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Dated: November 12, 1998.

**Richard E. Rominger,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-30904 Filed 11-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-96-M

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Agricultural Research Service**

**Notice of Federal Invention Available  
 for Licensing and Intent to Grant  
 Exclusive License**

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Research Service,  
 USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and intent.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a Federally owned invention U.S. Serial No. 08/788,604, filed January 24, 1997, entitled "Methods and Compositions for the Simultaneous Control of Root Diseases Caused by Gaeumannomyces Graminis, Rhizoctonia, and Pythium" is available for licensing and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant to Green-Relief BioTech, Inc., of

Jacksonville, Florida, an exclusive license to Serial No. 08/788,604.

**DATES:** February 17, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, Room 415, Building 005, BARC-West, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2350.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** June Blalock of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301-504-5989.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Government's patent rights to this invention are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention as Green-Releaf BioTech, Inc., has submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within ninety (90) days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

**Richard M. Parry, Jr.,**

*Assistant Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 98-30905 Filed 11-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-112-1]

#### Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for Field Testing Marek's Disease Vaccine, Serotypes 1 and 3, Live Marek's Disease Virus Vector

**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 prepared an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact concerning authorization to ship for the purpose of field testing, and then to field test, an unlicensed live viral Marek's disease vaccine for use in poultry. A risk analysis, which forms the basis for the environmental assessment, has led us to conclude that field testing this

veterinary vaccine will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Based on our finding of no significant impact, we have determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. We intend to authorize shipment of this vaccine for field testing 14 days after the date of this notice, unless new, substantial issues bearing on the effects of this action are brought to our attention. We also intend to issue a veterinary biological product license for this vaccine, provided the field test data support the conclusions of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact and the product meets all other requirements for licensure.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact may be obtained by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the docket number, date, and complete title of this notice when requesting copies. Copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact (as well as the risk analysis with confidential business information removed) are available for public inspection 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 requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Jeanette Greenberg, Technical Writer-Editor, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Licensing and Policy Development, VS, APHIS, USDA, 4700 River Road Unit 148, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; telephone (301) 734-5338; fax (301) 734-4314; or e-mail: Jeanette.B.Greenberg@usda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (21 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*), a veterinary biological product must be shown to be pure, safe, potent, and efficacious before a veterinary biological product license may be issued. A field test is generally necessary to satisfy prelicensing requirements for veterinary biological products. Prior to conducting a field test on an unlicensed product, an applicant must obtain approval from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), as well as obtain APHIS' authorization to ship the product for field testing.

In determining whether to authorize shipment and grant approval for the field testing of the unlicensed product

referenced in this notice, APHIS conducted a risk analysis to assess the potential effects of this product on the safety of animals, public health, and the environment. Based on the risk analysis, APHIS has prepared an environmental assessment (EA). APHIS has concluded that field testing the unlicensed veterinary biological product will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Based on this finding of no significant impact (FONSI), we have determined that there is no need to prepare an environmental impact statement.

The EA and FONSI have been prepared by APHIS concerning the field testing of the following unlicensed veterinary biological product:

**Requester:** Tri Bio Laboratories, Inc.  
**Product:** Marek's Disease Vaccine, Serotypes 1 and 3, Live Marek's Disease Virus Vector.

**Field test locations:** Wisconsin, North Carolina, and California.

The above-mentioned vaccine is for use as an aid in the prevention of Marek's disease in chickens. The vaccine contains live Marek's disease virus serotype 3 (which is nonpathogenic), into which were inserted three genes coding for glycoproteins from Marek's disease virus serotype 1.

The EA and FONSI have been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (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).

Unless substantial environmental issues are raised in response to this notice, APHIS intends to authorize shipment of the above product for the initiation of field tests 14 days from the date of this notice.

Because the issues raised by field testing and by issuance of a license are identical, APHIS has concluded that the EA and FONSI that were generated for field testing would also be applicable to the proposed licensing action. Provided that the field test data support the conclusions of the original EA and FONSI, APHIS does not intend to issue a separate EA to support the issuance of the product license, and would determine that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. APHIS intends to issue a veterinary biological product license for this vaccine following completion of the field test provided no adverse impacts on the