

comment refers to Docket No. APHIS–2008–0066.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that 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.

Other Information: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David B. Lamb, Import Specialist, Commodity Import Analysis and Operations, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 734–8758.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the regulations in “Subpart-Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56 through 319.56–47, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into and spread within the United States.

Section 319.56–4 contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of commodities that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, can be safely imported subject to one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section. These measures are:

- The fruits or vegetables are subject to inspection upon arrival in the United States and comply with all applicable provisions of § 319.56–3;

- The fruits or vegetables are imported from a pest-free area in the country of origin that meets the requirements of § 319.56–5 for freedom from that pest and are accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate stating that the fruits or vegetables originated in a pest-free area in the country of origin;

- The fruits or vegetables are treated in accordance with 7 CFR part 305;

- The fruits or vegetables are inspected in the country of origin by an inspector or an official of the national plant protection organization of the exporting country, and have been found free of one or more specific quarantine

pests identified by the risk analysis as likely to follow the import pathway; and/or

- The fruits or vegetables are a commercial consignment.

APHIS received a request from the Government of Mexico to allow the importation of fresh guava fruit from Mexico into the United States. We have completed a pest risk assessment to identify pests of quarantine significance that could follow the pathway of importation into the United States and, based on that pest risk assessment, have prepared a risk management analysis to identify phytosanitary measures that could be applied to the commodity to mitigate the pest risk. We have concluded that guavas can be safely imported into the United States from Mexico using one or more of the five designated phytosanitary measures listed in § 319.56–4(b). Therefore, in accordance with § 319.56–4(c), we are announcing the availability of our pest risk analysis for public review and comment. The pest risk analysis may be viewed on the Regulations.gov Web site or in our reading room (see **ADDRESSES** above for instructions for accessing Regulations.gov and information on the location and hours of the reading room). You may request paper copies of the pest risk analysis by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the subject of the pest risk analysis when requesting copies.

After reviewing the comments we receive, we will announce our decision regarding the import status of guavas from Mexico in a subsequent notice. If the overall conclusions of the analysis and the Administrator’s determination of risk remain unchanged following our consideration of the comments, then we will begin issuing permits for importation of guavas from Mexico into the United States subject to the requirements specified in the risk management analysis.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 450, 7701–7772, and 7781–7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 20th day of June 2008.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E8–14504 Filed 6–25–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Valuation of Hemlock Decline on Public Forests in the Southern Appalachian Mountains

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the new information collection, Valuation of Hemlock Decline on Public Forests in the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before August 25, 2008 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Thomas P. Holmes, Forestry Sciences Lab, Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 12254, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (919) 549–4047 or by e-mail to: tholmes@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the Forestry Sciences Lab, 3041 Cornwallis Road, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, main building reception area during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (919) 549–4000 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas P. Holmes, Southern Research Station, (919) 549–4031. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Valuation of Hemlock Decline on Public Forests in the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

OMB Number: 0596–New.

Type of Request: New.

Abstract: The Forest Service is seeking to determine the appropriate level of effort to take to protect hemlock forests on public land in the eastern United States from the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). The HWA is an exotic forest insect pest currently spreading across the eastern United States and threatens the widespread decline of hemlock forests. This insect has no known effective native predators; eastern and Carolina hemlocks have shown no resistance to HWA; and hemlock forests have not shown any

recovery following heavy, chronic infestations. While public forest managers have alternative protection measures available, implementation of these protection measures is costly and the economic benefits of protecting hemlock health are largely unknown.

Eastern hemlock forests provide a suite of public and private goods that have economic value, including wildlife habitat, aesthetic landscapes, and commercial timber. In addition, hemlock forests located on public land provide unique natural settings for recreational activities, provide habitat for many species of wildlife, and help prevent soil erosion along the banks of streams and rivers. As the impacts of this invasion accrue, forest managers' demand for information increases.

Forest Service and university researchers will collect and analyze information regarding the value of the ecosystem services provided by hemlock forests located on public land in the Southern Appalachian Mountains from residents living within 500 miles of Asheville, North Carolina. The data and analyses will provide guidance to public forest managers regarding the value of ecosystem services supplied by hemlock forests on the land that they manage and the level of public support for alternative hemlock forest-protection programs.

Telephone interviewers will contact individual head-of-households via random digit dialing. Those agreeing to participate will receive a questionnaire via the United States Postal Service, along with a cover letter describing the purpose of the study, information about current hemlock forest conditions in Southern Appalachian Mountain public forests, and available protection alternatives. Approximately two weeks after receiving the questionnaire, respondents will share answers via telephone interview.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 45 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Individuals, heads of households.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 500.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 375 hours.

Comment Is Invited

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the

collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission request toward Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: June 23, 2008.

David A. Cleaves,

Associate Deputy Chief, Research and Development.

[FR Doc. E8-14552 Filed 6-25-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

(Docket 41-2008)

Foreign-Trade Zone 7 – Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, Application for Subzone, Amgen Manufacturing Limited, (Biotechnology and Healthcare Products), Juncos, Puerto Rico

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company, grantee of FTZ 7, requesting special-purpose subzone status for the manufacture of biotechnology and healthcare products at the facility of Amgen Manufacturing Limited (Amgen), located in Juncos, Puerto Rico. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on June 19, 2008.

The Amgen facility (2,000 employees, 28 buildings with 1,900,718 square feet on 221 acres) is located at Road PR 31 Km. 24.6, in Juncos, Puerto Rico. The facility will be used to manufacture, test, package and warehouse Epogen®, (Epoetin Alfa), Neupogen® (Filgrastim), Aransep® (Darbepoetin Alfa), Enbrel® (Etanercept), Kineret® (Anakinra), and Neulasta® (Pegfilgrastim) (duty-free). Components and materials sourced from abroad (representing 2% of the value of the finished product) include: vials, syringes, stoppers, plunger rods,

partitions and dispenser packs (HTSUS duty rate ranges from duty-free to 2.7%).

FTZ procedures would exempt Amgen from customs duty payments on the foreign components used in export production. The company anticipates that some 48 percent of the plant's shipments will be exported. On its domestic sales, Amgen could choose the duty-free rate during customs entry procedures that applies to finished biotechnology and healthcare products for the foreign inputs noted above. The request indicates that the savings from FTZ procedures would help improve the plant's international competitiveness.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, Elizabeth Whiteman of the FTZ staff is designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is August 25, 2008. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period to September 9, 2008.

A copy of the application and accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at each of the following locations:
U.S. Department of Commerce Export Assistance Center, Tower II Suite 702, Road 165, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00968. Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 2111, 1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20230.

For further information, contact Elizabeth Whiteman at Elizabeth_Whiteman@ita.doc.gov or (202) 482-0473.

Dated: June 19, 2008.

Andrew McGilvray,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-14537 Filed 6-25-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

Emerging Technology and Research Advisory Committee; Notice of Recruitment of Private-Sector Members Date Extension

The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) is announcing the creation of and recruiting individuals for a technical