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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. TB–95–07]

National Advisory Committee for Tobacco Inspection Services; Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) announcement is made of the following committee meeting:

Name: National Advisory Committee for Tobacco Inspection Services.

Date: April 6, 1995.

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Tobacco Division, Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation Building, Room 223, 1306 Annapolis Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina 27608.

Purpose: Review various regulations issued pursuant to the Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511 *et seq.*) and to discuss the level of tobacco inspection services currently provided to producers by AMS. The Committee will recommend the desired level of services to be provided to producers by AMS and an appropriate fee structure to fund the recommended services.

The meeting is open to the public. Persons, other than members, who wish to address the Committee at the meeting should contact John P. Duncan, III, Director, Tobacco Division, AMS, USDA, Room 502 Annex Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090–6456, (202) 205–0567, prior to the meeting. Written statements may be submitted to the Committee before, at, or after the meeting.

Dated: February 8, 1995.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 95–4738 Filed 2–24–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 95–011–1]

Receipt of Petition for Determination of Nonregulated Status for Genetically Engineered Corn

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 AgrEvo USA Company seeking a determination of nonregulated status for corn designated as ''Glufosinate Resistant Corn Transformation Events T14 and T25'' genetically engineered for tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate. 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 this corn presents a plant pest risk.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before April 28, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 95–011–1, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Policy and Program Development, Regulatory Analysis and Development, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 95–011–01. 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. David Heron, Biotechnologist, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Biotechnology, Biologics, and Environmental Protection, Biotechnology Permits, 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) 734–7601.

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 December 23, 1994, APHIS received a petition (APHIS Petition No. 94–357–01p) from AgrEvo Company USA (AgrEvo) of Wilmington, DE, requesting a determination of nonregulated status under 7 CFR part 340 for herbicide-tolerant corn designed as ''Gulfosinate Resistant Corn (GRC) Transformation Events T14 and T25.'' As described in the petition, GRC Events T14 and T25 are yellow dent corn plants genetically engineered with a stably integrated gene that encodes the enzyme phosphinothricin-N-aceyltransferase (PAT). The PAT enzyme catalyzes the conversion of L-phosphinothricin, the active ingredient in gulfosinate-ammonium, to an inactive form, thereby conferring resistance to herbicides in the phosphinothricin class. The *PAT* gene in GRC Events T14 and T25 is a synthetic version of the gene isolated from the bacterium *Streptomyces viridochromogenes.* Expression of the *pat* gene is regulated by the 35S promoter and the 35S terminator derived from the plant pathogen cauliflower mosaic virus.

The subject of corn is currently considered a regulated article under the regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because it contains gene sequences (promoters, and terminators) derived from a plant pathogen. GRC Events T14 and T25

were evaluated in field trials conducted under APHIS permits in 1992 and 1993, and under APHIS notifications in 1993 and 1994. In the process of reviewing the applications for those field trials, APHIS determined that these plants 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 insect, 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.

Several issues associated with GRC Events T14 and T25 are also currently subject to regulation by other agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for the regulation of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 135 *et seq.*). FIFRA requires that all pesticides, including herbicides, be registered prior to distribution or sale, unless exempt by regulation. Plants that have been genetically modified for tolerance or resistant to herbicides are not regulated under FIFRA because the plants themselves are not themselves considered pesticides.

In cases in which the genetically modified plants allow for a new use of an herbicide or involve a different use pattern for the herbicide, EPA must approve the new or different use. In conducting such an approval, EPA considers the possibility of adverse effects to human health and the environment from the use of this herbicide.

When the use of the herbicide on the genetically modified plant would result in an increase in the residues of the herbicide in a food or feed crop for which the herbicide is currently registered, or in new residues in a crop for which the herbicide is not currently registered, establishment of a new tolerance or a revision of the existing tolerance would be required. Residue tolerances for pesticides are established by the EPA under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FEDCA) (21 U.S.C. 201 *et seq.*), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) enforces tolerances set by the EPA under the FFDCA.

The FDA publishes a statement of policy on foods derived from new plant varities 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 FFDCA, and provides guidance to industry on the scientific considerations associated with the development of foods derived from new plant varities, including those developed through the techniques of genetic engineering.

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 AgrEvo's GRC Events T14 and T25 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 2.17, 2.51, and 371.2(c).

Done in Washington, DC, this 21st day of February 1995.

Terry L. Medley,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 95–4741 Filed 2–24–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–427–813]

Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From France

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 27, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Penelope Naas or Gary Bettger, Office of Countervailing Investigations, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482–3534 or 482–2239, respectively.

Final Determination

We determine that certain carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from France are being sold in the United States at less than fair value, as provided in section 735 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the ''Act''). The estimated margin is shown in the ''Suspension of Liquidation'' section of this notice.

Case History

Since the publication of the preliminary determination in the Federal Register on October 4, 1994 (59 FR 50565), the following events have occurred:

On October 5, 1994, pursuant to § 353.20(b)(1) of the Department's regulations, Interfit, S.A. (''Interfit''), requested that the final determination in this case be postponed. On November 14, 1994, the Department published in the Federal Register a notice postponing the publication of the final determination in this case no later than February 16, 1995 (59 FR 56461).

From October 10 through October 14, 1994, we verified the responses of Interfit at its offices in Maubeuge, France and Starval in Marly La Ville, France, respectively. On October 17, 1994, we conducted a verification of related party and certain other issues at Vallourec Group Headquarters in Boulogne-Bilancourt, France. During the period of December 20 to 21, 1994, we verified the responses of Interfit, Starval and Vallourec Inc. in Houston, Texas. From December 12 to December 16, 1994, we verified Interfit's cost of production data at its offices in Maubeuge.

On January 23, 1995, and on January 30, 1995, petitioner and respondent submitted case and rebuttal briefs to the