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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2007-0143]

Notice of Decision To Issue Permits for the Importation of Dropwort Leaves With Stems from South Korea Into the Continental United States

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our decision to begin issuing permits for the importation of dropwort leaves with stems from South Korea into the continental United States subject to the requirements specified in the risk management analysis. Based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, which we made available to the public for review and comment through a previous notice, we believe that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of dropwort leaves with stems from South Korea.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 20, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Alex Belano, Import Specialist, Commodity Import Analysis and Operations, Plant Health Programs, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-8758.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the regulations in “Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56 through 319.56-47, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being

introduced into and spread within the United States.

Section 319.56-4 of the regulations contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of commodities that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, can be safely imported subject to one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section. Under that process, APHIS publishes a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with the importation of a particular fruit or vegetable. Following the close of the 60-day comment period, APHIS may begin issuing permits for importation of the fruit or vegetable subject to the identified designated measures if: (1) No comments were received on the pest risk analysis; (2) the comments on the pest risk analysis revealed that no changes to the pest risk analysis were necessary; or (3) changes to the pest risk analysis were made in response to public comments, but the changes did not affect the overall conclusions of the analysis and the Administrator’s determination of risk.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice¹ in the **Federal Register** on November 21, 2007 (72 FR 65560-65561, Docket No. APHIS-2007-0143), in which we announced the availability, for review and comment, of a pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with the importation into the continental United States of dropwort leaves with stems from South Korea. We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days ending on January 22, 2008. We received one comment by that date, from a private citizen. The commenter stated that food should be grown locally and not imported, and that the risks—which the commenter did not specify—associated with imports generally were too great. No changes to the pest risk analysis are necessary based on that comment.

Therefore, in accordance with the regulations in § 319.56-4(c)(2)(ii), we are announcing our decision to begin issuing permits for the importation into the continental United States of dropwort leaves with stems from South

Korea subject to the following conditions:

- The dropwort leaves with stems must be part of a commercial consignment as defined in § 319.56-2.
- Each consignment of dropwort leaves with stems must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the Korean National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) certifying that the dropwort is a product of the Republic of Korea. The NPPO must also include an additional declaration in the phytosanitary certificate that states: “The water dropwort (*Oenanthe javanica*) in this shipment was inspected and considered free from Water Dropwort Witches’ Broom and *Puccinia oenanthes-stoloniferae*.”

These conditions will be listed in the fruits and vegetables manual (available at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/fv.pdf). In addition to these specific measures, the dropwort stems with leaves will be subject to the general requirements listed in § 319.56-3 that are applicable to the importation of all fruits and vegetables.

Done in Washington, DC, this 17th day of March 2008.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E8-5651 Filed 3-19-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.: Notice of Intent To Hold Public Scoping Meeting and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Hold Public Scoping Meeting and Prepare an Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an Agency delivering the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Utilities Programs, hereinafter referred to as Rural Development and/or the Agency, intends to hold a public scoping meeting and prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project being proposed by Basin Electric Power

¹To view the notice, the pest risk analysis, and the comment we received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2007-0143>.

Cooperative, Inc. (Basin Electric), of Bismarck, North Dakota. The proposal for construction and operation of a wind turbine generation facility referred to as the PrairieWinds-ND1 Project (Project), consists of a 77-turbine, 115 megawatt (MW) facility at a site near Minot, North Dakota.

DATES: Rural Development will conduct the public scoping meeting in an open-house format in order to provide information and solicit comments for the preparation of an EA. The meeting will be held on April 3, 2008, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, North Central Research Extension Center, 5400 Highway 83 South, Minot, North Dakota (approximately 1 mile south of Minot on U.S. Highway 83).

ADDRESSES: To obtain copies of the EA, or for further information, contact: Barbara Britton, Environmental Protection Specialist, Water and Environmental Programs, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-1414 or e-mail:

barbara.britton@wdc.usda.gov, or Kevin L. Solie, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., 1717 East Interstate Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58503-0564, telephone: (701) 355-5495 or e-mail: ksolie@bepc.com. A proposal development document—Alternative Evaluation and Site Selection Study—is available for public review at Rural Development or Basin Electric, at the addresses provided in this notice, and at the Minot Public Library, 516 2nd Ave., SW., Minot, North Dakota 58701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Basin Electric proposes to construct a new 115 MW wind generation facility in north-central North Dakota. The Project would include seventy-seven (77) 1.5 MW wind turbine generators. A wind resource assessment study conducted in the area projects a net capacity factor in the upper thirty percent range. Power from the facility would be supplied to Basin Electric's customers through an interconnection with the Integrated System (IS), of which the Western Area Power Administration (Western) is the control area operator. Western is a federal power marketing agency with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Western is being requested to participate as a cooperating agency in the Environmental Assessment. Basin Electric is requesting Rural Development to provide financing for the proposed project.

Alternatives to be considered by the Agency include no action, purchased power, load management, other renewable energy sources, and

alternative site locations. Questions and comments regarding the proposed project should be received by Rural Development in writing by May 3, 2008, to ensure that they are considered in this environmental impact determination.

From information provided in the study mentioned above, and using input provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public, Rural Development will prepare the EA. The EA will be available for review and comment for 30 days after distribution. Following the 30-day comment period, Rural Development will prepare either a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Notices announcing the availability of the EA and a FONSI, as appropriate, will be published in the **Federal Register** and in local newspapers.

Any final action by the Agency related to the proposed projects will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal, State and local environmental laws and regulations and completion of the environmental review requirements as prescribed in the USDA Rural Utilities Service Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1794).

Dated: March 13, 2008.

Mark S. Plank,

Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, USDA/Rural Development/Utilities Programs.

[FR Doc. E8-5602 Filed 3-19-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[Docket No. 080306392-8393-01]

RIN 0648-ZB89

Postsecondary Internship Program (PIP); Extension of Award Period

AGENCY: Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (DOC) is publishing this notice to allow for the extension of the award period for an additional four-month period of funding, on a non-competitive basis, to awards of current Postsecondary Internship Program (PIP) recipients who will be completing the third year of partnership with DOC on May 31, 2008. The **Federal Register** notice (69 FR 68125, November 23, 2004) and Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement that solicited applications for the program established the total project award period for

cooperative agreements under the Postsecondary Internship Program as three years and three months (March 1, 2005–May 31, 2008). This extension of time will permit DOC's Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM) to implement an overall program review, consider potential enhancements and revisions of the program scope, work requirements and performance measures for the PIP. It is OHRM's intent to assess the future direction of the program especially in outlining initiatives for successful and strategic management of human capital.

DATES: The award period and related funding, if approved by the DOC Grants Officer, will commence on June 1, 2008, and will continue through September 30, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Adam D. Santo, Project Manager, United States Department of Commerce, Office of Human Resources Management, Room 5204, 1400 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230. Mr. Santo may be reached by telephone at (202) 482-4286 and by e-mail at asanto@doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Postsecondary Internship Program (PIP) was developed as one vehicle the DOC uses to promote participation of minorities in Federal programs as mandated by Executive Orders and statutes. Title 5, section 7201 of the U.S. Code requires that each Executive agency conduct a continuing program for the recruitment of members of minorities to address under representation of minorities in various categories of Federal employment. Executive Order 13256 provides for Executive departments to enter into, among other things, cooperative agreements with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to further the goals of the Executive Order, principally that of strengthening the capacity of HBCUs to provide quality education, and to increase opportunities to participate in and benefit from Federal programs. Executive Order 13230 calls for Executive departments to develop plans to increase opportunities for Hispanic Americans to participate in and benefit from Federal education programs. Executive Order 13270 helps ensure that greater Federal resources are available to the tribal colleges. Executive Order 13216 directs Federal agencies to increase participation of Asian and Pacific Islanders in Federal programs.

In order to ensure that the Federal Government can maintain visibility and attractiveness to the "best and brightest" college students, this program supports