and impact of the addition on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodities and service listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small

entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodities and service to the Government.

2. The action will not have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodities and service.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodities and service to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodities and service proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the following commodities and service are hereby added to the Procurement List:

#### *Commodities*

Stand, Office Machine

7110-01-136-1563

7110-00-601-9835

7110-00-601-9849

(Requirements for GSA Zone 1 only)

#### *Service*

Temporary Administrative/General Support Services for GSA Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and National Capitol Region

(Up to 50% of the Government's requirement)

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective date of this addition or options that may be exercised under those contracts.

Beverly L. Milkman,

*Executive Director.*

[FR Doc. 97-5044 Filed 2-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

## Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled

### Procurement List; Proposed Additions

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Proposed Additions to Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

**COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE:** March 31, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published pursuant to 41

U.S.C. 47(a) (2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed actions.

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities. I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the services to the Government.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the services proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.

The following services have been proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Janitorial/Custodial, Buildings 2186, 5115 and 5324, Fort Campbell, Kentucky  
NPA: Progressive Directions, Inc., Clarksville, Tennessee

#### *Library Services*

Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota  
NPA: Minot Vocational Adjustment Workshop, Inc., Minot, North Dakota

#### *Mail and Messenger Service*

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southern Division, Charleston, South Carolina  
NPA: Goodwill Industries of Lower South Carolina, Inc., Charleston, South Carolina

#### *Mailroom Operation*

U.S. Customs Indianapolis Center, 6026 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, Indiana  
NPA: Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana