

# **NEPA Pilot Project Overview**

**BRS Stakeholder Meeting  
December 1, 2010  
Rebecca Stankiewicz Gabel**

# Overview

- Timeframe – 2 year project
- Voluntary program
- No limitation on number of participants

# Goal

- Test new approaches to developing NEPA documents to determine the extent to which these approaches improve the quality, timeliness and cost of APHIS/BRS NEPA documents.

# Objectives

1. Create mechanisms for early interactions between BRS NEPA team and petitioners
  - Identify potential environmental effects to be included in the NEPA analysis for petition
  - Identify and document information needed from applicants for NEPA analysis of GE organisms



# Objectives



2. Create mechanism for scoping NEPA related issues early in the process that includes participation from applicants and non-applicant stakeholders
3. Create mechanism for applicants to share information necessary for developing NEPA documents (environmental reports)

# Objectives

4. Utilize mechanisms for applicants to share in the cost of completing NEPA analysis
5. Measure and examine improvements in the quality and timeliness of APHIS/BRS NEPA documents as a result of implementing these mechanisms



# Outcomes



- Determine the effect of applicant prepared environmental reports for Agency NEPA analysis quality, timeliness, and cost.
- Determine the effect of applicant funded NEPA analyses on agency resources.

# Eligibility

- Acceptance into pilot:
  - New Petition application to be received within 6 months of acceptance, or
  - Petition review complete/ongoing and work on environmental document has not started, or
  - PPRA being prepared and work on environmental document has not started, or
  - NEPA process ongoing – applicant funded NEPA analysis



# Documents Accepted



- Applicant submitted Environmental Reports
  - submitted with petition application, or
  - submitted when petition is under review, or
  - submitted when PPRA complete, or
- Used to prepare draft EA/EIS for petitions only

# Documents Accepted



- EA/EIS preparation funded by applicant through cooperative services
  - document preparation begins after completion of PPRA
  - option to prepare documents for entire/part NEPA process (draft, RTC, final)

# Next Steps

- FR notice publishing 2010
- Begin accepting participants in Spring 2011