

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 65, No. 183

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 00-084-1]

Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment for Field Testing *Salmonella Typhimurium* Vaccine, Live Culture

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 prepared a draft environmental assessment concerning authorization to ship for the purpose of field testing, and then to field test, an unlicensed live *Salmonella typhimurium* vaccine for use in poultry. The environmental assessment, which is based on a risk analysis prepared to assess the risks associated with the field testing of this vaccine, examines the potential effects that field testing this veterinary vaccine could have on the quality of the human environment. Based on the risk analysis, we have reached a preliminary determination that field testing this veterinary vaccine will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, and that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. We intend to authorize shipment of this vaccine for field testing following the close of the comment period for this notice unless new substantial issues bearing on the effects of this action are brought to our attention. We also intend to issue a veterinary biological product license for this vaccine, provided the field test data support the conclusions of the environmental assessment and the issuance of a finding of no significant impact and the product meets all other requirements for licensure.

DATES: We invite you to comment on this docket. We will consider all

comments that we receive by October 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send your comments and three copies to: Docket No. 00-084-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 00-084-1.

Copies of the draft environmental assessment may be obtained by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the docket number, date, and complete title of this notice when requesting copies. A copy of the draft environmental assessment (as well as the risk analysis with confidential business information removed) and any comments that we receive on this docket are available for public inspection in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Albert P. Morgan, Chief Staff Officer, Operational Support Section, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Licensing and Policy Development, VS, APHIS, USDA, 4700 River Road Unit 148, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-8245.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (21 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*), a veterinary biological product must be shown to be pure, safe, potent, and efficacious before a veterinary biological product license may be issued. A field test is generally necessary to satisfy preclicensing requirements for veterinary biological products. Prior to conducting a field test on an unlicensed product, an applicant must obtain approval from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), as well as obtain APHIS'

authorization to ship the product for field testing.

To determine whether to authorize shipment and grant approval for the field testing of the unlicensed product referenced in this notice, APHIS conducted a risk analysis to assess the potential effects of this product on the safety of animals, public health, and the environment. Based on the risk analysis, APHIS has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) concerning the field testing of the following unlicensed veterinary biological product:

Requester: Fort Dodge Laboratories, Inc.

Product: *Salmonella Typhimurium* Vaccine, Live Culture.

Field test locations: Georgia, South Carolina, and Maryland.

The above-mentioned vaccine is a gene-deleted vaccine for use in chickens as an aid in the reduction of colonization of the internal organs by *Salmonella typhimurium*. Genetic alterations limit the ability of the vaccine bacteria to replicate in vertebrate tissues.

The draft EA has been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provision 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).

Unless substantial environmental issues are raised in response to this notice, APHIS intends to issue a final EA and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and authorize shipment of the above product for the initiation of field tests following the close of the comment period for this notice.

Because the issues raised by field testing and by issuance of a license are identical, APHIS has concluded that the EA that is generated for field testing would also be applicable to the proposed licensing action. Provided that the field test data support the conclusions of the original EA and the issuance of a FONSI, APHIS does not intend to issue a separate EA and FONSI to support the issuance of the product license, and would determine that an environmental impact statement need

not be prepared. APHIS intends to issue a veterinary biological product license for this vaccine following completion of the field test provided no adverse impacts on the human environment are identified and provided the product meets all other requirements for licensure.

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 151–159.

Done in Washington, DC, this 14th day of September 2000.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection, Service.

[FR Doc. 00–24137 Filed 9–19–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Request for Revision and Extension of an Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intent of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request an extension of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of a previously approved information collection which supports FSA, Farm Loan Programs (FLP) loan making and servicing applications. This renewal does not involve any revisions to the program regulations.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before November 20, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gail Wargo, Agriculture Management Specialist, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs, Program Development and Economic Enhancement Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0521, Washington, DC 20250–0521; telephone (202) 720–3647; electronic mail: gail__@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Management Advice to Individual Borrowers and Applicants
OMB Control Number: 0560–0154
Type of Request: Revision and Extension of an Approved Information Collection

Abstract: The information collected under OMB Control Number 0560–0154 is necessary to provide proper farm assessments, credit counseling and supervision to direct loan borrowers in accordance with the requirements of 7 CFR part 1924 subpart B as authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural

Development Act. Specifically, the Agency uses the information to protect the Government's financial interests by ensuring that the farming operations of direct loan applicants and borrowers are properly assessed for short and long-term financial feasibility. The information is needed by the Agency to assure that the recipients of direct loans receive appropriate credit counseling and supervision to ensure the greatest chance for financial success.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.26 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit and farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 77,210.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.03.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 180,441.

Comments are sought on these requirements including: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical or other technological collections techniques or other form of information technology.

These comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Gail Wargo, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs, Program Development and Economic Enhancement Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0521, Washington, DC 20250–0521. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Gail Wargo at the above address. Comments regarding paperwork burden will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on September 13, 2000.

Keith Kelly,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 00–24131 Filed 9–19–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Woronkofski Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to provide timber for the Tongass timber sale program. The proposed action is to harvest an estimated 5–15 million board feet (mmbf) of timber on an estimated 300–800 acres in one or more timber sales. A range of alternatives responsive to significant issues will be developed and will include a no-action alternative. A Record of Decision will be prepared to disclose if and how the Forest Service has decided to provide harvest units, roads, and associated timber harvesting facilities. The proposed timber harvest is located within Tongass Forest Plan Value Comparison Unit 461 on Woronkofski Island, Alaska, Wrangell Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of this project should be received by October 27, 2000. The Draft EIS is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in April 2001. The Final EIS is anticipated by October 2001.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to Wrangell Ranger District; Attn: Woronkofski EIS; P.O. Box 51, Wrangell, AK 99929.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Randy Hojem, Acting District Ranger, or Dee Galla, IDT Leader, Wrangell Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, P.O. Box 51, Wrangell, AK 99929 telephone (907) 874–2323.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public participation will be an integral component of the study process and will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The first is during the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, local agencies, individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed activities. The scoping process will include: (1) Identification of potential issues; (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth; and, (3) elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. Written scoping comments are being solicited through a