

6. What can be done to assist beginning farmers and farm workers to become farm owners?

7. What role should the Federal government play to ensure a diversified, decentralized and competitive farm structure?

8. What do small farms contribute to your community and your state?

9. What other generic issues pertaining to small farms should the Commission consider?

Interested parties wishing to testify at these subcommittee meetings must contact the office of the National Commission on Small Farms by September 5, 1997, in order to be placed on a list of witnesses. Oral presentations will be limited to 5 minutes. Individuals will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Due to limited time, each organization or group is asked to have only one representative testify before the Commission on September 10. Written statements will be accepted at the meeting or may be mailed or faxed to the Commission office by September 12, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written statements should be sent to National Commission on Small Farms, USDA, P.O. Box 2890, Room 5237, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Yezak Molen, Director, National Commission on Small Farms, at the address above or at (202) 690-0648 or (202) 690-0673. The fax number is (202) 720-0596.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Commission is to gather and evaluate background information, studies, and data pertinent to small farms and ranches, including limited-resource farmers. On the basis of the review, the Commission shall analyze all relevant issues and make findings, develop strategies, and make recommendations for consideration by the Secretary of Agriculture toward a national strategy on small farms. The national strategy shall include, but not be limited to: changes in existing policies, programs, regulations, training, and program delivery and outreach systems; approaches that assist beginning farmers and involve the private sectors and government, including assurances that the needs of minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are addressed; areas where new partnerships and collaborations are needed; and other approaches that it would deem advisable or which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service may request the Commission to consider.

The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the work of the Commission is in the public interest and within the duties and responsibilities of USDA. Establishment of the Commission also implements a recommendation of the USDA Civil Rights Action Report to appoint a diverse commission to develop a national policy on small farms.

Dated: August 25, 1997.

Pearlie S. Reed,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-055-2]

Availability of an Addendum to the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for Field Testing Vaccine Containing Canarypox-Vectored Rabies Fraction

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared an addendum to the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact that were prepared for the shipment of an unlicensed veterinary vaccine containing a canarypox-vectored rabies fraction for field testing in cats. The availability of the original environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact was announced in the **Federal Register** on July 10, 1997. The addendum addresses the expansion of the scope of the field trials to include veterinary clinics in two additional States.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the addendum, as well as copies of the original environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, may be obtained by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the docket number, date, and complete title of this notice when requesting copies. Copies of the original environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact and the addendum (as well as the risk analysis with confidential business information removed) are also 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 those documents are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Jeanette Greenberg, Technical Writer-Editor, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Licensing and Policy Development, Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, 4700 River Road Unit 148, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; telephone (301) 734-8400; fax (301) 734-8910; or e-mail: jgreenberg@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (21 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*), a veterinary biological product must be shown to be pure, safe, potent, and efficacious before a veterinary biological product license may be issued. Field trials are generally necessary to satisfy prelicensing requirements for veterinary biological products. In order to ship an unlicensed veterinary biological product for the purpose of conducting field trials, a sponsor must receive authorization from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

On July 10, 1997, we published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 37010-37011, Docket No. 97-055-1) a notice announcing the availability of an environmental assessment (EA) that had been prepared for the shipment of an unlicensed veterinary vaccine containing a canarypox-vectored rabies fraction for field testing. APHIS had concluded that such shipment would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Based on that finding of no significant impact (FONSI), we determined that there was no need to prepare an environmental impact statement.

With this notice, APHIS is announcing that the scope of the field trials has been expanded to include veterinary clinics in two more States—Arkansas and Indiana—in addition to the eight States indicated in the July 10, 1997, notice. The addition of these two States is addressed in an addendum to the original EA and FONSI. The EA and FONSI and the addendum were prepared by APHIS for the shipment of the following unlicensed veterinary biological product for field testing:

Requester: Rhone Merieux, Inc., Establishment License No. 298.

Product: Feline Leukemia-Rhinotracheitis-Calici-Panleukopenia-Chlamydia Psittaci-Rabies Vaccine, Modified Live and Killed Virus and Chlamydia, Canarypox Vector, (Code 16A9.R0).

Field test locations (including States added): Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin.

The EA and FONSI were prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (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).

Unless substantial environmental issues are raised in response to this notice, APHIS intends to authorize the shipment of the above product and the initiation of the field trials after 14 days from the date of this notice. Because the issues raised by authorization of field trials and by issuance of a license are identical, APHIS has concluded that the EA and FONSI that were generated for the field trials would also be applicable to the proposed licensing action. Provided that the field trial data support the conclusions of the original EA and FONSI and the addendum, APHIS does not intend to generate a separate EA to support the issuance of the product license, and would determine that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. Therefore, APHIS intends to issue a veterinary biological product license for this product following the completion of the field trials, provided no adverse impacts on the human environment are identified as a result of field testing this product and provided the product meets all other requirements for licensure.

Simultaneously, APHIS intends to issue licenses for three additional combination vaccines produced by Rhone Merieux, Inc., also for use in cats. These three vaccines—each of which contains the same canarypox-vectored rabies fraction present in the above-mentioned product but lacks one or two components present in that product—are as follows:

Product: Feline Rhinotracheitis-Calici-Panleukopenia-Chlamydia Psittaci-Rabies Vaccine, Modified Live Virus and Chlamydia, Canarypox Vector (Code 1619.R1);

Product: Feline Rhinotracheitis-Calici-Panleukopenia-Rabies Vaccine, Modified Live Virus, Canarypox Vector, (Code 16T9.R0); and

Product: Feline Leukemia-Rhinotracheitis-Calici-Panleukopenia-Rabies Vaccine, Modified Live and Killed Virus, Canarypox Vector (Code 16S9.R0).

Except for the canarypox-vectored rabies fraction, all components of the four products discussed in this notice are represented in currently licensed products.

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 151–159.

Done in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of August 1997.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97–22930 Filed 8–27–97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

South Babione Project, Bighorn National Forest, Sheridan and Johnson Counties, Wyoming

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement to disclose the environmental impacts on a proposal to harvest timber in the South Babione area, located on the Bighorn National Forest within Sheridan and Johnson Counties, Wyoming.

The proposal provides for: (1) timber harvest of approximately 350 acres of forested land and would result in approximately 3 million board feet of sawlog and utility timber; (2) construction of approximately 8 miles of permanent and temporary road and reconstruction of approximately 2 miles of road; and (3) a change in travel management by closing the area to off-road motorized travel.

The Forest Service invites comments and suggestions on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) from federal, state and local agencies, as well as individuals and organizations who may be interested in, or affected by the proposed action.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by September 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Craig Yancy, District Ranger, Tongue Ranger District, 1969 South Sheridan Avenue, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Trish Clabaugh, Interdisciplinary team leader, (307) 674–2683.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In 1991, the Babione Timber Sale Environmental Assessment was signed

which included the South Babione area currently proposed for study. Since that time, a different road location has been proposed and revised harvest methods have been proposed to better meet the management area objectives in the 4B wildlife area within the project area.

The environmental impact statement for the South Babione Project will tier to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Bighorn National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of 1985. The project area is located south of Forest Development Road 299 and west of Antler Creek. The project area covers approximately 5,000 acres.

Purpose and Need

The South Babione Project is being scheduled to provide supplemental environmental analysis for the South Babione area. The purpose and need for this project is: (1) to implement the direction contained in the Bighorn National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of 1985, including goals, objectives, management prescriptions, and standards and guidelines; (2) to improve the overall diversity and wildlife habitat of management indicator species; (3) to maintain wood production from suitable timber lands; (4) to help provide a supply of timber from the Bighorn National Forest which meets existing and potential market demand and is consistent with sound multiple use and sustained yield objectives; and (5) to determine proper travel management in the area.

Public Comment

Although scoping is reinitiated through this Notice of Intent, most comments received during earlier scoping efforts are considered applicable and will be retained. People who wish to update their earlier comments based on the revised purpose and need are encouraged to do so.

Following the publication of this notice, a scoping letter will be mailed to interested people and organizations. The letter will briefly describe the project and area, purpose and need for the action and will invite public comment.

Following scoping, the interdisciplinary team will review comments received during scoping to determine which issues are significant. The team will then develop a range of alternatives including the “no action” alternative, in which no timber harvest or road construction is proposed. Other alternatives will consider various levels and locations of timber harvest.

The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with