Based on its review, AMS has determined that the ''Recordkeeping Requirements for Certified Applicators of Federally Restricted Use Pesticides' should be continued without change.

AMS did not receive any complaints or negative comments regarding the program or the regulations during the comment period of the Section 610 review. The regulations are not complex and AMS has provided flexibility to certified applicators on methods to maintain the pesticide application records. The program has not mandated any set form of recordkeeping system; therefore, certified applicators are free to select a recordkeeping system that suits their needs. AMS has supported educational outreach programs and has provided materials to the regulated community since early 1993 in order to boost compliance with the regulations. To reduce the burden on small entities, AMS has evaluated the current State pesticide regulatory programs to identify regulations requiring restricted use pesticide application records and determined if they are comparable to the Federal regulations. For those States that have comparable regulations, AMS deems the State recordkeeping requirements equivalent to the Federal regulations. This allows certified pesticide applicators to maintain the records under the State regulations and eliminates duplicate pesticide application record requirements.

AMS will continue to work with its State cooperators and the regulated communities to assure the intent of the Federal Pesticide Recordkeeping regulations are carried out with minimum burden on the entire regulated community.

Dated: May 17, 2004.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04–11516 Filed 5–20–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 04–012–2]

Availability of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for Field Test of Genetically Engineered Organism

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 relative to the issuance of a permit to allow the confined field testing of genetically engineered nonpathogenic (avirulent) strains of a bacterium, *Erwinia amylovora,* the causal agent of fire blight disease. The environmental assessment provides a basis for our conclusion that this field test will not present a risk of introducing or disseminating a plant pest and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. 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 for this field test.

DATES: *Effective Date:* May 11, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may read the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact and the comment received on an earlier notice of availability 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.

You may view APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register** and related information, including the names of groups and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John Cordts, BRS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 734–5531. To obtain a copy of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, contact Ms. Kay Peterson at (301) 734–4885; e-mail: *Kay.Peterson@aphis.usda.gov.* The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are also available on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/03_27901r_ea.pdf.*

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,'' 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.'' A permit must be obtained or a 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.

On October 6, 2003, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a permit application (APHIS No. 03–279–01r) from Oregon State University, Corvalis, OR, for a permit to field test avirulent strains 153 HrpS- and 153 HrpL- of the bacterial pathogen, *Erwinia amylovora,* the causal agent of fire blight disease, on apple and pear trees in Benton and Jackson Counties, OR.

APHIS published a notice in the **Federal Register** on March 22, 2004 (69 FR 13280–13281, Docket No. 04–012–1), announcing the availability for public comment of an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed confined field test of genetically engineered avirulent strains of *Erwinia amylovora.* Comments were to have been received by APHIS on or before April 21, 2004. APHIS received one comment on the EA during the designated comment period. The comment, which was from a private individual, simply stated that the organism to be tested was worse than the nonengineered fire blight and that the engineered strains were not safe, without reference to any supporting data or information. APHIS evaluated the safety of the engineered avirulent strains of *Erwinia* in the EA, and we have responded to this comment in an attachment to the finding of no significant impact (FONSI), which is available as indicated under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The avirulent strains of *E. amylovora* have been genetically engineered using the neomycin phosphotransferase (*nptII*) gene of transposon 10 from *Escherichia coli* strain DH5α and the *hrp* gene from *E. amylovora* strain Ea321. Insertion of the transposon within the coding region of the *E. amylovora hrp* gene results in inactivation of the gene and disruption of the disease-causing mechanism within the bacterium, thereby rendering the bacterium nonpathogenic or avirulent. Use of the *nptII* gene also confers resistance to the antibiotic kanamycin, which is used as a marker for the avirulent strains. The introduction of the avirulent strains, alone and in combination with other

nonpathogenic bacteria, is expected to protect susceptible plants from infection by wild type *E. amylovora.* The purpose of the field trial is to determine whether the avirulent Hrp-strains are effective as suppression agents of fire blight, one of the most destructive bacterial diseases of apple, pear, and other trees in the family *Rosaceae.*

The genetically engineered strains of *E. amylovora* are considered regulated articles under the regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because the recipient organism is a plant pathogen. The tests will be conducted in both screenhouse and field trials, and access to both sites is restricted by fences and/or chained gates. Data collection and monitoring on bacterial populations and incidence of disease will be conducted during the testing periods. Containment protocols have been designed to limit dispersal of the recombinant bacterium and are expected to provide the necessary degree of both biological and physical containment.

An EA was prepared to examine any potential environmental impacts and plant pest risk associated with the proposed field testing of the subject avirulent mutant strains of *E. amylovora.* Based on that EA, APHIS has reached a FONSI relative to issuance of a permit for the confined field testing of the subject strains of *Erwinia.* In summary, we have based our FONSI on the following conclusions: (1) The test bacterium, *Erwinia amylovora,* has been rendered incapable of causing disease; (2) virulent strains of this bacterium are indigenous to the area of the test; (3) dissemination of the bacteria will be prevented through physical methods, normal site security, the small size of the trials, and decontamination or appropriate disposal of application equipment; (4) the host range of the engineered bacteria has not changed; (5) the bacterium has never been associated with animal or human disease and will not therefore pose a health risk; (6) neomycin phosphotransferase from the marker gene does not confer any plant pest characteristics to *E. amylovora*; (7) native floral and faunal communities, including threatened and endangered species, are not in the host range of *E. amylovora* and therefore will not be affected by the trials.

The EA and FONSI were 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 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1622n and 7701–7772; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 13th day of May, 2004.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 04–11530 Filed 5–20–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Redmond, Oregon. The purpose of the meeting is to review proposed projects and make recommendations under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

DATES: The meeting will be held June 17 and 18, 2004 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the office of the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, 2363 SW. Glacier Place, Redmond, Oregon 97756. Send written comments to Leslie Weldon, Designated Federal Official for the Deschutes and Ochoco Resource Advisory Committee, c/o Forest Service, USDA, Deschutes National Forest, 1645 Highway 20 East, Bend, OR 97701 or electronically to *lweldon@fs.fed.us.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leslie Weldon, Designated Federal Official, Deschutes National Forest, 541–383–5512.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring Title II matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before the meeting. A public input session will be provided and individuals who made written requests by June 11 will have the opportunity to address the Committee at the session.

Dated: May 14, 2004.

Leslie A.C. Weldon,

Deschutes National Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 04–11533 Filed 5–20–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Addition and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed addition to and deletions from Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to add to the Procurement List a service to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and to delete products previously furnished by such agencies.

Comments Must Be Received On or Before: June 20, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202–3259.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheryl D. Kennerly, (703) 603–7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51–2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed actions.

Addition

If the Committee approves the proposed addition, the entities of the Federal Government identified in this notice for each product or service will be required to procure the service listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. If approved, the action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the service to the Government.

2. If approved, the action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the service to the Government.

3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46–48c) in connection with the service proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited.