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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-029-1]

Availability of Environmental Assessments and Findings of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that two environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the issuance of permits to allow the field testing of genetically engineered organisms. The environmental assessments provide 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 findings of no significantly impact, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that environmental impact statements need not be prepared.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact are 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. Arnold Foudin, Assistant Director, Scientific Services, PPQ, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (301) 734-7710. For copies of the environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact, contact Ms. Linda Lightle at (301) 734-8231; e-mail: linda.lightle@usda.gov. Please refer to the permit numbers listed below when ordering documents

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 notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be introduced into the United States. The regulations set forth the permit application requirements and the notification procedures for the importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment of a regulated article.

In the course of reviewing the permit applications, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) assessed the impact on the environment that releasing the organisms under the conditions described in the permit applications would have. APHIS has issued permits for the field testing of the organisms listed below after concluding that the organisms will not present a risk of plant pest introduction or dissemination and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. The environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact, which are based on data submitted by the applicant and on our review of other relevant literature, provide the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of the environmental impacts associated with conducting the field tests.

Environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been prepared by APHIS relative to the issuance of permits to allow the field testing of the following genetically engineered organisms:

Permit number	Permittee	Date issued	Organisms	Field test location
98-355-01r	USDA/ARS	3-17-99	<i>Fusarium moniliforme</i> fungus genetically engineered to express reduced virulence and antibiotic resistance tested in corn..	Illinois, Iowa
98-032-03r	USDA/ARS	3-17-99	Citrus viroid III genetically engineered to produce dwarfing in citrus trees..	Florida

The environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact have been 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).

Done in Washington, DC, this 6th day of May, 1999.

Joan M. Arnoldi,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99-12149 Filed 5-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation Amendment for North Dakota (ND) to Provide Official Services in the Southern Illinois (IL) Area

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the United States Grain Standards Act (Act), GIPSA has amended the designation of North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (North Dakota), to include the former Southern Illinois area.

DATE: Effective on April 26, 1999.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, telephone 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the March 3, 1999, **Federal Register** (64 FR 10270), GIPSA announced the designation of North Dakota to provide official inspection services under the Act effective July 1, 1999, and ending March 31, 2002. North Dakota asked GIPSA to amend their geographic area to include the former Southern Illinois area, due to the purchase of the designated corporation, Southern Illinois Grain Inspection Services, Inc. (Southern Illinois).

Section 7A(c)(2) of the Act authorizes GIPSA's Administrator to designate an agency to provide official services within a specified geographic area, if such agency is qualified under section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act. GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act, and determined that North Dakota is qualified.

GIPSA announces designation of North Dakota to provide official inspection services under the Act, in the former Southern Illinois, area effective April 26, 1999, and ending March 31, 2002, concurrently with the end of North Dakota's current designation.

Pursuant to section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following additional geographic area, in the State of Illinois, is assigned to North Dakota.

Bounded on the East by the eastern Cumberland County line; the eastern Jasper County line south to State Route 33; State Route 33 east-southeast to the Indiana-Illinois State line; the Indiana-Illinois State line south to the southern Gallatin County line;

Bounded on the South by the southern Gallatin, Saline, and Williamson County lines; the southern Jackson County line west to U.S. Route 51; U.S. Route 51 north to State Route 13; State Route 13 northwest to State Route 149; State Route 149 west to State Route 3; State Route 3 northwest to State

Route 51; State Route 51 south to the Mississippi River; and

Bounded on the West by the Mississippi River north to the northern Calhoun County line;

Bounded on the North by the northern and eastern Calhoun County lines; the northern and eastern Jersey County lines; the northern Madison County line; the western Montgomery County line north to a point on this line that intersects with a straight line, from the junction of State Route 111 and the northern Macoupin County line to the junction of Interstate 55 and State Route 16 (in Montgomery County); from this point southeast along the straight line to the junction of Interstate 55 and State Route 16; State Route 16 east-northeast to a point approximately 1 mile northeast of Irving; a straight line from this point to the northern Fayette County line; the northern Fayette, Effingham, and Cumberland County lines.

Effective April 26, 1999, North Dakota's present geographic area is amended to include the area formerly assigned to Southern Illinois as described above. North Dakota's designation to provide official inspection services ends March 31, 2002. Official services in Illinois may be obtained by contacting North Dakota d.b.a. Illinois Official Grain Inspection at 618-632-1921.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

Dated: May 4, 1999.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 99-11978 Filed 5-12-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-821-802]

Procedures for Delivery of HEU Natural Uranium Component in the United States

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is hereby providing interested parties an opportunity to comment on the latest draft Revision of the Procedures for Delivery of HEU Natural Uranium Component in the United States. All comments are due, by close of business, to the Department of Commerce seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 13, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James C. Doyle, Karla Whalen, or Juanita H. Chen, Enforcement Group III, Office VII, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401

Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230, at telephone: 202-482-3793.

Background

As set forth in the USEC Privatization Act, the Department of Commerce ("the Department") has the responsibility for the administration and enforcement of the HEU Agreement. Pursuant to this Act, the Department established the Procedures for Delivery of HEU Natural Uranium Component in the United States ("HEU Procedures") (63 FR 36391, July 6, 1998) to enforce the USEC Privatization Act mandate. After requesting comments from parties on necessary or desirable changes to the HEU Procedures (63 FR 54108, October 8, 1998), the Department determined that revision and clarification of the HEU Procedures were warranted. Revised HEU Procedures were published on March 26, 1999, and parties were again invited to comment on necessary or desirable changes (64 FR 14697, March 26, 1999). As the Department has made substantive changes, in part as a result of parties' comments, the Department has determined that comments on this latest revision of the HEU Procedures are again appropriate.

Opportunity to Submit Comments

Parties wishing to comment on this latest revision of the HEU Procedures have the opportunity to participate on the record. Parties may submit comments with respect to these revised HEU Procedures by close of business seven (7) days from publication of this notice. Seven copies of the comments should be submitted to: Import Administration, Central Records Unit, Room 1870, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230, Attention: Roland L. MacDonald.

All comments provided to the Department in response to this notice will be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. 552, *et seq.* (1998).

Dated: May 7, 1999.

Joseph A. Spetrini,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Enforcement Group III.

Draft Revised Procedures for Delivery of HEU Natural Uranium Component in the United States

The United States Enrichment Corporation Privatization Legislation, 42 U.S.C. 2297h, *et seq.* ("USEC Privatization Act"), directs the Secretary of Commerce to administer and enforce Russian origin uranium delivery limitations set forth in 42 U.S.C. 2297h-10(b)(5). Accordingly, the U.S.