

compliance assistance program designed to help regulated entities develop and implement sound management practices, thus enhancing compliance with the regulatory requirements for field trials and movement of genetically engineered organisms in 7 CFR part 340.

DATES: Letters of interest may be submitted at any time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Edward Jhee, Chief, Compliance Assistance Branch, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 91, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-6356, (edward.m.jhee@aphis.usda.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

APHIS regulates the introduction—the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release—of genetically engineered (GE) organisms that are, or may be, plant pests. It is essential that applicants approved to introduce regulated GE organisms comply with all APHIS regulations and permit conditions. To assist regulated entities in achieving and maintaining compliance with the regulatory requirements for field trials and movements of GE organisms in 7 CFR part 340, APHIS has developed a voluntary, audit-based compliance assistance program known as the Biotechnology Quality Management System Program (BQMS Program). The BQMS Program is designed to assist all regulated entities—to include universities, small businesses, and large companies—develop sound management practices through the creation and implementation of a customized biotechnology quality management system (BQMS).

APHIS conducted a BQMS Program pilot development project in 2009, during which five entities participated and assisted APHIS in evaluating a BQMS draft audit standard, program training sessions, and audit procedures. APHIS selected the volunteer participants for the pilot program after soliciting letters of interest through a notice¹ published in the **Federal Register** on September 2, 2008 (73 FR 51266-51267, Docket No. APHIS-2008-0098). In addition, APHIS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 26831-26832, Docket No. APHIS-2008-0098) on June 4, 2009, soliciting comments from the public on the BQMS

draft audit standard. Comments on the BQMS draft audit standard were to have been received on or before August 3, 2009. APHIS subsequently published a notice in the **Federal Register** on August 24, 2009 (74 FR 42644, Docket No. APHIS-2008-0098), reopening the comment period on the draft audit standard until October 23, 2009.

Following the pilot development project and after evaluating the comments submitted on the BQMS draft audit standard, APHIS made adjustments to the BQMS Program and to the BQMS audit standard. APHIS will soon publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of our evaluation of the comments received and the availability of a revised BQMS audit standard.

APHIS is now soliciting letters of interest from regulated entities interested in participating in the BQMS Program and the requisite training sessions. APHIS anticipates scheduling two training sessions during the remainder of calendar year 2010, most likely during summer and fall, and two training sessions in 2011, most likely in spring and fall. Regulated entities interested in participating should indicate their preference for the scheduling of a training session. Exact training session dates will be determined following discussions with interested entities. Each training session will be limited to five or six entities with approximately two or three representatives from each entity.

Participants in the BQMS Program will be expected to commit to the following:

- Attend required APHIS training sessions on the BQMS Program;
- Develop and implement a BQMS within their organization;
- Establish methods and procedures for monitoring critical processes and procedures for the movement and field testing of regulated GE organisms;
- Participate in evaluations after completing training modules; and
- Submit to a third-party verification audit in order to receive full Program recognition.

Participating in the BQMS Program will provide regulated entities with concrete, practical compliance assistance and will afford participants an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to regulatory accountability, increased transparency, and the identification and implementation of measures to minimize the occurrence of compliance infractions.

APHIS is interested in advancing the BQMS Program in the next few months and encourages interested entities to

submit letters of interest as soon as possible. APHIS will, however, accept letters of interest at any time. Interested entities may submit letters of interest by mail or e-mail to the person listed under

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

APHIS will promptly contact all regulated entities that submit letters of interest to discuss their participation in the BQMS Program and requisite training sessions. A list of future training dates will be posted on the APHIS Web site at (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/news_bqms.shtml).

Done in Washington, DC, this 13th day of July 2010.

Kevin Shea

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-17526 Filed 7-16-10; 12:33 pm]

BILLING CODE: 3410-34-S

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Utah Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that a planning meeting of the Utah Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene by conference call at 10 a.m. on Thursday, August 5, 2010. The purpose of this meeting is to provide a brief overview of recent Commission and regional activities, discuss civil rights issues in the state, discussion regarding the Utah Anti-Discrimination Division Audit and next steps, and plan future activities and projects.

This meeting is available to the public through the following toll-free call-in and conference ID numbers: 1-(866) 364-8798; conference ID 88209392. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-977-8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and conference ID.

To ensure that the Commission secures an appropriate number of lines for the public, persons are asked to

¹ All notices mentioned in this docket, as well as comments received and supporting and related materials, can be viewed at (<http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2008-0098>).

register by contacting Evelyn Bohor of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office and TTY/TDD (303) 866-1049 by noon on August 2, 2010.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments. The comments must be received in the regional office by September 5, 2010. The address is: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 1961 Stout Street, Suite 240, Denver, CO 80294. Comments may be e-mailed to ebohor@usccr.gov. Records generated by this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Persons interested in the work of this advisory committee are advised to go to the Commission's Web site, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or to contact the Rocky Mountain Regional Office at the above e-mail or street address.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission and FACA.

Dated in Washington, DC, July 14, 2010.

Peter Minarik,

*Acting Chief, Regional Programs
Coordination Unit.*

[FR Doc. 2010-17532 Filed 7-16-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Saint Louis University, et al.; Notice of Consolidated Decision on Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Electron Microscopes

This is a decision consolidated pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, as amended by Pub. L. 106-36; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in Room 3720, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

Docket Number: 10-019.

Applicant: Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO 63103.

Instrument: Electron Microscope.

Manufacturer: FEI Co., Czech Republic.

Intended Use: See notice at 75 FR 34096, June 16, 2010.

Docket Number: 10-021.

Applicant: South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, St. Rapid City, SD 57701.

Instrument: Electron Microscope.

Manufacturer: JEOL, Japan.

Intended Use: See notice at 75 FR 34095, June 16, 2010.

Docket Number: 10-024.

Applicant: National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892-0851.

Instrument: Electron Microscope.

Manufacturer: FEI Co., the Netherlands.

Intended Use: See notice at 75 FR 34095, June 16, 2010.

Docket Number: 10-026.

Applicant: National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892-0851.

Instrument: Electron Microscope.

Manufacturer: FEI Co., the Netherlands.

Intended Use: See notice at 75 FR 34095, June 16, 2010.

Comments: None received.

Decision: Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as these instruments are intended to be used, was being manufactured in the United States at the time the instruments were ordered.

Reasons: Each foreign instrument is an electron microscope and is intended for research or scientific educational uses requiring an electron microscope. We know of no electron microscope, or any other instrument suited to these purposes, which was being manufactured in the United States at the time of order of each instrument.

Dated: July 13, 2010.

Christopher Cassel,

*Director, Subsidies Enforcement Office,
Import Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2010-17537 Filed 7-16-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

University of Minnesota, et al.; Notice of Consolidated Decision on Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments

This is a decision pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, as amended by Pub. L. 106-36; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in Room 3720, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Ave, NW., Washington, DC.

Comments: None received.

Decision: Approved. We know of no instruments of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instruments described below, for such purposes as

this is intended to be used, that were being manufactured in the United States at the time of its order.

Docket Number: 10-025.

Applicant: University of Minnesota, Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

Instrument: High Pressure Oxygen Sputtering System.

Manufacturer: Forschungszentrum Juelich GmbH, Germany.

Intended Use: See notice at 75 FR 34095, June 16, 2010.

Reasons: A pertinent characteristic of this instrument is that the special design of the sputter sources and vacuum chamber/pumping system allows it to operate properly at pressures in excess of 1 Torr. It also is designed to work in pure oxygen and is capable of substrate heating to over 900 C in a high pressure such an environment. We know of no instrument suited to these purposes, which was being manufactured in the United States at the time of order of this instrument.

Docket Number: 10-027.

Applicant: Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL 60439.

Instrument: MultiView 400 SPM/NSOM/Confocal Multi Probe System Probe and Sample Scanning Scan Head Assembly.

Manufacturer: Nanonics Imaging Ltd., Israel.

Intended Use: See notice at 75 FR 34095, June 16, 2010.

Reasons: A unique characteristic of this system is that it has dual scanning probe heads that are independently controlled, which enable illumination and detection with sub-wavelength spatial resolution. We know of no instrument suited to these purposes, which was being manufactured in the United States at the time of order of this instrument.

Docket Number: 10-028.

Applicant: Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467.

Instrument: Infrared Mirror Furnace 4 Mirror Furnace.

Manufacturer: Crystal Systems Corp., Japan.

Intended Use: See notice at 75 FR 34095, June 16, 2010.

Reasons: A unique characteristic of this furnace is that it can synthesize extremely high quality crystals without crucible contact during growth, which prevents contamination. The instrument also allows for visual monitoring of the crystals during its growth and nucleation and can achieve heating gradients greater than 1500 Celsius per centimeter. We know of no instrument suited to these purposes, which was being manufactured in the United States at the time of order of this instrument.