

Marketing and Regulatory Programs and Food Safety

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Natural Resources and Environment

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Research, Education and Economics

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Dated: October 31, 2016.

Thomas J. Vilsack,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2016-0067]

Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection; Importation of Fresh Citrus Fruit From Uruguay, Including Citrus Hybrids and Fortunella spp., Into the Continental United States

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request approval of an information collection associated with the regulations for the importation of fresh citrus fruit from Uruguay, including *Citrus* hybrids and *Fortunella* spp., into the continental United States.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before January 9, 2017.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0067>.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2016-0067, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0067> or in our reading room, which 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) 799-7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the regulations for the importation of fresh citrus fruit from Uruguay into the continental United States, contact Dr. Nicole Russo, Director, Imports, Regulations, and Manuals, PHP, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 156, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-2159. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Kimberly Hardy, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2727.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Importation of Fresh Citrus Fruit From Uruguay, Including *Citrus* Hybrids and *Fortunella* spp., Into the Continental United States.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0401.

Type of Request: Approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Plant Protection Act (PPA, 7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to restrict the importation, entry, or interstate movement of plants, plant products, and other articles to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States or their dissemination within the United States. Regulations authorized by the PPA concerning the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world are contained in "Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables" (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–75).

Section 319.56–59 of the regulations provides the requirements for the importation of fresh citrus fruit from Uruguay, including *Citrus* hybrids and *Fortunella* spp., into the continental United States under a systems approach. This systems approach includes, among other things, requirements for production sites and packinghouses,

pest monitoring and pest control practices, orchard sanitation, packinghouse procedures, a phytosanitary certificate, and the importation of commercial consignments only. In addition, the regulations require the use of information collection activities, such as a bilateral workplan, production site and packinghouse registration, monitoring and inspection of registered production sites, investigation and remedial action, carton markings, recordkeeping, certification and monitoring of treatment facilities, and a phytosanitary certificate.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.426 hours per response.

Respondents: Citrus producers, packers, importers, and the national plant protection organization officials of Uruguay.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 16.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 192.3.

Estimated annual number of responses: 3,077.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 1,311 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 2nd day of November 2016.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2016-26941 Filed 11-7-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2014-0056]

Withdrawal of an Environmental Assessment for the Field Release of Genetically Engineered Diamondback Moths

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we are withdrawing an environmental assessment that was prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to a permitted environmental release of diamondback moths which have been genetically engineered for repressible female lethality and to express red fluorescence as a marker. While we reached a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) in connection with this action and posted that FONSI on our Web site, the public was not notified of the FONSI via publication of an associated notice in the **Federal Register**. We are therefore withdrawing the environmental assessment and FONSI.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Chessa Huff-Woodard, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 146, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 851-3943.

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 (GE) organisms and products are considered "regulated articles." A permit must be obtained or a notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be released into the environment. The regulations set

forth the permit application requirements and the notification procedures for the importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment of a regulated article.

Subsequent to a permit application from Cornell University (APHIS Permit Number 13-297-102r) seeking the permitted field release of three strains of GE diamondback moth (DBM), *Plutella xylostella*, strains designated as OX4319L-Pxy, OX4319N-Pxy, and OX4767A-Pxy, which have been genetically engineered to exhibit red fluorescence (DsRed2) as a marker and repressible female lethality, on August 28, 2014, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published in the **Federal Register** a notice¹ (79 FR 51299-51300, Docket No. APHIS-2014-0056) in which we announced the availability, for public review and comment, of an environmental assessment (EA) that examined the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed release of the GE DBMs.

We solicited comments on the EA for 30 days ending September 29, 2014. We received 287 comments by that date. The comments were from industry organizations, environmental and consumer advocacy groups, researchers, and private citizens.

Based upon analysis described in the EA and a thorough review of the comments we received, APHIS determined that release of the GE DBMs would not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. This finding of no significant impact (FONSI) was posted on the APHIS Web site.

In November 2014, APHIS issued Permit Number 13-297-102r, which allowed for open field release of the GE DBMs. No open field releases took place under this permit. In July 2015, the initial permit was amended to add caged releases to the list of allowable actions (APHIS Permit Number 13-297-102r-a1). Caged releases pursuant to the amended permit occurred between July 2015 and March 11, 2016, when the permit was withdrawn.

Although, as mentioned previously, we posted the FONSI on our Web site, we failed to formally advise the public of our FONSI regarding the release of GE DBMs via publication of a second notice in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, we are withdrawing the EA and FONSI associated with the August 28, 2014, notice.

¹To view the notice, supporting documents, and comments we received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=APHIS-2014-0056>.

On March 16, 2016, APHIS received a permit application from Cornell University (APHIS Permit Number 16-076-101r) seeking the permitted field release of GE DBMs in both open and caged releases. We are currently preparing an EA for this new application and will publish notices associated with the EA and FONSI (if one is reached) in the **Federal Register**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 2nd day of November 2016.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2016-26935 Filed 11-7-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2016-0069]

Availability of an Environmental Assessment for the Biological Control of Giant Reed

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared a draft environmental assessment relative to the control of giant reed (*Arundo donax*). The environmental assessment considers the effects of, and alternatives to, the field release of a gall-forming fly, *Lasioptera donacis*, into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of giant reed infestations. We are making the environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before December 8, 2016.

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

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0069>.

- **Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:** Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2016-0069, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0069> or in our reading room, which is located in