

importation of soybean sublines G94-1, G94-19, and G168 or seeds capable of propagation are still subject to the restrictions found in APHIS' foreign quarantine notices in 7 CFR part 319.

National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine the potential environmental impacts associated with this determination. The EA was 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). Based on that EA, APHIS has reached a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with regard to its determination that Dupont's soybean sublines G94-1, G94-19, and G168 and lines developed from them are no longer regulated articles under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Copies of the EA and the FONSI are available upon request from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 14th day of May 1997.

Donald W. Luchsinger,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-13115 Filed 5-19-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-006-2]

Calgene, Inc.; Availability of Determination of Nonregulated Status for Genetically Engineered Cotton

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our determination that the Calgene, Inc., cotton lines designated as BXN[®] with Bt cotton lines derived from transformation events 31807 and 31808 which have been genetically engineered for tolerance to the herbicide bromoxynil and resistance to lepidopteran insect pests, are no longer considered regulated articles under our regulations governing the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms. Our determination is based on our evaluation of data submitted by Calgene,

Inc., in its petition for a determination of nonregulated status and an analysis of other scientific data. This notice also announces the availability of our written determination document and its associated environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The determination, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, and the petition 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 those documents are asked to call in advance of visiting at (202) 690-2817.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. James White, BSS, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-8761. To obtain a copy of the determination or the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, contact Ms. Kay Peterson at (301) 734-4885; e-mail: mkpeterson@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On January 13, 1997, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a petition (APHIS Petition No. 97-013-01p) from Calgene, Inc., (Calgene) of Davis, CA, seeking a determination that cotton lines designated as BXN[®] with Bt cotton lines derived from transformation events 31807 and 31808 (events 31807 and 31808), which have been genetically engineered for bromoxynil herbicide tolerance and lepidopteran insect pest resistance, do not present a plant pest risk and, therefore, are not regulated articles under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

On February 21, 1997, APHIS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 7996-7997, Docket No. 97-006-1) announcing that the Calgene petition had been received and was available for public review. The notice also discussed the role of APHIS, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration in regulating the subject cotton lines and food products derived from them. In that notice, APHIS solicited written comments from the public as to whether these cotton lines posed a plant pest risk. The comments were to have been received by APHIS on or before April 22, 1997. During the designated 60-day comment period, APHIS received no comments on the subject petition.

Analysis

Events 31807 and 31808 have been genetically engineered to express a nitrilase enzyme isolated from *Klebsiella pneumoniae* subsp. *ozaenae*, which degrades the herbicide bromoxynil, and a CryIA(c) insect control protein originally derived from the common soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki* HD-73 (Bt). The subject cotton lines also express the *nptII* gene, which codes for the enzyme neomycin phosphotransferase and has been used as a selectable marker in the development of the transgenic cotton plants. Expression of the added genes is controlled in part by noncoding DNA sequences derived from the plant pathogens *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* and cauliflower mosaic virus. The *Agrobacterium* transformation method was used to transfer the added genes into the Coker 130 parental cotton plants.

The subject cotton lines have been considered regulated articles under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because they contain gene sequences derived from plant pathogens. However, evaluation of field data reports from field tests of the cotton lines conducted under APHIS notifications since 1994 indicates that there were no deleterious effects on plants, nontarget organisms, or the environment as a result of the environmental release of events 31807 and 31808.

Determination

Based on its analysis of the data submitted by Calgene and a review of other scientific data and field tests of the subject cotton plants, APHIS has determined that events 31807 and 31808: (1) Exhibit no plant pathogenic properties; (2) are no more likely to become weeds than cotton lines developed by traditional breeding techniques; (3) are unlikely to increase the weediness potential for any other cultivated or wild species with which they can interbreed; (4) will not cause damage to raw or processed agricultural commodities; (5) will not harm threatened or endangered species or other organisms, such as bees, that are beneficial to agriculture; and (6) should not reduce the ability to control insects in cotton or other crops when cultivated. Therefore, APHIS has concluded that the subject cotton lines and any progeny derived from hybrid crosses with other nontransformed cotton varieties will be as safe to grow as cotton in traditional breeding programs that are not subject to regulation under 7 CFR part 340.

The effect of this determination is that Calgene's cotton events 31807 and 31808 are no longer considered regulated articles under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Therefore, the requirements pertaining to regulated articles under those regulations no longer apply to the field testing, importation, or interstate movement of the subject cotton lines or their progeny. However, importation of cotton events 31807 and 31808 or seeds capable of propagation are still subject to the restrictions found in APHIS' foreign quarantine notices in 7 CFR part 319.

National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine the potential environmental impacts associated with this determination. The EA was 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). Based on that EA, APHIS has reached a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with regard to its determination that Calgene's cotton events 31807 and 31808 and lines developed from them are no longer regulated articles under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Copies of the EA and the FONSI are available upon request from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 14th day of May 1997.

Donald W. Luchsinger,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-13116 Filed 5-19-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Water Rights Task Force Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting cancellation.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is cancelling the ninth meeting of the Water Rights Task Force, which was to be held in Boise, Idaho, on May 19, 1997, and which was announced in the **Federal Register** on April 4, 1997 (62 FR 16134).

ADDRESSES: The meeting was to have been held in the White Pine Conference Room of the Red Lion Downtowner Hotel in Boise, Idaho.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen Glasser, Watershed & Air Management Staff, Telephone: (202) 205-1172; FAX 205-1096.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting has not yet been rescheduled. When it is rescheduled, the Forest Service will announce, in the **Federal Register**, the new date for the ninth meeting of the Water Rights Task Force.

Dated: May 15, 1997.

Janice H. McDougle,

Acting Deputy Chief for NFS.

[FR Doc. 97-13242 Filed 5-15-97; 4:45 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Sweet Lake/Willow Lake Project (CS-11b), Cameron Parish, LA

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACTION: Notice of finding of no significant impact.

Description of Action

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service proposes to implement the Sweet Lake/Willow Lake Restoration Plan in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The project involves placement of a rock rip-rap embankment of approximately 18,000 linear feet along the north bank of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), vegetative plantings of California bulrush (*Scirpus californicus*) along approximately 28,300 linear feet of the Sweet Lake shoreline, and construction of approximately 25,500 linear feet of earthen terrace with 2 rows of California bulrush plantings.

Factors Considered in Determination

The Sweet Lake/Willow Lake Environmental Assessment was prepared in order to assess potential impacts of the project. In this document, no significant adverse impacts to important habitat, endangered species, recreation, or other resources were found. The project will not affect the two archaeological sites, and no other known National Register of Historic Places properties are in the vicinity of the project area. Impacts to any significant cultural resources in the area will be avoided.

Public Participation

Upon signature of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), a Notice of Availability will be sent to concerned federal, state, local and other organizations and individuals known to have an interest in the proposed project. The proposed project has been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and the Governor's Office of Coastal Affairs.

Meetings are being held throughout the process to keep all interested parties informed of the project status. Agency consultation and public participation to date have shown no unresolved conflicts with the proposed implementation of the selected plan.

Conclusion

This office has assessed the environmental impact of the proposed work and has determined that the project will have no significant adverse local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. Therefore, no Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Supplemental EIS will be prepared.

Dated: May 8, 1997.

Donald W. Gohmert,

State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 97-13117 Filed 5-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service; Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality will meet for the second time to discuss the relationship between agricultural production and air quality. Special emphasis will be placed on promoting a greater understanding of California agriculture, particularly its impact on air quality and the role it plays in the local and national economy. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will convene Tuesday, June 17, 1997 at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 4:00 p.m. The meeting will resume Thursday, June 19, 1997 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Natural