

Part VIII. Evaluation of the Pilot Program

The pilot program is designed to allow the USPTO to evaluate how having a limited number of claims under examination affects pendency and examination quality. Accordingly, the USPTO intends to collect data on the progression of applications accepted into the pilot program throughout the examination process. During or after the pilot program, the USPTO will provide avenues for participants to provide feedback on their experience with the pilot program. As applicable, the USPTO will follow the United States Government Accountability Office's (GAO's) leading practices for effective pilot design, including (1) establishing clear objectives; (2) collecting relevant data; (3) evaluating outcomes; (4) considering scalability; and (5) ensuring stakeholder communication. *See GAO, Data Act: Section 5 Pilot Design Issues Need to Be Addressed to Meet Goal of Reducing Recipient Reporting Burden, GAO-16-438* (April 19, 2016).

John A. Squires,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OPP-2025-0756; FRL-12903-03-OCSP]

FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP); Notice of Postponement of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agency has postponed the 3-day virtual public meeting of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel (FIFRA SAP) for peer review on "Determining the Absence of Novel Proteins in the Saliva of Genetically Engineered Mosquitoes for Mosquito Control" scheduled for November 3 to 5, 2025. The meeting was announced in the **Federal Register** on July 24, 2025. The meeting will be rescheduled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alie Muneer, Designated Federal Official, Mission Support Division, Office of Program Support, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency; telephone number: (202) 564-6369 or

the main office number: (202) 564-8450; email address: *muneer.alie@epa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting was announced in the **Federal Register** on July 24, 2025 (90 FR 34864 (FRL-12903-01-OCSP)). This meeting is being rescheduled due to the lapse in government appropriations and its impact on potential and existing panel members. A new notice announcing the new date will be published in the **Federal Register** at least 15 days prior to the meeting being held.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 10; 7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*; 21 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*

Dated: October 22, 2025.

Nancy B. Beck,

Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of the Secretary

Determination Pursuant to Section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, as Amended

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice of determination.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Homeland Security has determined, pursuant to law, that it is necessary to waive certain laws, regulations, and other legal requirements in order to ensure the expeditious construction of barriers and roads in the vicinity of the international land border in the state of Texas.

DATES: This determination takes effect on October 27, 2025.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Important mission requirements of the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") include border security and the detection and prevention of illegal entry into the United States. Border security is critical to the nation's national security. Recognizing the critical importance of border security, Congress has mandated DHS to achieve and maintain operational control of the international land border. Secure Fence Act of 2006, Public Law 109-367, section 2, 120 Stat. 2638 (Oct. 26, 2006) (8 U.S.C. 1701 note). Congress defined "operational control" as the prevention of all unlawful entries into the United States, including entries by terrorists, other unlawful aliens, instruments of terrorism, narcotics, and other

contraband. *Id.* Consistent with that mandate, the President's Executive Order on Securing Our Borders directs that I take all appropriate action to deploy and construct physical barriers to ensure complete operational control of the southern border of the United States. Executive Order 14165, section 3 (Jan. 20, 2025).

Congress has provided to the Secretary of Homeland Security a number of authorities necessary to carry out DHS's border security mission. One of those authorities is found at section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, as amended ("IIRIRA"). Public Law 104-208, Div. C, 110 Stat. 3009-546, 3009-554 (Sept. 30, 1996) (8 U.S.C. 1103 note), as amended by the REAL ID Act of 2005, Public Law 109-13, Div. B, 119 Stat. 231, 302, 306 (May 11, 2005) (8 U.S.C. 1103 note), as amended by the Secure Fence Act of 2006, Public Law 109-367, section 3, 120 Stat. 2638 (Oct. 26, 2006) (8 U.S.C. 1103 note), as amended by the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008, Public Law 110-161, Div. E, Title V, section 564, 121 Stat. 2090 (Dec. 26, 2007). In section 102(a) of IIRIRA, Congress provided that the Secretary of Homeland Security shall take such actions as may be necessary to install additional physical barriers and roads (including the removal of obstacles to detection of illegal entrants) in the vicinity of the United States border to deter illegal crossings in areas of high illegal entry into the United States. In section 102(b) of IIRIRA, Congress mandated that in carrying out the authority of section 102(a), I provide for the installation of additional fencing, barriers, roads, lighting, cameras, and sensors to achieve and maintain operational control of the border. Finally, in section 102(c) of IIRIRA, Congress granted to the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to waive all legal requirements that I, in my sole discretion, determine necessary to ensure the expeditious construction of barriers and roads authorized by section 102 of IIRIRA.

Determination and Waiver

Section 1

The United States Border Patrol Del Rio Sector is an area of high illegal entry. Between fiscal year 2021 and July 2025, Border Patrol apprehended over 1,408,600 illegal aliens attempting to enter the United States between border crossings in the Del Rio Sector. In that same time period Border Patrol seized over 275 pounds of marijuana, over 131 pounds of cocaine, over 18 pounds of