and reproduce naturally without further human intervention, and that these stingless, parasitic wasps would become established throughout the eventual geographical distribution of pigeonpea pod fly in the United States. The biological characteristics of the organisms under consideration preclude any possibility of harmful effects on human health.

APHIS' review and analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with each of the possible alternatives are documented in detail in an environmental assessment entitled ''Control of Pigeonpea Pod Fly, Melanagromyza obtusa (Diptera: Agromyzidae)'' (April 14, 2003). We are making this environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before the date listed under the heading **DATES** at the beginning of this notice.

You may request copies of the environmental assessment by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the environmental assessment when requesting copies. The environmental assessment is also available for review in our reading room (information on the location and hours of the reading room is listed under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice).

The environmental assessment 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 provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 16th day of May 2003.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03–12991 Filed 5–22–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03–021–2]

Tropical Soda Apple; Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the control of tropical soda apple, *Solanum viarum* Dunal (Solanaceae). The environmental assessment considers the effects of, and alternatives to, the release of a nonindigenous beetle, *Gratiana boliviana* Spaeth (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), into the environment as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of infestations of tropical soda apple in Florida and other infested States in the continental United States. Based on its finding of no significant impact, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are available for public inspection in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Tracy A. Horner, Ecologist, Environmental Services, PPD, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 149, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 734–5213.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is considering an application from a researcher at the University of Florida for a permit to release a nonindigenous beetle, *Gratiana boliviana* Spaeth (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), into the environment to reduce the severity of infestations of tropical soda apple, *Solanum viarum* Dunal (Solanaceae), in Florida and other infested States in the continental United States.

Tropical soda apple is a perennial shrub that belongs to the plant family Solanaceae, section Acanthophora, genus *Solanum,* and subgenus *Leptostemonum.* A plant with foliage unpalatable to livestock, tropical soda apple can infest a pasture or rangeland in 1 to 2 years, resulting in lower stocking rates. It is native to Brazil and Argentina but has become a weed in other areas of South America and in Africa, India, Nepal, the West Indies, Honduras, Mexico, and the United States. Tropical soda apple was originally detected in the United States in Florida in 1988. The pastureland infested in 1992 was estimated to be approximately 150,000 acres; 10 years later, the infested area had increased to more than 1 million acres of improved pastures, citrus groves, sugarcane fields, ditches, vegetable crops, sod farms, forestlands, and natural areas. Tropical soda apple was listed as a Federal noxious weed in 1995, and it is listed as one of the most invasive species in Florida by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council. In addition to Florida, the plant has been reported in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania. Researchers believe that it has the potential to expand its range even further in the United States.

On March 5, 2003, we published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 10435–10436, Docket No. 03–021–1) a notice in which we announced the availability, for public review and comment, of an environmental assessment (EA) that examined the potential effects of the release of the biological control agent *G. boliviana,* a nonindigenous tortoise beetle in the insect family Chrysomelidae, to reduce the severity of infestations of tropical soda apple in Florida and other infested States in the continental United States. Adults and larvae feed on tropical soda apple leaves, restricting the vigor and growth rate of the plants and potentially reducing the competitive advantage this invasive weed has over native vegetation.

We solicited comments on the EA for 30 days ending on April 4, 2003. We received two comments by that date. Both commenters supported the proposed action.

In this document, we are advising the public of APHIS' finding of no significant impact (FONSI) regarding the proposed field release of *G. boliviana* to reduce the severity of infestations of tropical soda apple in Florida and other infested States in the continental United States. The decision, which is based on the analysis found in the EA, reflects our determination that release of the beetle will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

The EA and FONSI may be viewed on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq* by following the link for ''Documents/Forms Retrieval System,'' then clicking on the triangle beside ''6—Permits—Environmental Assessments,'' and selecting document number 0033. You

may request paper copies of the EA and FONSI by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the EA when requesting copies. The EA and FONSI are also available for review in our reading room (information on the location and hours of the reading room is listed under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice).

The EA and FONSI have 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 provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 16th day of May 2003.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03–12989 Filed 5–22–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03–051–1]

Genetically Engineered Forest and Fruit Trees; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This is to notify parties involved in those fields associated with the environmental release of genetically engineered trees, as well as other interested persons, that a public meeting will be held to provide a forum for discussion on the environmental safety, potential benefits, and risks of genetically engineered trees relative to traditional varieties. The meeting is being organized by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 8, 2003, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesday, July 9, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the USDA Center at Riverside, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the meeting or to register, contact Mr. John Cordts, Biotechnologist, BRS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 734–5531, fax: (301) 734–8669, or e-mail: *John.M.Cordts@aphis.usda.gov*.

In addition, information regarding the meeting and registration is available on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/biotech/*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 7 CFR part 340, ''Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason to Believe Are Plant Pests,'' (referred to below as the regulations) regulate, among other things, the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests. Such genetically engineered organisms and products are considered ''regulated articles.''

Field tests of genetically engineered forest and fruit trees are currently being conducted under the regulations. In order to provide a forum for the discussion of regulatory and scientific issues related to the environmental safety, potential benefits, and risks associated with genetically engineered forest and fruit trees, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is organizing a public meeting. This public meeting is scheduled for July 8–9, 2003, and will provide an opportunity for the exchange of information between APHIS representatives, scientists with recognized expertise in fields associated with the environmental release of genetically engineered trees, and other interested persons on subjects including forest ecology, plant genetics, and weed science. Preregistration is required for all those who wish to attend the meeting. The deadline for all preregistration is Monday, June 30, 2003. Information regarding the meeting and registration instructions may be obtained from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/biotech/*.

Persons interested in making an oral presentation at the meeting should submit a brief written statement of the general views they wish to present, the name and address of each person who will participate in the presentation, and an estimate of the approximate length of time needed to make the presentation. This information should be submitted to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or through the Internet address provided in that section no later than July 1, 2003. The number of oral presentations and the time allocated for each may be limited, depending upon the number of requests. Oral presentations will be recorded in the proceedings of the meeting. Persons interested in submitting written comments for inclusion in the proceedings may do so by e-mail, postal mail/commercial delivery, or fax by August 1, 2003. Send all comments to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 03–051–1. If you use e-mail, your comment must be contained in the body of your message or sent as an attachment in WordPerfect or Microsoft Word format. Please include your name and address in your message and ''Docket No. 03–051–1'' on the subject line.

Parking and Security Procedures

Please note that a fee of $2.25 is required to enter the parking lot at the USDA Center at Riverside. The machine accepts $1 bills or quarters.

Upon entering the building, visitors should inform security personnel that they are attending the Tree Biotechnology meeting. Identification is required. Security personnel will direct visitors to the sign-in tables located outside of the Conference Center. All participants must sign in upon arrival. Conference badges must be worn throughout the day.

Done in Washington, DC, this 16th day of May 2003 .

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03–12992 Filed 5–22–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Information Collection; Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension with revision of a currently approved information collection in support of the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before July 22, 2003 to be