

well as to organisms that may be beneficial to plants, for example, honeybees, rhizobia, etc.

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. 136 *et seq.*). FIFRA requires that all pesticides, including herbicides, be registered prior to distribution or sale, unless exempt by EPA regulation. In cases in which 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. 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 EPA under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) (21 U.S.C. 201 *et seq.*), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) enforces tolerances set by EPA under the FFDCA. Currently, glufosinate is not registered for use on soybeans.

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 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 varieties, including those plants 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 GRS transformation events W62, W98, A2704-12, A2704-21, and A5547-35 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 23rd day of April 1996.

Lonnie J. King,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-10462 Filed 4-26-96; 8:45 am]

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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA

[Docket No. 92-110-5]

Veterinary Services Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: We are extending the comment period for our notice that advised the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared a draft programmatic environmental impact statement for the Veterinary Services Program, which is responsible for the protection of the Nation's livestock and poultry. This extension will provide interested persons with additional time to prepare and submit comments on the draft programmatic environmental impact statement.

DATES: Consideration will be given only to comments on Docket No. 92-110-4 that are received on or before June 25, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 92-110-4, 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. 92-110-4. 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 to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the draft environmental impact statement by writing to the addresses listed below under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The draft environmental impact statement may also be viewed on the Internet at www.aphis.usda.gov/bbep.ead/vsdocs.html.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Nancy Sweeney, Project Leader, Environmental Analysis and Documentation, BBEP, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road Unit 149, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237, (301) 734-8565; or e-mail: nsweeney@aphis.usda.gov; or Dr. William E. Ketter, Chief Staff Veterinarian, Program Evaluations and Planning Staff, VS, APHIS, Suite 3B08, 4700 River Road Unit 33, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-4357; or e-mail: wketter@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On March 29, 1996, we published in the Federal Register (61 FR 14046-14047, Docket No. 92-110-4) a notice advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared a draft programmatic environmental impact statement for the Veterinary Services Program, which is responsible for the protection of the Nation's livestock and poultry. The notice also asked for public comment on the draft programmatic environmental impact statement.

Comments on the draft programmatic environmental impact statement were required to be received on or before May 28, 1996. We are extending the comment period on Docket No. 92-110-4 for an additional 30 days. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments.

Done in Washington, DC, this 23rd day of April 1996.

Lonnie J. King,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-10460 Filed 4-26-96; 8:45 am]

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Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96-015N]

Nominations for Membership on the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) is soliciting nominations for membership.