SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to issue permits for the release of an insect, Lilioceris egena, into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of air potato (Dioscorea bulbifera) infestations.

Air potato is an herbaceous, twining vine that can grow 65 feet long or more, capable of climbing and out-competing native vegetation. Since its introduction to Florida in 1905, air potato has aggressively spread throughout the state; this species is reportedly naturalized in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Hawaii. In 1999, the Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services added air potato to its list of noxious weeds in an attempt to protect the state’s native plant species from being displaced or hybridized. Presently, the air potato is well established in Florida and probably throughout the Gulf States where it has the potential to severely disrupt entire ecosystems.

Existing air potato management options, which include chemical and mechanical control methods, are ineffective, expensive, temporary, or have non-target impacts. Thus, a permit application has been submitted to APHIS for the purpose of releasing an insect, L. egena, into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of air potato infestations. APHIS’ review and analysis of the proposed action are documented in detail in an environmental assessment (EA) titled “Field Release of the Beetle Lilioceris egena (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) for Classical Biological Control of Air Potato, Dioscorea bulbifera (Dioscoreaceae), in the Continential United States” (October 2019). We are making the EA available to the public for review and comment. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before the date listed under the heading DATES at the beginning of this notice.

The EA may be viewed on the Regulations.gov website or in our reading room (see ADDRESSES above for instructions for accessing Regulations.gov and information on the location and hours of the reading room). You may request paper copies of the EA by calling or writing to the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. Please refer to the title of the EA when requesting copies.

The EA has been 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).

Done in Washington, DC, this 4th day of January 2021.

Michael Watson, Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2021–00063 Filed 1–7–21; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Direct Investment Surveys: BE–605, Quarterly Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States—Transactions of U.S. Affiliate With Foreign Parent

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the Federal Register on October 23, 2020 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Commerce.


OMB Control Number: 0608–0009.

Form Number: BE–605.

Type of Request: Regular submission.

Number of Responses: 17,800 annually.

Average Hours per Response: One hour is the average but may vary considerably among respondents because of differences in company size and complexity.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 17,800.

Needs and Uses: The Quarterly Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States—Transactions of U.S. Affiliate with Foreign Parent (Form BE–605) obtains quarterly data on transactions and positions between foreign-owned U.S. business enterprises and their “affiliated foreign groups” (i.e., their foreign parents and foreign affiliates of their foreign parents). The survey is a sample survey that covers all U.S. affiliates above a size-exemption level. The sample data are used to derive universe estimates of direct investment transactions, positions, and income in non-benchmark years from similar data reported in the BE–12, Benchmark Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States, which is conducted every five years and will next be conducted for the fiscal year ending in 2022. The data collected through the BE–605 survey are essential for the preparation of the U.S. international transactions, national income and product, and input-output accounts and the international investment position of the United States. The data are needed to measure the size and economic significance of foreign direct investment in the United States, measure changes in such investment, and assess its impact on the U.S. economy.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Quarterly.

Respondent’s Obligation: Mandatory.


This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function and entering either the title of
Reference may be viewed at: http://www.trade.gov/ceo-forum/. The Forum, consisting of both private and public sector members, brings together leaders of the respective business communities of the United States and Brazil to discuss issues of mutual interest, particularly ways to strengthen the economic and commercial ties between the two countries. The Forum consists of the U.S. and Brazilian Government co-chairs and a Committee comprised of private sector members. The Committee is composed of two Sections, each consisting of approximately ten to twelve members from the private sector, representing the views and interests of the private sector business community in the United States and Brazil. Each government appoints the members to its respective Section. The Committee provides joint recommendations to the two governments that reflect private sector views, needs and concerns regarding the creation of an economic environment in which their respective private sectors can partner, thrive and enhance bilateral commercial ties to expand trade between the United States and Brazil.

This notice seeks candidates to fill up to three positions on the U.S. Section of the Forum as well as any future vacancies that may arise before November 30, 2021. Each candidate must be the Chief Executive Officer or President (or have a comparable level of responsibility) of a U.S.-owned or -controlled company that is incorporated or otherwise organized in and has its main headquarters in the United States and that is currently doing business in both Brazil and the United States. Each candidate also must be a U.S. citizen or otherwise legally authorized to work in the United States and able to travel to Brazil and locations in the United States to attend official Forum meetings as well as independent U.S. Section and Committee meetings.

In addition to the above criteria, candidates must:

—Be able to address cross-cutting issues that affect the entire business community.

—Have a broad perspective and business experience to initiate and be responsible for activities in which the Forum will be active.

—Demonstrated commitment and ability to attend the majority of Forum meetings.

In addition to the above criteria, members will be selected on the basis of who will best carry out the objectives of the Forum as stated in the Terms of Reference establishing the U.S.-Brazil CEO Forum. The U.S. Section of the Forum should also include members that represent a diversity of business sectors and geographic locations. To the extent possible, U.S. Section members also should represent a cross-section of small, medium, and large firms.

U.S. members will receive no compensation for their participation in Forum-related activities. Individual members will be responsible for all travel and related expenses associated with their participation in the Forum, including attendance at Committee and Section meetings. Only appointed members may participate in official Forum meetings; substitutes and alternates will not be designated.

According to the current Terms of Reference, members are normally to serve three-year terms, but may be reappointed. Consistent failure to actively participate in Forum meetings and activity may result in early termination of a CEO’s membership on the Forum. As delineated in 83 FR 65627 (December 21, 2018), to be considered for membership, please submit the following information as instructed in the ADDRESSES and DATES captions above: Name(s) and title(s) of the individual(s) requesting consideration; name and address of company’s headquarters; location of incorporation; information that the company is U.S.-owned or U.S.-controlled; size of the company; size of company’s export trade to Brazil, investment in Brazil, and nature of operations or interest in Brazil; an affirmative statement that the applicant meets all Forum eligibility criteria and is neither registered nor required to register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended; Evaluation of applications for membership in the U.S. Section by eligible individuals will be based on the following criteria:

—A demonstrated commitment by the individual’s company to the Brazilian market either through exports or investment.

—A demonstrated strong interest in Brazil and its economic development.

—The ability to address cross-cutting issues that affect the entire business community.

—The ability to offer a broad perspective and business experience to the discussions.

—The ability to address cross-cutting issues that affect the entire business community.

—The ability to initiate and be responsible for activities in which the Forum will be active.

—A demonstrated commitment and ability to attend the majority of Forum meetings.

In addition to the above criteria, members will be selected on the basis of who will best carry out the objectives of the Forum as stated in the Terms of Reference establishing the U.S.-Brazil CEO Forum. The U.S. Section of the Forum should also include members that represent a diversity of business sectors and geographic locations. To the extent possible, U.S. Section members also should represent a cross-section of small, medium, and large firms.

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