

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Availability and Intent To Grant of Co-Exclusive Patent Licenses

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/974,709, "Composition and Method for the Control of Parasitic Mites in Honeybees," filed on October 19, 1997, is available for licensing and that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant two co-exclusive licenses to the following companies: Betterbee, Inc., of Greenwich, New York and Dadant & Sons, Inc., of Hamilton, Illinois.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 18, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 10300 Baltimore Boulevard, Room 401, Building 005, BARC-W, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2350.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Willard J. Phelps, of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301/504-6532.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Government's patent rights to this invention are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention as said companies have submitted a complete and sufficient applications for a license, promising therein to bring the benefits of said invention to the U.S. public. The prospective co-exclusive licenses will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective co-exclusive licenses may be granted unless, within ninety (90) calendar days

from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Richard M. Parry, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-6925 Filed 3-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Availability and Intent To Grant of Exclusive Patent License

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant to Cook Industrial Electric Co., Inc., of Cordele, Georgia, an exclusive license to Serial No. 08/915,687, filed on October 21, 1997, entitled "Automatic Sampling Apparatus for the Farmer Stock Peanut Pneumatic Sampler."

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 18, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 10300 Baltimore Boulevard, Room 401, Building 005, BARC-W, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2350.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Willard J. Phelps, of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone: 301/504-6532.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Government's patent rights to this invention are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention as Cook Industrial Electric Co., Inc., has submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license, promising therein to bring the benefits of said invention to the U.S. public. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless,

within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of this published Notice, the Agricultural Research Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Richard M. Parry, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-6924 Filed 3-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-010-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of 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 an extension of approval of an information collection that is used to evaluate the plant pest risk posed by the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms and products.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 18, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the accuracy of burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information to: Docket No. 98-010-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please send an original and three copies, and state that your comments refer to Docket No. 98-010-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call

ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding regulations for the introduction of genetically engineered organisms and products which are plant pests or which there is reason to believe are plant pests, contact Arnold Foudin, Assistant Director, Scientific Services, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 146, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-7612. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Gregg Ramsey, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-5682.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 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.

OMB Number: 0579-0085.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for, among other things, preventing the introduction or dissemination of plant pests into or through the United States. As part of that responsibility, APHIS regulates the introduction (importation, interstate movement, and 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.

In administering the regulations, APHIS collects certain information through its permitting and notification processes. That information is collected to enable APHIS to evaluate the plant pest risk posed by the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms and products.

The information we seek with our notification and permit process includes, among other things, a complete description of the organism or product, the safeguards that will be used in preventing escape, the destination or field test locations, and field test results that describe any unusual or harmful occurrences.

Without the information we obtain through our notification and permit application process, we would be unable to evaluate the plant pest risk posed by the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms and products.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to

approve the continued use of these information collection activities.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning this information collection activity. We need this outside input to help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed 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 proposed 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 0.8434 hours per response.

Respondents: U.S. importers and shippers of genetically engineered organisms and products; agricultural companies that develop or test genetically engineered organisms or products; and members of the publicly-funded research community.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 150.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 33.

Estimated annual number of responses: 4,950.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 4,175 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average 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 11th day of March 1998.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-6922 Filed 3-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-019-1]

Availability of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the issuance of a permit to allow the field testing of genetically engineered organisms. The environmental assessment provides a basis for our conclusion that the field testing of the genetically engineered organisms will not present a risk of introducing or disseminating a plant pest and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Based on its finding of no significant impact, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact is available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect the document are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Arnold Foudin, Assistant Director, Scientific Services, PPQ, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road, Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (301) 734-7612. For a copy of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, contact Ms. Linda Lightle at (301) 734-8231; e-mail: llightle@aphis.usda.gov. Please refer to the permit number listed below when ordering the document.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 7 CFR part 340 (referred to below as the regulations) regulate the introduction (importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment) of genetically engineered organisms and products that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests (regulated articles). A permit must be obtained or a