assessment will consider characteristics such as unique and sensitive aspects of the program area, applicable environmental and program documentation, and applicable new developments in environmental science or control technologies. The site-specific assessment will also confirm the adequacy or need for additional program mitigative measures. Site-specific assessments will be made available to the public, and APHIS will consider the public's perspective relative to individual programs.

To avoid or minimize environmental harm, APHIS will implement appropriate risk reduction strategies, as described in chapter VI of the EIS. These strategies are fully described in the EIS and include but are not limited to the following: Pesticide applicat or certification, training and applicator orientation, special pesticide handling, precautions for pesticide application, identification of sensitive sites, public notification procedures, and interagency coordination and consultation.

(The record of decision was signed by Richard L. Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, Plant Protection and Quarantine, APHIS, on February 5, 2002.)

Done in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of February 2002.

W. Ron DeHaven,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 02–4806 Filed 2–27–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02–006–1]

Monsanto Co.; Availability of Environmental Assessment for Extension of Determination of Nonregulated Status for Canola Genetically Engineered for Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that an environmental assessment has been prepared for a proposed decision to extend to one additional canola event our determination that a canola line developed by Monsanto Company, which has been genetically engineered for tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate, is no longer considered a regulated article under our regulations governing the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms. We are making this environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments we receive that are postmarked, delivered, or e-mailed by April 1, 2002.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 02–006–1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 02–006–1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to *regulations@aphis.usda.gov*. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and ''Docket No. 02–006–1'' on the subject line.

You may read the extension request, the environmental assessment, and any comments 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.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. James White, Plant Protection and Quarantine, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 734–5940. To obtain a copy of the extension request or the environmental assessment, contact Ms. Kay Peterson at (301) 734–4885; e-mail: *Kay.Peterson@aphis.usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 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. Further, the regulations in § 340.6(e)(2) provide that a person may request that APHIS extend a determination of nonregulated status to other organisms. Such a request must include information to establish the similarity of the antecedent organism and the regulated article in question.

Background

On November 20, 2001, APHIS received a request for an extension of a determination of nonregulated status (APHIS No. 01–324–01p) from Monsanto Company (Monsanto) of St. Louis, MO, for a canola (*Brassica napus* L.) transformation event designated as glyphosate-tolerant canola event GT200 (GT200), which has been genetically engineered for tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate. The Monsanto request seeks an extension of a determination of nonregulated status that was issued for Roundup Ready® canola line RT73, the antecedent organism, in response to APHIS petition number 98–216–01p (see 64 FR 5628–5629, Docket No. 98–089–2, published February 4, 1999). Based on the similarity of GT200 to the antecedent organism RT73, Monsanto requests a determination that glyphosate-tolerant canola event GT200 does not present a plant pest risk and, therefore, is not a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

Analysis

Like the antecedent organism, canola event GT200 has been genetically engineered to express an enzyme, 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase (EPSPS), from *Agrobacterium* sp. strain CP4, and the glyphosate oxidoreductase (GOX) gene/protein from *Ochrobactrum anthropi* strain LBAA, both of which impart tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate. The subject canola and the antecedent organism were produced through use of the *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* method to transform the parental canola variety Westar. Expression of the added genes in GT200 and the antecedent organism is controlled in part by gene sequences derived from the plant pathogen figwort mosaic virus.

Canola event GT200 and the antecedent organism were genetically

engineered using the same transformation method and contain the same enzymes that make the plants tolerant to the herbicide glyphosate. Accordingly, we have determined that canola event GT200 is similar to the antecedent organism in APHIS petition number 98–216–01p, and we are proposing that canola event GT200 should no longer be regulated under the regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

The subject canola has been considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because it contains gene sequences derived from plant pathogens. However, GT200 has been approved for commercial use in Canada since 1996, with no subsequent reports of deleterious effects on plants, nontarget organisms, or the environment as a result of its environmental release.

Should APHIS approve Monsanto's request for an extension of a determination of nonregulated status, canola event GT200 would no longer be considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Therefore, the requirements pertaining to regulated articles under those regulations would no longer apply to the field testing, importation, or interstate movement of the subject canola or its progeny.

National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine any potential environmental impacts associated with this proposed extension of a determination of nonregulated status. The 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). Copies of Monsanto's extension request and the EA are available upon request from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

Done in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of February 2002.

W. Ron DeHaven,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 02–4805 Filed 2–27–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01–108–2]

Public Meeting; Veterinary Biologics

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This is the second notice to producers and users of veterinary biological products and other interested individuals that we are holding our 11th annual public meeting to discuss regulatory and policy issues related to the manufacture, distribution, and use of veterinary biological products. This notice provides information on the agenda as well as the dates, times, and place of the meeting.

DATES: The public meeting will be held Tuesday, April 2, through Thursday April 4, 2002, from 8 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, and from 8 a.m. to approximately noon on Thursday.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the Scheman Building at the Iowa State Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information concerning registration and agenda topics, contact Ms. Kay Wessman, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 510 South 17th Street, Suite 104, Ames, IA 50010–8197; phone (515) 232–5785 extension 127; fax (515) 232–7120; or e-mail *Kay.Wessman@aphis.usda.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a notice published in the **Federal Register** on November 30, 2001 (66 FR 59773–59774, Docket No. 01–108–1), we announced that we will be holding our 11th annual veterinary biologics public meeting and requested that interested persons submit suggestions for agenda topics. Based on the responses and on other considerations, the agenda for the 11th public meeting will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Veterinary biologics perspectives relating to emergency animal health management, both global and domestic;
- Safeguarding animal health;
- Importation activities;
- Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies;
- Biosecurity;
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's response to animal health issues;
- International harmonization; and
- Animal care.

In addition, we will provide updates on regulations, aquaculture, reticuloendotheliosis virus, in vitro potency testing, and compliance with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (including electronic submissions/filing, the Ames Information Management System, summary information format for biotechnology products, and processing labels and outlines of production). During the ''roundtable discussion'' portion of the meeting, participants will have the opportunity to present their views on matters concerning the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's veterinary biologics program.

Registration forms, lodging information, and copies of the agenda for the 11th public meeting may be obtained from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. This information is also available on the Internet at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/cvb*.

The registration deadline is March 19, 2002. A block of hotel rooms has been set aside for this meeting until March 19. Early reservation of rooms is strongly encouraged.

Done in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of February, 2002.

W. Ron DeHaven,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 02–4802 Filed 2–27–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lost Granite Squirrel, Colville National Forest, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties, WA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service, USDA, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to implement vegetation, riparian and road management projects. The Proposed Action will be in compliance with the 1988 Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) as amended, which provides the overall guidance for management of this area. The Proposed Action is within portions of the Lost Creek and Ruby Creek drainages on the Sullivan Lake and Newport Ranger Districts. The project will be located approximately 45 miles north of Newport, Washington. Project implementation is scheduled for fiscal year 2004. The Colville National Forest invites written comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis.