

Notices

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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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 94-129-1]

Availability of Environmental Assessments and Findings of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that five environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the issuance of permits to allow the field testing of genetically engineered organisms. The environmental assessments provide a basis for our conclusion that the field testing of these genetically engineered organisms will not present a risk of introducing or disseminating a plant pest and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Based on its findings of no significant impact, the

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that environmental impact statements need not be prepared.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact 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. Arnold Foudin, Deputy Director, Biotechnology Permits, BBEP, APHIS, USDA, room 850, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782, (301) 436-7612. For copies of the environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact, write to Mr. Clayton Givens at the same address. Please refer to the permit numbers listed below when ordering documents.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 7 CFR part 340 (referred to below as the regulations) regulate the introduction (importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment) of genetically engineered organisms and products that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests (regulated articles). A permit must be obtained before a regulated article may be introduced into the United States. The regulations set forth the procedures for obtaining a

limited permit for the importation or interstate movement of a regulated article and for obtaining a permit for the release into the environment of a regulated article. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has stated that it would prepare an environmental assessment and, when necessary, an environmental impact statement before issuing a permit for the release into the environment of a regulated article (see 52 FR 22906).

In the course of reviewing each permit application, APHIS assessed the impact on the environment that releasing the organisms under the conditions described in the permit application would have. APHIS has issued permits for the field testing of the organisms listed below after concluding that the organisms will not present a risk of plant pest introduction or dissemination and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. The environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact, which are based on data submitted by the applicants and on a review of other relevant literature, provide the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of the environmental impacts associated with conducting the field tests.

Environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been prepared by APHIS relative to the issuance of permits to allow the field testing of the following genetically engineered organisms:

Permit No.	Permittee	Date issued	Organisms	Field test location
94-221-01	Monsanto Agricultural Company.	10-27-94	Wheat plants genetically engineered to express tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate and marker genes.	Arizona.
94-213-01	University of Wisconsin.	10-31-94	Cranberry plants genetically engineered to express a gene from <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> subsp. <i>kurstaki</i> (Btk) for resistance to lepidopteran insects.	Wisconsin.
94-217-02	Monsanto Agricultural Company.	10-31-94	Potato plants genetically engineered to express a gene from <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> subsp. <i>tenebrionis</i> (Bt) for resistance to coleopteran insects and to express a gene for resistance to potato leaf roll virus.	California, Florida.
94-280-01	AgrEvo USA ...	11-10-94	Canola plants genetically engineered to express tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate.	California.
94-207-02	University of Wisconsin.	11-21-94	Antibiotic producing <i>Rhizobium</i> strain, to inhibit growth of closely related bacteria in the soil.	Wisconsin.

The environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been 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 Guidelines Implementing NEPA (44 FR 50381-50384, August 28, 1979, and 44 FR 51272-51274, August 31, 1979).

Done in Washington, DC, this 17th day of January 1995.

Lonnie J. King,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 95-1635 Filed 1-20-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

Foreign Agricultural Service

American Commonwealth Management Service Company; Demonstration of Safe Drinking Water Technologies in Mexico

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

ACTIVITY: FAS/International Cooperation and Development intends to enter into an agreement with the American Commonwealth Management Service Company for a project to demonstrate safe drinking water technologies in Mexico. Federal funding is administered by FAS/ICD for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

AUTHORITY: Section 1458 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 USC 3291), and the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-198).

FAS/ICD announces the availability of funds in fiscal year 1995 (FY1995) to enter into an agreement with the American Commonwealth Management Service (ACMS) Company to jointly fund the project entitled "Demonstration of Safe Drinking Water Technologies in Mexico." Technical program assistance cost is shared jointly by the Government and ACMS. The primary goal of this project is to develop and package plant technologies for the control of toxic chemicals and micro-organisms in drinking water.

Based on the above, this is not a formal request for application. An estimated \$370,000 in federal funds will be available in FY1995 to support this two-year project.

Information on proposed Agreement 58-3148-5-008 may be obtained from: USDA/FAS/MSD, 0664 South Bldg., Washington, DC 20250-1067.

Dated: January 13, 1995.

Nancy J. Croft,

Contracting Officer.

[FR Doc. 95-1559 Filed 1-20-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DP-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 940684-4315]

RIN 0693-AB32

Approval of Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 21-4, COBOL

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

ACTION: The purpose of this notice is to announce that the Secretary of Commerce has approved a revision of Federal Information Processing Standard 21-3, COBOL, which will be published as FIPS Publication 21-4.

SUMMARY: On July 11, 1994 (59 FR 35312-35315), notice was published in the **Federal Register** that a revision to Federal Information Processing Standard 21-4, COBOL, was being proposed for Federal use.

The written comments submitted by interested parties and other material available to the Department relevant to the revised standard was reviewed by NIST. On the basis of this review, NIST recommended that the Secretary approve the revised standard as a Federal Information Processing Standards Publication (FIPS), and prepared a detailed justification document for the Secretary's review in support of that recommendation.

The detailed justification document which was presented to the Secretary is part of the public record and is available for inspection and copying in the Department's Central Reference and Records Inspection Facility, Room 6020, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th Street between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

This FIPS contains two sections: (1) An announcement section, which provides information concerning the applicability, implementation, and maintenance of the standard; and (2) a specifications section which deals with the technical requirements of the standard. Only the announcement section of the standard is provided in this notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This revised standard is effective July 17, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may purchase copies of this revised standard, including the technical specifications section, from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). Specific ordering information from NTIS for this standard is set out in the Where to Obtain Copies Section of the announcement section of the standard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Arnold Johnson, telephone (301) 975-3247, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

Dated: January 13, 1995.

Samuel Kramer,

Associate Director.

Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 21-4

(Date)

Announcing the Standard for COBOL

Federal Information Processing Standards Publications (FIPS PUBS) are issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) after approval by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to Section 111(d) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 as amended by the Computer Security Act of 1987, Public Law 100-235.

1. *Name of Standard.* COBOL (FIPS PUB 21-4).

2. *Category of Standard.* Software Standard, Programming Language.

3. *Explanation.* This publication announces the adoption of American National Standard COBOL, as specified in ANSI X3.23-1985, X3.23a-1989 and ANSI X3.23b-1993, as a Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS). This revision supersedes FIPS PUB 21-3 and reflects corrections and clarifications to the COBOL specifications. The American National Standards define the elements of the COBOL programming language and the rules for their use. The purpose of the standards is to promote portability of COBOL programs for use on a variety of data processing systems. The standards are used by implementors as the reference authority in developing processors and by users who need to know the precise syntactic and semantic rules of the standard language.

4. *Approving Authority.* Secretary of Commerce.

5. *Maintenance Agency.* Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

6. *Cross Index.*

a. American National Standard for Information Systems—Programming Language—COBOL, ANSI X3.23-1985, ISO 1989-1985.

b. American National Standard for Information Systems—Programming Language—Intrinsic Function Module for COBOL, ANSI X3.23a-1989.

c. American National Standard for Information Systems—Programming Language—Correction and Clarification Amendment for COBOL, ANSI X3.23b-1993.