• *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Please send two copies of your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2008–0122, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS–2008–0122.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on this docket 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.

Other Information: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on regulations for requests to amend import regulations, contact Ms. Shirley A. Wager-Page, Branch Chief, Commodity Import Analysis and Operations, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734–8453. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851–2908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Requirements for Requests To Amend Import Regulations.

OMB Number: 0579–0261.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: As authorized by the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*), the Secretary of Agriculture may prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, exportation, or movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, biological control organism, noxious weed, means of conveyance, or other article if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent a plant pest or noxious weed from being introduced into or disseminated within the United States. This authority has been delegated to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Regulations governing the importation of plants, fruits, vegetables, roots, bulbs, seeds, unmanufactured wood articles, and other plant products are contained in 7 CFR part 319, ''Foreign Quarantine Notices.''

Persons who wish to import plants, plant parts, or plant products that are not already authorized under 7 CFR part 319 must file a request with APHIS in order for APHIS to consider whether the new commodity may be safely imported into the United States. The requestor must also provide information required by 7 CFR 319.5, including, but not limited to, information about the requestor, the commodity to be imported, the volume or quantity expected to be shipped, pests and diseases associated with the commodity, risk mitigation or management strategies, and additional information as may be requested by APHIS in order to complete a pest risk analysis in accordance with international standards.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate 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;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 40 hours per response.

Respondents: Importers and foreign plant protection organizations and producers.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 35.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses: 105.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 4,200 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 13th day of November 2008.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E8–27483 Filed 11–18–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2007–0016]

Syngenta Seeds, Inc.; Availability of Petition and Environmental Assessment for Determination of Nonregulated Status for Corn Genetically Engineered To Produce an Enzyme That Facilitates Ethanol Production

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 received a petition from Syngenta Seeds, Inc., seeking a determination of nonregulated status for corn designated as transformation event 3272, which has been genetically engineered to produce a microbial enzyme that facilitates ethanol production. The petition has been submitted in accordance with our regulations concerning the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms and products. In accordance with those regulations, we are soliciting comments on whether this genetically engineered corn is likely to pose a plant pest risk. We are also making available for public comment an environmental assessment for the proposed determination of nonregulated status.

DATES: We will consider all comments we receive on or before January 20, 2009.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

• *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2007-0016* to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.

• *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Please send two copies of your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2007–0016, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS–2007–0016.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on this docket 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.

Other Information: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Andrea Huberty, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 146, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 734–0485, *e-mail: andrea.f.huberty@aphis.usda.gov.* To obtain copies of the petition or the draft environmental assessment, contact Ms. Cindy Eck at (301) 734–0667, *e-mail: cynthia.a.eck@aphis.usda.gov.* The petition and the draft environmental assessment are also available on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/05_28001p.pdf* and *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/05_28001p_ea.pdf*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

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.''

The regulations in § 340.6(a) provide that any person may submit a petition to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) seeking a determination that an article should not be regulated under 7 CFR part 340. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of § 340.6 describe the form that a petition for a determination of nonregulated status must take and the information that must be included in the petition.

On October 7, 2005, APHIS received a petition seeking a determination of nonregulated status (APHIS Petition No. 05–280–01p) from Syngenta Seeds, Inc., of Research Triangle Park, NC (Syngenta), for corn (*Zea mays* L.) designated as transformation event 3272, which has been genetically engineered to produce a microbial enzyme that facilitates ethanol production. The petition stated that Event 3272 corn is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk and, therefore, should not be a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

As described in the petition, Event 3272 corn has been genetically engineered to contain two transgenes: (1) The *amy797E* gene encoding the thermostable AMY797E alpha-amylase enzyme and (2) the *pmi* (*manA*) gene from *Escherichia coli,* which encodes the enzyme phosphomannose isomerase, used as a selectable marker. The AMY797E alpha-amylase enzyme is a chimeric, thermostable enzyme derived from three alpha-amylase genes originating from three hyperthermophilic microorganisms of the archael order *Thermococcales.* The expression of *amy797E* is driven by the promoter from a corn seed storage (gamma-zein) gene, which directs the accumulation of alpha-amylase in the corn kernel. The *pmi* gene is from one of the main species of bacteria living in mammal intestines, *E. coli,* and is driven by the polyubiquitin promoter from corn.

This genetic insert also contains the terminator sequences from two plant pests, cauliflower mosaic virus and *Agrobacterium tumefaciens.* Both of these sequences are well-characterized, and are noncoding regulatory regions only. These sequences will not cause Event 3272 corn to promote plant disease.

DNA was introduced into corn cells from a proprietary corn line using disarmed (non-plant pest causing) *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*-mediated transformation methodology with the transformation vector designated pNOV7013. Plant cells containing the introduced DNA were selected by culturing in the presence of mannose. After the initial transformation, broad-spectrum antibiotic cefotaxime was included in the culture medium to kill any remaining *Agrobacterium.* Therefore, no part of the plant pest *A. tumefaciens* is remaining in Event 3272 corn due to the transformation method.

Event 3272 corn has been considered a regulated article under the regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because it contains gene sequences from plant pathogens. Event 3272 corn has been field-tested in the United States since 2002, as authorized by APHIS notifications and permits. In the process of reviewing the permits for field trials of the subject corn, APHIS determined that the vectors and other elements used to introduce the new genes were disarmed and that the trials, which were conducted under conditions of reproductive and physical confinement or isolation, would not present a risk of plant pest introduction or dissemination.

Field tests conducted under APHIS regulatory oversight allowed for evaluation in a natural agricultural setting while imposing measures to minimize the risk of persistence in the environment after completion of the test. Data are gathered on multiple parameters and used by the applicant to evaluate agronomic characteristics and product performance. These field test data, in turn, are used by APHIS to determine whether the regulated corn event poses a plant pest risk. Syngenta has petitioned APHIS to make a determination that Event 3272 corn and the progeny derived from its crosses with other nonregulated corn will no longer be considered regulated articles under 7 CFR part 340.

APHIS has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) in which it presents two alternatives for the determination of nonregulated status based on its analyses of data submitted by Syngenta, a review of other scientific data, and field tests conducted under APHIS oversight. APHIS is considering the following alternatives: (1) Take no action, i.e., APHIS would not change the regulatory status of Event 3272 corn and it would continue to be a regulated article; or (2) the preferred alternative, grant nonregulated status to Event 3272 corn in whole. The EA also describes other alternatives that were initially evaluated but rejected from further consideration in the decision process for reasons explained in the EA.

In section 403 of the Plant Protection Act (PPA) (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*), ''plant pest'' is defined as any living stage of any of the following that can directly or indirectly injure, cause damage to, or cause disease in any plant or plant product: A protozoan, a nonhuman animal, a parasitic plant, a bacterium, a fungus, a virus or viroid, an infectious agent or other pathogen, or any article similar to or allied with any of the foregoing. APHIS views this PPA definition to cover direct or indirect injury, disease, or damage not just to agricultural crops, but also to other plants, for example, native species, as well as to plant parts and plant products whether natural, manufactured, or processed.

Event 3272 corn is also subject to regulation by other Federal agencies. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) policy statement concerning regulation of products derived from new plant varieties, including those

genetically engineered, was published in the **Federal Register** on May 29, 1992 (57 FR 22984–23005). Under this policy, FDA uses what is termed a consultation process to ensure that human and animal feed safety issues or other regulatory issues (e.g., labeling) are resolved prior to commercial distribution of a bioengineered food. In compliance with the FDA policy, Syngenta submitted a food and feed safety and nutritional assessment summary to FDA for Event 3272 corn which was completed in August 2007 acknowledging that based on the information available, Event 3272 corn did not raise safety or other issues that would require pre-market review or approval by the FDA. As Event 3272 corn does not produce a pesticide or have a tolerance to any pesticide, the Environmental Protection Agency is not involved with evaluating Event 3272.

National Environmental Policy Act

A draft EA has been prepared to inform the public of, and to provide the APHIS decisionmaker with, a review and analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed determination of nonregulated status for Event 3272 corn. The draft EA was 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).

In accordance with § 340.6(d) of the regulations, we are publishing this notice to inform the public that APHIS will accept written comments regarding the petition for a determination of nonregulated status from interested or affected persons for a period of 60 days from the date of this notice. We are also soliciting written comments from interested or affected persons on the draft EA prepared to examine potential environmental impacts of the proposed determination for the deregulation of the subject corn line. The petition and the draft EA are available for public review, and copies of the petition and the draft EA are available as indicated under **ADDRESSES** and **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above.

After the comment period closes, APHIS will evaluate all written comments received during the comment period and any other relevant information. All public comments received regarding the petition and draft EA will be available for public review. After reviewing and evaluating the comments on the petition and the draft EA and other data, APHIS will furnish a response to the petitioner, either approving or denying the petition. APHIS will then publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the regulatory status of Event 3272 corn and the availability of APHIS' written regulatory and environmental decision.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7701–7772 and 7781–7786; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 13th day of November 2008.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E8–27479 Filed 11–18–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; 4-Rivers Application and Drawing

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the new information collection, 4-Rivers Application and Drawing.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before January 20, 2009 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be mailed to: Linda Walton, River Manager, North Fork Ranger Station, P.O. Box 180, North Fork, ID 83466.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to 208–865–2738 or by e-mail to: *lwalton@fs.fed.us.*

The public may inspect comments received at North Fork Ranger Station, P.O. Box 180, 11 Casey Rd., North Fork, ID, during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 208–865–2700 to facilitate entry to the building. Comments may also be reviewed by accessing Forest Service Web Page listed: *http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/recreation/whitewaterrafting/index.shtml.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Walton, River Manager, Salmon-Challis National Forest, 208–865–2737. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339 twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 4–Rivers Application and Drawing.

OMB Number: 0596–NEW.

Type of Request: New.

Abstract: The 4–Rivers application and drawing provides an opportunity for private river runners to compete for a river permit on one of four rivers in Idaho. Public demand for use permits on the Main Salmon, Middle Fork, Selway, and Snake Rivers are high. The drawing provides a means to assist managers and public by accommodating greater numbers of people.

The drawing allows all applicants equal probability of receiving a river permit. Selection of permit recipients is via a computer driven random selection process. Upon selection, applicants receive river use permits from the Forest Service.

The following Federal Acts provide participating forests with management direction, limiting the number of river users during high demand seasons while still providing river recreation opportunities to visitors. These Acts allow for management controls necessary to protect river resources and enhance river ecosystems previously determined to have superior characteristics.

1. The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Plan 1982, updated 2003.

2. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 1968.

3. The Wilderness Act of 1964.

4. Central Idaho Wilderness Act (CIWA) of 1980.

Drawing participants enter required information electronically into a Forest Service database. Forest Service personnel (river managers and clerks) in Forest offices associated with each river, check received hardcopy applications for completeness and errors prior to entry into database. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications electronically.

Applicants provide:

1. Photo Identification Number.

2. State of Identification and type of ID (Driver's license, Passport, Other).

3. Name.

4. Mailing Address.

5. Other contact information: e-mail address, day and evening phone numbers, fax number.

6. Choice of launch dates and rivers (up to four choices).

7. Payment information (*i.e.* check or money order number) or if paying by