DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS—2011–0023]

Monsanto Co.; Availability of Petition, Plant Pest Risk Assessment, and Environmental Assessment for Determination of Nonregulated Status for Corn Genetically Engineered for Drought Tolerance

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 the Monsanto Company seeking a determination of nonregulated status for corn designated as MON 87460, which has been genetically engineered for drought tolerance. The petition has been submitted in accordance with our regulations concerning the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms and products. We are soliciting comments on whether this genetically engineered corn is likely to pose a plant pest risk. We are making available for public comment the Monsanto petition, our plant pest risk assessment, and our draft environmental assessment for the proposed determination of nonregulated status.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before July 11, 2011.

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

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&r=d=APHIS-2011–0023 to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.

• Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send one copy of your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2011–0023, 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–2011–0023.

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.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Evan Chestnut; Policy Analyst, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 734–0942, e-mail: evan.a.chestnut@aphis.usda.gov. To obtain copies of the petition, draft environmental assessment, or plant pest risk assessment, contact Ms. Cindy Eck at (301) 734–0667, e-mail: cynthia.a.eck@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the authority of the plant pest provisions of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.), 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.

APHIS has received a petition (APHIS Petition Number 09–055–01p) from the Monsanto Company (Monsanto) of St. Louis, MO, seeking a determination of nonregulated status for corn (Zea mays L.) designated as event MON 87460, which has been genetically engineered for drought tolerance, stating that this 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, an introduced gene called cold shock protein B, derived from the bacterium Bacillus subtilis, appears to help maintain plant cellular functions and is expected to reduce yield loss under water-limited conditions compared to conventional corn. Corn event MON 87460 is currently regulated under 7 CFR part 340. Interstate movements and field tests of corn event MON 87460 have been conducted under permits issued or notifications acknowledged by APHIS.

Field tests conducted under APHIS 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 data are used by APHIS to determine if the new variety poses a plant pest risk. Monsanto has petitioned APHIS to make a determination that corn event MON 87460 should not be regulated under 7 CFR part 340.

In section 403 of the Plant Protection Act, “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 has prepared a plant pest risk assessment to determine if corn event MON 87460 is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk.

APHIS has also prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) in which it presents two alternatives based on its analyses of data submitted by Monsanto, a review of scientific data, and field tests conducted under APHIS oversight. APHIS is considering...
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service
Pike & San Isabel Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pike & San Isabel Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Pueblo, Colorado. The committee is meeting as authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Pub. L. 110–343) and in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on and recommend projects for funding.

DATES: The meeting will be held on August 10, 2011, and will begin at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Supervisor's Office of the Pike & San Isabel National Forests, Camarron and Comanche National Grasslands (PSICC) at 2840 Kachina Dr., Pueblo, Colorado. Written comments should be sent to Barbara Timock, PSICC, 2840 Kachina Dr., Pueblo, CO 81008. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to btimock@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 719–553–1416.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at PSICC, 2840 Kachina Dr., Pueblo, CO 81008. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 719–553–1415 to facilitate entry into the building.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Timock, RAC coordinator, USDA, Pike & San Isabel National Forests, 2840 Kachina Dr., Pueblo, CO 81008; (719) 553–1415; E-mail btimock@fs.fed.us.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The August 10 meeting is open to the public. The following business will be conducted: (1) Review, discuss and vote on proposed projects, (2) Recommend projects to the Designated Federal Official, (3) Receive public comment. Persons who wish to bring related matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by August 5, 2011 will have the opportunity to address the Committee at those sessions.

Dated: April 26, 2011.

John F. Peterson,
Designated Federal Official.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
International Trade Administration

[A–570–932]

Certain Steel Threaded Rod from the People’s Republic of China: Notice of Court Decision Not in Harmony With the Final Determination of Sales at Less-Than-Fair-Value and Notice of Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less-Than-Fair-Value and Amended Antidumping Duty Order Pursuant to Court Decision

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.
