

**Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
Potato Cyst Nematode Eradication in Idaho  
Amended Environmental Assessment  
July 2007**

In May 2007, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzed potential environmental consequences of eradicating potato cyst nematode (*Globodera pallida*) (PCN) from infested fields outside Shelley, Idaho. In the EA, the treatment alternative consisted of using one or a combination of fumigants. The fumigants proposed for use were methyl bromide, 1,3-dichloropropene (DCP), and dimethyl disulfide (DMDS). The May, 2007, EA analyzed one application of DCP per growing season at an application rate of 177 lb active ingredient (ai) per acre (ac). Subsequently, experience in the field with methyl bromide applications indicated there was a need to have the option to be able to apply DCP, if needed, twice per year. In addition, higher application rates are desired to insure adequate efficacy during treatment. The current pesticide label for DCP, which is sold as Telone II<sup>®</sup>, does not allow for two applications at a rate above 177 lb ai/ac for field crops; however, a special local-use-need label, under Section 24(c) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), is being considered for a new use pattern that allows for either one or two DCP applications per season at a rate of 177 to 354 lb ai/ac per application. This amended EA discusses how the proposed changes in DCP use may affect the quality of the human environment. The amended EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Domestic and Emergency Operations  
Emergency Management  
4700 River Road, Unit 134  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1236

The EA analyzed alternatives consisting of (1) continuation of the Federal order which prohibits the planting of host crops in the infected fields, movement of articles from infected fields, and establishes phytosanitary procedures to prevent the spread of PCN (no action alternative), and (2) continuation of the Federal order and eradication of PCN from the infested fields through the use of fumigants applied twice per year in a program that could extend as long as 7 years (preferred alternative).

An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared if implementation of the proposed action may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. I have determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the preferred alternative and, therefore, no EIS needs to be conducted.

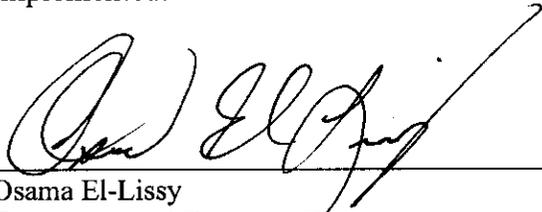
APHIS' finding of no significant impact for this rule was based upon the expected limited environmental consequences, as analyzed in the amended EA. The amended EA evaluated the potential environmental effects of the various treatment options on human health and nontarget organisms, including increased rates of DCP applied up to twice per year. Management practices related to the application of the fumigants and proximity to sensitive areas limit exposure to humans

and nontarget organisms, resulting in minimal environmental risk. Methyl bromide has been identified as an ozone-depleting substance; however, it is not a large source of manmade ozone-depleting gases and its use in this program, relative to global methyl bromide use, is negligible.

APHIS has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as required by the Endangered Species Act. FWS has concurred that the proposed eradication program is not likely to adversely affect the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and will have no effect on the Utah valvata snail (*Valvata utahensis*).

There are no disproportionate adverse effects to minorities, low-income populations, or children, in accordance with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations," and Executive Order 13045, "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks." Likewise, Federal and State agriculture officials have consulted and collaborated with Indian tribal officials to ensure that they are well-informed and represented in policy and program decisions that may impact their agricultural interests in accordance with Executive Order (EO) 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments."

Lastly, because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impact associated with this program, I further find that an EIS does not need to be prepared and that this program may be implemented.



Osama El-Lissy  
Emergency and Domestic Programs  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency

8/2/2007

Date