

Getting Information About BRS Activities

BRS Stakeholder Meeting
December 1, 2010

Tracy Bowman
Director, Policy Coordination
Programs

Overview



- Sources of Information on BRS Activities
- Overview of BRS Website
- Activity – How Can We Improve Our Website?



Sources of Information



- BRS Website
 - APHIS New Media Tools (RSS Feeds & Twitter)
- U.S. Regulatory Agencies Unified Biotechnology Website
- Performance.Gov (coming soon)
- BRS Stakeholder Registry
- Biotech Query
- Information Systems for Biotechnology
- APHIS E-FOIA Reading Room
- Data.Gov



BRS Website



- Intended for stakeholders and public audiences
- Information about:
 - Permits, Notifications, Petitions
 - Compliance and Inspection Process
 - Current Activities and Hot Topics
 - APHIS Regulations and Federal Register Notices
 - BRS Organizational Information (About BRS)

- URL:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/brs_main.shtml



Unified Biotechnology Website

- Maintained by U.S. Geological Survey on behalf of USDA, HHS, and EPA
- Describes coordination of activities related to biotechnology among USDA, EPA, FDA
- Resource for applicable laws and regulations
- Database of completed regulatory reviews
- URL:

<http://usbiotechreg.nbii.gov/index.asp>

Performance Management Initiative

"Success should be judged by results, and data is a powerful tool to determine results. We can't ignore facts. We can't ignore data."

- President Barack Obama, July 24, 2009

- **Six Performance Management Strategies**
 - Driving Agency top priorities
 - Eliminating waste
 - Reforming contracting
 - Closing the IT gap
 - Promoting accountability and innovation through open government
 - Attracting and motivating top talent



Performance.Gov



- Delivery on President's commitment to communicate Federal government goals
- System to drive Agency top priorities and maintain transparency and accountability
- Set of Agency-specific High Priority Performance Goals (HPPGs)
- Each HPPG outlines specific actions and measures progress towards targets
- OMB linking results to FY2011 Federal budget priorities



Performance.Gov (cont.)



- **USDA – Nine (9) HPPG Goals**

- Create Strong Local and Regional Communities
- Accelerate Protection of Clean, Abundant Water Resources
- Increase No. Provinces in Afghanistan Deemed Generally Food Secure
- Reduce No. Households with Children Who Experience Very Low Food Security
- **Strengthen Biotechnology Program for Genetically Engineered Plants**
- Reduce Non-tariff Trade Barriers and Increase U.S. Agricultural Exports
- Propose National Nutrition Standards for Food Sold in Schools
- Eliminate Food Deserts
- Reduce Number of Salmonella Illnesses

- **Targeted to go live mid-December 2010**

Stakeholder Registry



- Register to become a BRS stakeholder and receive e-mail updates on BRS news and activities.
- Register on the BRS website, right-hand navigation:
<https://web01.aphis.usda.gov/BRS/BRSWeb.nsf>



Biotech Query



- Feature of BRS Website
- Provides avenue to get answers to your biotechnology questions
- Staffed by BRS communications staff with access to subject matter experts across the Program
- Number of Biotech Queries answered in 2010 to date: 391
- Email to: biotechquery@aphis.usda.gov

Information Systems for Biotechnology



- Developed and maintained by Virginia Tech
- Provides information resources to support use of agricultural biotechnology products
- Data on development, testing, regulatory review of GE plants, animals, microorganisms
- Search Tool - Data using variety of criteria (Location, Gene, Phenotype, Article, etc.)
- URL: <http://www.isb.vt.edu>



APHIS e-FOIA Reading Room



- APHIS One-Stop Shop
 - Documents specifically identified for inclusion by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
 - Documents with multiple FOIA requests
- URL:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/foia/foia_reading_room.shtml
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/foia/foia_requests.shtml
- Presentation by APHIS FOIA officer after lunch



Data.Gov



- Open government initiative by Obama Administration
- Increase public access to high value, machine readable datasets
- Describes Federal datasets - what it is and how to download
- Contains public datasets for permits, notifications and petitions

Data.Gov – BRS Dataset



Search our catalogs..

SEARCH ▶

- HOME
- DATA ▼
- TOOLS
- COMMUNITY
- METRICS
- DIALOGUE
- GALLERY
- WHAT'S NEW UPDATED

Data.gov Catalogs

Use the Data.gov catalog below to access U.S. Federal Executive Branch datasets. Click on the name of a dataset to view additional metadata for that dataset. By accessing the data catalogs, you agree to the **Data Policy**. Data.gov offers data in three ways: through the "raw" data catalog, using tools and through the geodata catalog. The "Raw" Data Catalog provides an instant download of machine readable, platform-independent datasets while the Tools Catalog provides hyperlinks which may lead to agency tools or agency web pages that allow you to mine datasets.



"RAW" DATA CATALOG

TOOL CATALOG

GEODATA CATALOG

Search "raw" data by keywords

Search "raw" data by file type

- XML
- CSV/Text
- KML/KMZ
- Shapefile
- RDF
- Other

Search "raw" data by single/multiple category

- All Categories
- Agriculture
- Arts, Recreation, and Travel

Search "raw" data by single/multiple agency

- All Agencies
- Administration on Aging (HHS/AOA)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (HHS/AHRQ)

SEARCH

Page 1 of 1 (2 records)

« < 1 > »

Results per page: 25 | 50 | 100

Name (click for metadata and to rate dataset)

Rating

Agency

XML ▶

CSV/TXT ▶

KML/KMZ ▶

Shapefile ▶

RDF ▶

Other

[Biotechnology Regulatory Services public data file \(permits, notifications, and petitions\)](#)

Public information on BRS applications for genetically engineered permits, notifications, and petitions.



USDA/APHIS



[Animal Care Enforcement Actions](#)

Contains monthly reports on 7000s and stipulations related to enforcement of the Animal Welfare and Horse Protection Acts. Form 7000 - Official warning of an alleged viol...



USDA/APHIS

Page 1 of 1 (2 records)

« < 1 > »

Results per page: 25 | 50 | 100



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



Biotechnology
Regulatory
Services



BRS Website Activity



- **USDA FY2010 -2015 Strategic Plan**
 - Appendix A: ‘Assessment of functionality and usability of the Biotechnology Regulatory Services Web site’
- **New USDA ‘look and feel’ design guidelines coming soon**
- **2009 BRS Website analysis**
- **We want this tool to be useful to you**
- **Your feedback is key**

Search APHIS

Go

Browse by Audience

Select an Option

Browse by Subject

- ▶ Animal Health
- ▶ Animal Welfare
- ▶ Biotechnology
- ▶ Emergency Preparedness and Response
- ▶ Import and Export
- ▶ International Services
- ▶ Permits
- ▶ Plant Health
- ▶ Regulations and Assessments
- ▶ Wildlife Damage Management

You are here: Home > Biotechnology > BRS

Biotechnology

Biotechnology Regulatory Services

In order to protect plant health, Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) implements the APHIS regulations for certain genetically engineered (GE) organisms that may pose a risk to plant health. APHIS coordinates these responsibilities along with the other designated federal agencies as part of the Federal Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology.

Biotechnology Permits, Notifications, and Petitions

More

APHIS exercises its regulatory authority through a system that includes both permits and notifications. A researcher or developer may also request that APHIS no longer regulate an organism by submitting a petition for nonregulated status.

[Check the status of a permit, notification, or petition](#)

Compliance and Inspections

More

BRS uses inspections and other procedures to maintain compliance with the federal regulations and requirements.

[Report an unauthorized/accidental release of a regulated article or compliance issue](#)

News and Information

More

Find more news, such as documents available for public review and comment, announcements of public meetings, and Agency decisions. Also learn about some current hot topics, such as outreach activities and regulatory changes.

BRS Organization and Functions

More

Discover more information about program, functions, and the mission of APHIS BRS at the [About BRS](#) page.

- Overview
- Introducing Genetically Engineered Organisms that may be Plant Pests
- About BRS
- About Permits, Notifications, and Petitions
- Status of Permits, Notifications, and Petitions
- Compliance and Inspection
- Biotechnology Regulations and Statutes
- BRS Library
- News and Information

- Apply for a Permit, Notification, or Petition
- Check the Status of a Permit, Notification, or Petition
- Report a Compliance Issue

- Register as a BRS Stakeholder
- Learn about BRS
- Find Biotechnology Environmental Documents
- Submit a Public Comment
- Learn about BRS Job



ISO 9001:2008 FM 535173

Search APHIS

Go

Browse by Audience

Select an Option

Browse by Subject

- ▶ Animal Health
- ▶ Animal Welfare
- ▶ Biotechnology
- ▶ Emergency Preparedness and Response
- ▶ Import and Export
- ▶ International Services
- ▶ Permits
- ▶ Plant Health
- ▶ Regulations and Assessments
- ▶ Wildlife Damage Management

You are here: Home > Biotechnology > BRS

Biotechnology

Biotechnology Regulatory Services

In order to protect plant health, Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) implements the APHIS regulations for certain genetically engineered (GE) organisms that may pose a risk to plant health. APHIS coordinates these responsibilities along with the other designated federal agencies as part of the Federal Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology.

Biotechnology Permits, Notifications, and Petitions [More](#)

APHIS exercises its regulatory authority through a system that includes both permits and notifications. A researcher or developer may also request that APHIS no longer regulate an organism by submitting a petition for nonregulated status.

[Check the status of a permit, notification, or petition](#)

Compliance and Inspections [More](#)

BRS uses inspections and other procedures to maintain compliance with the federal regulations and requirements.

[Report an unauthorized/accidental release of a regulated article or compliance issue](#)

News and Information [More](#)

Find more news, such as documents available for public review and comment, announcements of public meetings, and Agency decisions. Also learn about some current hot topics, such as outreach activities and regulatory changes.

BRS Organization and Functions [More](#)

Discover more information about program, functions, and the mission of APHIS BRS at the [About BRS](#) page.

- Overview
- Introducing Genetically Engineered Organisms that may be Plant Pests
- About BRS
- About Permits, Notifications, and Petitions
- Status of Permits, Notifications, and Petitions
- Compliance and Inspection
- Biotechnology Regulations and Statutes
- BRS Library
- News and Information
- Biotechnology Site Map

- Apply for a Permit, Notification, or Petition
- Check the Status of a Permit, Notification, or Petition
- Report a Compliance Issue
- Register as a BRS Stakeholder
- Learn about BRS
- Find Biotechnology Environmental Documents
- Submit a Public Comment
- Learn about BRS Job Opportunities
- Ask a Question

Last Modified: April 27, 2010



ISO 9001:2008 FM 535173



BRS Website Activity Instructions



- Locate easel and pens
- Choose scribe
- Each table group will have 30 minutes to discuss set of questions provided to them
- Each table group will report out to large group after discussion time



BRS Website Activity



Question #1: Do you use the BRS website?

- If yes, how often? If not, why?
- Do you use other sources to get information from/about BRS? If yes, what are they?
- Are you registered as a BRS stakeholder?
Do you find the stakeholder announcements useful?



BRS Website Activity



Question #2:

If you use the BRS website, what is your main reason for visiting the site?

- Apply for/check the status of a permit
- Comment on a Federal Register Notice
- Get the latest news and information
- Guidance and Resources
- Obtain environmental and other documents
- Contact BRS
- Other



BRS Website Activity



Question #3:

Are you able to find the information you are looking for?

- Is there particular information that you have trouble finding?
- Is there information not on the site that you would like to see?
- Do you have suggestions on how we could better organize the information?
- Is there another source you have for this information?
What makes that site a better source for information or easier to use?



BRS Website Activity



Question #4: What do you like most and least about the site?

- What is the best aspect of the site?
- What is one thing you would change about:
 - Navigability (i.e., getting to where you need to go)
 - Content
 - Page Layout
 - Static versus dynamic content
 - Other



BRS Website Activity



Question #5:

**What question should we have asked you
(but didn't)? Your answer?**

Your help today will assist BRS to
improve our website



THANK YOU