

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 95-075-2]

Dupont Agricultural Products; Availability of Determination of Nonregulated Status for Cotton Line Genetically Engineered for Tolerance to Sulfonylurea Herbicides

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our determination that a cotton line developed by Dupont Agricultural Products designated as 19-51a that has been genetically engineered for tolerance to sulfonylurea herbicides is no longer considered a regulated article under our regulations governing the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms. Our determination is based on our evaluation of data submitted by Dupont Agricultural Products in its petition for a determination of nonregulated status, an analysis of other scientific data, and our review of comments received from the public in response to a previous notice announcing our receipt of the Dupont Agricultural Products petition. This notice also announces the availability of our written determination document and its associated environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 25, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The determination, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, the petition, and all written comments received regarding the petition 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 those documents are asked to call in advance of visiting at (202) 690-2817.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Sivramiah Shantharam, Biotechnology Permits, BBEP, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (301) 734-7612. To obtain a copy of the determination or the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, contact Ms. Kay Peterson at (301) 734-7612.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 13, 1995, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a petition (APHIS Petition No. 95-256-01p) from Dupont Agricultural Products (Dupont) of Wilmington, DE, seeking a determination that a cotton line designated as 19-51a that has been genetically engineered for tolerance to sulfonylurea herbicides does not present a plant pest risk and, therefore, is not a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

On October 26, 1995, APHIS published a notice in the Federal Register (60 FR 54839-54840, Docket No. 95-075-1) announcing that the Dupont petition had been received and was available for public review. The notice also discussed the role of APHIS, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration in regulating the subject cotton line and food products derived from it. In the notice, APHIS solicited written comments from the public as to whether cotton line 19-51a posed a plant pest risk. The comments were to have been received by APHIS on or before December 26, 1995. APHIS received two comments on the subject petition during the designated 60-day comment period. Both comments were from State departments of agriculture and both were favorable to the petition.

Analysis

Cotton line 19-51a has been genetically engineered with a gene from tobacco which encodes an altered acetolactate synthase enzyme that enhances tolerance to sulfonylurea herbicides. The subject cotton line was developed through the use of the *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* transformation system.

Cotton line 19-51a has been considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because it contains regulatory gene sequences derived from the plant pathogen *A. tumefaciens*. However, evaluation of field data reports from field tests of the subject cotton line conducted under APHIS permits or notifications since 1991 indicates that there were no deleterious effects on plants, nontarget organisms, or the environment as a result of the subject cotton plants' release into the environment.

Determination

Based on its analysis of the data submitted by Dupont and a review of other scientific data, comments received, and field tests of the subject cotton line, APHIS has determined that cotton line 19-51a: (1) Exhibits no plant pathogenic properties; (2) is no more likely to become a weed than cotton developed by traditional breeding techniques; (3) is unlikely to increase the weediness potential for any other cultivated or wild species with which it can interbreed; (4) will not harm other organisms, including agriculturally beneficial organisms and threatened and endangered species; and (5) should not cause damage to raw or processed agricultural commodities. Therefore, APHIS has concluded that cotton line 19-51a and any progeny derived from hybrid crosses with other nontransformed cotton varieties will be just as safe to grow as traditionally bred cotton lines that are not regulated under 7 CFR part 340.

The effect of this determination is that Dupont's cotton line designated as 19-51a is no longer considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Therefore, the notification requirements pertaining to regulated articles under those regulations no longer apply to the field testing, importation, or interstate movement of cotton line 19-51a or its progeny. However, the importation of the subject cotton line or seeds capable of propagation is still subject to the restrictions found in APHIS' foreign quarantine notices in 7 CFR part 319.

National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine the potential environmental impacts associated with this determination. The

EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (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; 60 FR 6000–6005, February 1, 1995). Based on that EA, APHIS has reached a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with regard to its determination that cotton line 19–51a and lines developed from it are no longer regulated articles under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Copies of the EA and the FONSI are available upon request from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

Done in Washington, DC, this 14th day of February 1996.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96–3824 Filed 2–20–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the District of Columbia Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the District of Columbia Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1:00 p.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 1996, at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Conference Room, Room 540, 624 Ninth Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss revisions to a draft report on residential mortgage lending.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Maria Charito Kruvant, 202–966–5804, or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202–376–7533 (TDD 202–376–8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, February 12, 1996.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 96–3890 Filed 2–20–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335–01–P

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Illinois Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Illinois Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, 1996, at the Midland Hotel, 172 West Adams, Chicago, Illinois 60603. The purpose of the meeting is to hold an Illinois Consultation: Focus on Affirmative Action.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Joseph Mathewson, 312–360–1110, or Constance M. Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312–353–8311 (TDD 312–353–8326). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, February 12, 1996.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 96–3891 Filed 2–20–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335–01–P

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Illinois Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Illinois Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 1996, at the Holiday Inn-Hillside, 4400 Frontage Road, Hillside, Illinois 60162. The purpose of the meeting is to hold a press conference to release the Advisory Committee's report, *Race Relations and Equal Education Opportunity at Proviso West High School*, and to discuss civil rights issues and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation

to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Joseph Mathewson, 312–360–1110, or Constance M. Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312–353–8311 (TDD 312–353–8326). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, February 12, 1996.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 96–3892 Filed 2–20–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335–01–P

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Michigan Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Michigan Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1 p.m. and adjourn at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 1996, at the Holiday Inn South/Convention Center, 6820 South Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan. The purpose of the meeting is to hold a press conference to release the Advisory Committee's report, *Discipline in Michigan Public School and Government Enforcement of Equal Education Opportunity* and to discuss civil rights issues and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Janice G. Frazier, 312–353–8311, or Constance M. Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312–353–8311 (TDD 312–353–8326). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, February 12, 1996.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 96–3889 Filed 2–20–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335–01–P