

notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be introduced into the United States. The regulations set forth the permit application requirements and the notification procedures for the importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment of a regulated article.

In the course of reviewing the permit application, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) assessed the impact on the environment

that releasing the organisms under the conditions described in the permit application would have. APHIS has issued a permit 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 assessment and finding of no significant impact, which is based

on data submitted by the applicant and on a review of other relevant literature, provides the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of the environmental impacts associated with conducting the field test.

An environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact has been prepared by APHIS relative to the issuance of a permit to allow the field testing of the following genetically engineered organisms:

| Permit No.       | Permittee            | Date issued | Organisms   | Field test location |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| 97-301-01r ..... | ProdiGene, Inc ..... | 1-30-98     | Tomato plants genetically engineered to express a novel protein of pharmaceutical interest. | Texas.              |

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact has been 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).

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of March 1998.

**Craig A. Reed,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

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encouraged to attend. Members of the public who wish to make a brief oral presentation at the meeting should contact Larry Hartmann, BMNRI, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, Oregon 97850, 541-962-6537, no later than 5:00 p.m. April 17, 1998, to have time reserved on the agenda.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Direct questions regarding this meeting to Larry Hartmann, Manager, BMNRI, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, Oregon 97850, 541-962-6537.

Dated: March 10, 1998.

**Lawrence A. Hartmann,**  
*Manager.*

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local organizations; will share information and ideas about Committee members' assignments; will continue discussions on the scientific principles underlying land and resource management; and will conduct any other Committee business that may arise. The meetings are open to the public and opportunities for the public to address the Committee will be provided.

**DATES:** The Boston meeting will be held March 31-April 1, 1998, and the Albuquerque meeting will be held April 14-15, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The Boston meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Select, Government Center, 5 Blossom Street at Cambridge Street, Boston, Massachusetts. The Albuquerque meeting will be held at the Sheraton Hotel Old Town, 800 Rio Grande NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Written comments on improving land and resource management planning may be sent to the Committee of Scientists, P.O. Box 2140, Corvallis, OR 97339. Also, the Committee may be accessed via the Internet at [www.cof.orst.edu/org/scicomm/](http://www.cof.orst.edu/org/scicomm/).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bob Cunningham, Designated Federal Official to the Committee of Scientists, telephone: 202-205-2494.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Boston meeting to discuss planning issues concerning the National Forests in the Eastern Region will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 7 p.m. on March 31. On April 1, the meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Citizens may address the Committee on March 31, beginning at 4 p.m., to present ideas on how to improve National Forest System land and resource management planning.

The Albuquerque meeting to discuss planning issues concerning the Southwestern Region will begin at 9

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute, Board of Directors, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Oregon**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute (BMNRI) Board of Directors will meet on April 24, 1998, at Agriculture Service Center Conference Room, 10507 N. McAlister Road, La Grande, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. Agenda items to be covered will include: (1) Program status; (2) research results of specific projects; (3) outreach activities; (4) report on Initiatives; (5) presentations by guest speakers; (6) forum for issues discussion; (7) public comments. All BMNRI Board Meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**Committee of Scientists Meetings**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee of Scientists is holding its next two meetings on March 31-April 1, 1998, in Boston, Massachusetts and on April 14-15, 1998, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The purpose of the Boston meeting is to discuss planning issues concerning the National Forests in the Eastern Region (Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin). The purpose of the Albuquerque meeting is to discuss planning issues concerning the Southwestern Region (New Mexico and Arizona). The Committee will meet with representatives from federal, state, and