

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.

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 insecticides, be registered prior to distribution or sale, unless exempt by EPA regulation. In this regard, EPA has issued a registration to Monsanto for full commercialization of the plant pesticide Btt Cry III(A) delta endotoxin and the genetic material necessary for its production in potato. Residue tolerances for pesticides are established by EPA under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), as amended (21 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) enforces tolerances set by EPA under the FFDCA. In addition to the registration, EPA has issued exemptions from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of the subject plant pesticide CryIII(A) in potatoes, for the NPTII and CP4 EPSPS proteins as plant pesticide inert ingredients in all plants, and for the PLRV replicase protein in or on all raw agricultural commodities.

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. Monsanto has entered into consultation with FDA on the subject potato lines.

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 Monsanto's NewLeaf[®] Plus Russet Burbank potato lines RBMT21-129, RBMT21-152, RBMT21-350, RBMT22-82, RBMT22-186, RBMT22-238, RBMT22-262 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 14th day of November 1997.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economics and Statistics Administration

Secretary's 2000 Census Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Economics and Statistics Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, as amended by P.L. 94-409, P.L. 96-523, and P.L. 97-375), we are giving notice of a meeting of the Commerce Secretary's 2000 Advisory Committee. The meeting will convene on December 4-5, 1997, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 1250 22nd Street, NW., Washington, DC 20037. The Committee will discuss work plans for the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal, including the tabulation of data collected using the new questions that follow the revised

standards for the classification of Federal data on race and ethnicity recently issued by the Office of Management and Budget.

The Committee is composed of a Chair, Vice-Chair, and up to thirty-five member organizations, all appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The Committee will consider the goals of Census 2000 and user needs for information provided by that census. The Committee will provide a perspective from the standpoint of the outside user community about how operational planning and implementation methods proposed for Census 2000 will realize those goals and satisfy those needs. The Committee shall consider all aspects of the conduct of the 2000 census of population and housing and shall make recommendations for improving that census.

DATES: On Thursday, December 4, 1997, the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn for the day at 4:30 p.m. On Friday, December 5, 1997, the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 1250 22nd Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20037.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anyone wishing additional information about this meeting, or who wishes to submit written statements or questions, may contact Maxine Anderson-Brown, Committee Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Room 3039, Federal Building 3, Washington, DC 20233, telephone: 301-457-2308, TDD 301-457-2540.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A brief period will be set aside on Friday afternoon for public comment and questions. However, individuals with extensive questions or statements for the record must submit them in writing to the Commerce Department official named above at least three working days prior to the meeting.

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Maney; her telephone number is 301-457-2308, TDD 301-457-2540.

Dated: November 17, 1997.

Lee Price,

Acting Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Economics and Statistics Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-30661 Filed 11-18-97; 2:52 pm]

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