

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
VIRTUAL MEETING SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT
EIS FOR DOWS 2,4-D-RESISTANT CROPS

Docket No. APHIS-2013-0044

Wednesday, January 29, 2014
Riverdale, MD

Reported by:
Christine Allen,
Capital Reporting Company

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<p>1 A P P E A R A N C E S</p> <p>2 MR. RICHARD GEORGE</p> <p> Communications Branch Chief, USDA/APHIS/BRS;</p> <p>3</p> <p> DR. NEIL HOFFMAN</p> <p>4 Scientific Advisor, USDA/APHIS/BRS</p> <p>5 A G E N D A</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page</p> <p>6 Opening Remarks 4</p> <p>7 Public Comments 8</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p>	<p>1 non-regulated status for herbicide resistant,</p> <p>2 genetically engineered plant. The draft EIS</p> <p>3 focuses on one petition for corn and two petitions</p> <p>4 for soybean that are resistant to the herbicide 2,</p> <p>5 4-D as well as other herbicides.</p> <p>6 For more information on these plants, go</p> <p>7 to www.aphis.usda.gov/aphisvirtualmeeting. This</p> <p>8 site contains background information and also</p> <p>9 links to other documents and websites.</p> <p>10 In the past, we've traveled around the</p> <p>11 country to conduct meetings for interested parties</p> <p>12 and make public comments in our various regulatory</p> <p>13 actions. Today we're holding this online virtual</p> <p>14 public meeting to allow more people the</p> <p>15 opportunity to comment.</p> <p>16 DR. HOFFMAN: We will be taking only</p> <p>17 spoken comments today. If you prefer to make a</p> <p>18 written comment instead of a spoken one, you can</p> <p>19 do so by going to www.regulations.gov through</p> <p>20 February 24th. Enter in the search docs the</p> <p>21 docket number aphis-2013-0042. This will take you</p> <p>22 to the pages where you can make your comment.</p>
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<p>1 P R O C E E D I N G S</p> <p>2 (5:00 p.m.)</p> <p>3 MR. GEORGE: Good afternoon. My name is</p> <p>4 Dick George. I'm the Communications Branch Chief</p> <p>5 at Biotechnology Regulatory Services or BRS, part</p> <p>6 of APHIS, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection</p> <p>7 Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of</p> <p>8 Agriculture.</p> <p>9 Joining me is Dr. Neil Hoffman,</p> <p>10 Scientific Advisor in the BRS Office of the Deputy</p> <p>11 Administrator.</p> <p>12 DR. HOFFMAN: We welcome you to this</p> <p>13 virtual meeting being held to receive public</p> <p>14 comments on corn and soybean genetically</p> <p>15 engineered to be resistant to the herbicide 2, 4-D</p> <p>16 and other herbicides.</p> <p>17 We value your input and are pleased that</p> <p>18 you joined us today, either to make a public</p> <p>19 comment or listen to the comments of others.</p> <p>20 MR. GEORGE: The purpose of this meeting</p> <p>21 is to solicit your comments on a draft</p> <p>22 environmental impact statement for petitions of</p>	<p>1 The public comment period ends on</p> <p>2 February 24th. You can go to regulations.gov any</p> <p>3 time up until that date to leave a written public</p> <p>4 comment or you can make a spoken comment here at</p> <p>5 our meeting, which will go until 8:00 p.m. EST.</p> <p>6 Whether spoken or written, your comment will</p> <p>7 become part of the public record.</p> <p>8 A transcript of your spoken comments</p> <p>9 will be posted to the website in the next three</p> <p>10 weeks.</p> <p>11 Today we are here to receive your input</p> <p>12 only, not to answer questions about the draft EIS.</p> <p>13 For background information please go to</p> <p>14 www.aphis.usda.gov/aphisvirtualmeeting.</p> <p>15 MR. GEORGE: If you would like to make a</p> <p>16 public comment today, on your telephone keypad</p> <p>17 please press one and then zero. The operator will</p> <p>18 then respond to you and let you know when it's</p> <p>19 your turn to speak.</p> <p>20 We ask that you keep your comments to</p> <p>21 three minutes or less. We also ask that when it's</p> <p>22 your turn to speak, to identify yourself and</p>

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<p>1 please say and spell your name so that our court 2 reporter has a good chance of spelling it 3 correctly in the transcript. 4 Written transcripts of this meeting will 5 be available within three weeks at that same 6 website address, www.aphis.usda.gov/ 7 aphisvirtualmeeting. 8 DR. HOFFMAN: The statements received 9 during this public comment period, whether spoken 10 today or submitting in writing to regulations.gov, 11 will be considered in the development of the final 12 Environmental Impact Statement associated with 13 petitions for non-regulated status from Dow 14 AgroSciences LLC, for one corn and two soybean 15 events genetically engineered to be resistant to 16 various herbicides, including 2, 4-D. 17 After the final EIS is published, there 18 will be a decision on the regulatory status of the 19 petition. We welcome your comments today because 20 they will help us ensure that relevant issues are 21 considered as we prepare the final Environmental 22 Impact Statement.</p>	<p>1 years old was to kill weeds. I have sprayed 2 chemicals all of my life, you could say, I have 3 watched palmeri amaranthus or palmer pig weed, as 4 the farmers call it, literally cause farmers to 5 lose total field of soybeans. 6 The story I like to tell is when I was 7 14, I liked to go to go to the lake during the 8 weekends and almost always a flush of pig weed 9 would make me miss the trip because my father made 10 me stay home and spray. 11 If these weeds were not sprayed on 12 Friday, by the time Monday rolled around, they 13 would be too big to kill using the herbicides that 14 I had back in the late '70s and early '80s. 15 Blazer was typically all I had. 16 Weeds had to be sprayed when they were 17 small to achieve an effective kill. Then the 18 miracle product came to the market, Round Up or 19 glyphosate was introduced along with Round Up 20 Ready Soybean. Timing back then was not as 21 critical. Round Up made bad farmers good ones. My 22 family was much into conservation. We produced</p>
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<p>1 MR. GEORGE: If you'd like to make a 2 public comment today, on your telephone keypad, 3 please press one and then zero. The operator will 4 then respond and let you know when it's your turn 5 to speak. 6 With that, we're ready to hear from our 7 first commenter, and I see that we have three in 8 the queue to comment. So, the first comment, if 9 you would, please, say your name, spell your name, 10 and then go ahead with your comment. 11 MR. YOUNG: My name is Tommy Young. I 12 am a grain producer in Northeast Arkansas, located 13 in the small town of Tuckerman. I currently serve 14 in the Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion 15 Board as well as many other boards and farm 16 related associations. 17 I am a member of a family farm that 18 actively cares for over 6,700 acres of rye, corn, 19 wheat, and soybeans. I have been active on that 20 farm since I was in the third grade. I am 50- 21 years-old now. 22 My key responsibility since I was 14</p>	<p>1 over 2,000 acres of wheat every year. We began no 2 tilling on rebel crop soybeans into the wheat 3 straw and was spraying Round Up over the straw for 4 the initial burn down, and then following the 5 sequential spraying we could have a clean crop of 6 soybeans and never work the soil. 7 The straw held moisture in the soil and 8 also naturally helped prevent weeds and grass from 9 growing. We used rotation to further aid in our 10 wheat control scenario. We rotated every year 11 with corn, fall-winter wheat, then double crop 12 soybeans followed by corn. We were lucky in the 13 fact that weed resistance on our farm was held at 14 bay, I believe, because of the rotation practices 15 and the use of conventional chemicals on the 16 alternate crops, which aided in the non-resistance 17 of certain weeds. 18 However, resistance finally reared its 19 ugly head in the summer of 2009. We first noticed 20 it in our center pivot corners, which did not 21 receive the rotation like the irrigated portions 22 of that field had, the non-rotation and lack of</p>

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10	<p>1 good canopy caused the pig weed to find a home and 2 become resistant to glyphosate treatment. We saw 3 this resistance spread into the main parts of the 4 field in 2010 and by 2011 we knew our good years 5 of weed control with glyphosate was over. I can 6 tell you that palmeri amaranthus will literally 7 break some farmers. Everyone does not have the 8 rotational tillage practices to overcome this 9 powerful weed. 10 My family has incorporated an approach 11 of using residual herbicides as well as using old 12 conventional herbicides, some of which I used back 13 when I was 14 to combat this beast. 14 In short, if our nation's farmers are 15 expected to feed a growing world population, 16 especially with China's population expected to be 17 double by the year 2050, we must have new 18 technology. I have seen the Enlist program with 19 Colex-D technology. This product would be a 20 godsend to my area. This product would allow us 21 to control our resistant pigweed and other weeds 22 such as giant Mare's Tail. This product, which</p>	12
11	<p>1 would cause farmers to plant 2, 4-D resistant 2 soybean, would open up a new door in my area 3 again. 4 I live in the heart of rye country; 2, 5 4-D is the best chemical bar none for controlling 6 stubborn weeds in rye. We cannot spray it due to 7 the fact it usually harms neighboring soybean 8 fields. The Enlist Program would eliminate this 9 problem. A farmer could literally spray both rye 10 and soybean fields side-by-side without fear. 11 In conclusion, farmers, contrary to 12 popular belief, are the best stewards of nature 13 and conservation we have on earth. The simple 14 fact is that economics dictate a lot of what we 15 can and cannot use on our crops. Farmers try to 16 use as little as possible for monetary reasons. 17 We also try to conserve our groundwater because we 18 need to sustain our crops (inaudible) how much 19 we can spend on irrigation. 20 We also do not want to till the soil any 21 more than is absolutely necessary. All of the 22 above are in jeopardy in my area unless a new</p>	13

1 product such as Enlist is not introduced.
 2 We will be forced to use more and more
 3 conventional chemicals in larger quantities to
 4 kill resistant weed. We'll be forced to go back
 5 50 years in technology and start working the soil,
 6 killing it and use these tactics to kill resistant
 7 weeds. We will see our ground water and surface
 8 water suffer because of these old tillage
 9 practices and we will see farmers use more energy
 10 to try and get all this done.
 11 I am a farmer who is concerned with this
 12 problem enough that it literally makes me wonder
 13 if I should get out now.
 14 Please fast track the process of
 15 approving the Enlist Program and make it available
 16 to us farmers as soon as possible. Thank you.
 17 And once again, I am Tommy Young. I am a farmer
 18 in Jackson County, Arkansas and I would appreciate
 19 your consideration on this matter.
 20 MR. GEORGE: Thank you very much for
 21 that comment. We appreciate that.
 22 We are ready to go to our next caller.

1 OPERATOR: You have two questions
 2 remaining.
 3 MR. DAVIS: Hello, yes. My name is John
 4 Davis. I'm from Central Ohio. I farm on a family
 5 farm with my mother and father, my wife and my two
 6 young sons.
 7 First of all, I want to thank you all
 8 for your efforts in regards to the quick response
 9 on the draft Environmental Impact Study for the
 10 Enlist technology. I also want to thank many of
 11 you for the opportunity to meet you in Washington,
 12 DC. I've been there three or four times and met
 13 with many of you multiple times and some of your
 14 colleagues. You have all made time to listen and,
 15 I believe, truly understand our situation that we,
 16 as producers, are facing in regards to the
 17 herbicide resistant weed.
 18 I do want you also to know that I listen
 19 and can appreciate and understand the complexity
 20 of the process in which you are working through.
 21 The milestone of the DEIS is a great
 22 one, however, I know we are just beginning and

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14	<p>1 need to keep our foot on the throttle to get this 2 innovative technology approved. 3 I am really working hard here at home to 4 try and develop the best herbicide management plan 5 for 2014 spring planting and believe it's 6 important for you to understand that at this time 7 last year, I was anticipating the ability to use 8 this new technology. I am now a year later and 9 have made some adjustments in rotation and product 10 I will be trying to combat these weeds. 11 I think the most important point that I 12 want to express to you is I have not moved 13 backward yet toward more tillage and mechanical 14 methods. This would be a tragedy in my geography. 15 I have worked for 20-plus years using no till and 16 other conservation methods to help maintain good 17 soil structure and most of all water quality. 18 Please don't create a situation where many of us 19 in crop production would need to depend more on 20 tillage than technology. This would greatly 21 undermine many of the management and conservation 22 practices as well as programs that we have used to</p>	16
15	<p>1 benefit the environment. 2 Time is coming near, in my area, where 3 drastic measures may have to occur to manage these 4 weeds. I do appreciate the rigorous review of 5 this new technology in a timely manner, but 6 frankly it is a first step in a long road ahead 7 and the rate needs to increase. 8 We need these tools in our toolbox to 9 reach our end goal as well as yours, a safe, 10 affordable food source for all that sustains my 11 land and farm for my sons and sustains U.S. 12 agriculture as the most efficient 13 producers in the world. 14 Let's keep the ball rolling on this new 15 technology and reach this goal together. We need 16 this technology for corn and soybeans in time to 17 plant for 2015. Once again, I'm John Davis from 18 Delaware, Ohio. Thank you. 19 MR. GEORGE: John, thanks so much for 20 your comment. And I see we have another caller in 21 the queue. Please go ahead with your comment. 22</p>	17
14	<p>1 MR. NARE: Hi, I guess I'm up. This is 2 George Nare (phonetic). I'm a farmer in Iowa. 3 I've been a farmer 37 years, always corn and 4 soybeans. And I would like to say that I hope 5 that USDA does not pass the release of this new 6 Enlist technology. 7 The resistance we've got now in weeds is 8 a result of bad policy and the shortsighted 9 farming practices that have led to giant farms and 10 will lead, eventually, to farming without farmers. 11 I mean, if you make weed control so easy that all 12 you've got to do is call out the local elevator 13 and have them spray thousands of acres for you, it 14 isn't long before farmers will compete against 15 each other to the point where we really won't need 16 farmers anymore and corporations can do the 17 farming for us. 18 This summer I needed 2,4-D to kill 19 waterhemp in my corn because of the really wet 20 season I had for planting and I wasn't able to get 21 in and spray my normal post-emergence herbicide on 22 my corn, so the weeds got too big and I had to</p>	16
15	<p>1 depend on a high clearance sprayer to spray 2,4-D. 2 Now, if you bring out this Enlist 3 technology, it won't be long before weeds become 4 resistant to 2,4-D and that means that option will 5 not be available. In other words, I will have new 6 weeds that I can't kill even if I didn't use 7 Enlist technology. 8 Another thing is, if my soybeans that I 9 plant aren't Enlist technology soybeans, then the 10 drift from my neighbors is going to be detrimental 11 to my soybeans. It'll either kill my soybeans or 12 cut my yields. And I have to ask the question, do 13 we really need more chemicals in the air for us to 14 inhale and endanger our health? I don't think so. 15 I think we'd better start looking at 16 long range solutions, putting the family farmer 17 first instead of just being able to raise more and 18 more cheap commodities for the big corporations 19 that are not interested in the family farmer's 20 livelihoods at all and will transport this 21 technology all over the world so that they can 22 raise corn and soybeans all over the world to keep</p>	17

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18	<p>1 the price of corn and soybeans cheap just as they 2 have done with Round Up Ready technology. 3 So, I would encourage USDA to take off 4 the blinders, get real, and start supporting 5 family farmers instead of the big chemical 6 companies. Thank you. 7 MR. GEORGE: Thanks very much for your 8 comment. We have another caller in the queue. 9 I'll reminder commenters to please say and spell 10 your name so that our court reporter has a chance 11 of spelling it correctly in the transcript. And 12 our next commenter, please go ahead. 13 OPERATOR: You have three questions 14 remaining. 15 MS. REED: Good afternoon, my name is 16 Genna, G-E-N-N-A, Reed, R-E-E-D, and I'm here 17 representing Food and Water Watch, which is a 18 nonprofit consumer advocacy group that supports 19 safe, accessible, and affordable food for 20 consumers and fair access to markets for farmers. 21 Food and Water Watch has commented on 22 the environmental assessment for Dow's Enlist 2,4-</p>	20
19	<p>1 D corn and soybeans as well as the notice of 2 intent to prepare an Environmental Impact 3 Statement. At each of these junctures, we've 4 brought up numerous concerns about the impact of 5 2, 4-D intolerant crops and the increased use of 6 2,4-D on agriculture, the environment, and human 7 health. 8 We are incredibly disappointed to see 9 that the USDA has disregarded these concerns, 10 blaming much of their inability to assess the full 11 range of impacts of these crops on the scope of 12 their authority under the Planned Protection Act. 13 It's true that a plant-pest risk 14 assessment is simply inadequate to look at the 15 risks associated with these novel crops. Yet, 16 instead of finalizing PPA rules that would be 17 better suited to handle the risks of GE crops, the 18 USDA has approved variety after variety that will 19 create new risks in agriculture and the 20 marketplace and impose new costs on farmers and 21 the environment. 22 In the draft EIS, the USDA makes it</p>	21
18	<p>1 sound as if the no-action alternative would be 2 worse than the status quo for agriculture. In the 3 executive summary, the USDA describes the 4 potential negative impacts of "more aggressive 5 tillage practices" that will have to be adopted to 6 manage glyphosate and other herbicide intolerant 7 weeds. 8 First, this could all be dealt with 9 through alternatives to chemical weed management, 10 like more diverse cropping systems, but also any 11 weed control benefits of the Enlist corn and 12 soybean crops will be negated because, just as 13 glyphosate resistant weeds have evolved in fields 14 treated with glyphosate year after year, 2,4-D 15 resistant weeds will arise in the same manner. 16 Like the EIS states, "The eventual 17 occurrence of weeds resistant to glyphosate, 2,4- 18 D, and glufosinate will, over time, limit the use 19 of Enlist crops and any benefit to natural 20 resources that may arise." The USDA goes on to 21 say that, "The magnitude of the benefit or the 22 loss of the benefit is uncertain."</p>	20
19	<p>1 It is hard to understand why a product 2 with uncertain and probably zero benefit to 3 agriculture and the environment in the long run 4 would be approved when the costs are certain and 5 dramatic, so dramatic, in fact, that the USDA's 6 preferred alternative of deregulating three 7 varieties of 2,4-D tolerant corn and soybeans, if 8 selected, coexistence as we know it in agriculture 9 will be unfeasible. 10 Already, specialty crop farmers have 11 been exposed to pesticide drift of glyphosate and 12 2,4-D from neighboring fields, which has affected 13 plant health and the livelihoods of the impacted 14 farmers who have born the financial burden for the 15 lost value of their crops. 16 Although Dow and the USDA claim that the 17 new formulation of 2,4-D will be less volatile 18 making drift less of an issue, there are no 19 enforcement mechanisms that have been put in place 20 by Dow, the USDA, or the EPA, that will ensure 21 that farmers are using the specific formulation. 22 It is very likely that instead farmers</p>	21

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22	<p>1 will continue to use the cheaper, highly volatile, 2 2,4-D variation in a new wave. The draft of EIS 3 mentions that 2,4-D can now be used for post- 4 emergent control on 2,4-D tolerant soybeans, which 5 has never been possible before. This will mean 6 more applications on more acres of a particularly 7 dangerous herbicide that we should be working to 8 scale down, rather than ramp up. 9 Next, more applications of 2,4-D and 10 glyphosate will negatively impact the environment 11 as well as agriculture. The EIS clearly states 12 that, "Biodiversity could decrease relative to the 13 no-action alternative." 14 Additionally, once these crops are 15 approved and weeds develop resistance to the 16 combination of glyphosate and 2,4-D, farmers will 17 face significant costs due to reduced yields and 18 increased production expenses to combat weed 19 infestation. These costs can range from \$12 to 20 \$50 an acre or as much as \$12,000 for an average 21 sized corn or soybean farm. 22 U.S. farmers have found herbicide-</p>	24	<p>1 herbicide-resistant weeds indefinitely. 2 Thank you for your consideration of this 3 comment. 4 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Genna. We have 5 a couple more callers in the queue. If the next 6 caller would please go ahead and please be sure to 7 give us your name and spell your name, please. 8 OPERATOR: You have three questions 9 remaining. 10 MS. BYRUM: Hello. This is Dianne Byrum 11 and I would like to submit comments on behalf of 12 the Michigan AgriBusiness Association. 13 I am writing on behalf of the Michigan 14 AgriBusiness Association, a 450-member trade 15 organization representing crop production input 16 manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of feed 17 and grain handlers and renewable fuel producers in 18 Michigan. 19 Our organization strongly supports the 20 approval of Dow AgriScience's Enlist 2,4-D 21 tolerant corn and soybeans and the Enlist Weed 22 Control System. At a time when meeting the demand</p>
23	<p>1 resistant weeds in their fields, they've changed 2 farming methods to control them resulting in high 3 weed control costs and even a return to tillage 4 and hand hoeing. 5 And finally, there's of course the human 6 health cost of farmers, farm workers, and 7 consumers who are exposed to residues of more 2,4- 8 D on their food. The effects of 2,4-D and dicamba 9 on human health, including a link with Non- 10 Hodgkin's Lymphoma, are well documented and 11 continued use of herbicides--of this herbicide in 12 agriculture will endanger agricultural workers and 13 the general public. 14 The bottom line is that USDA must not 15 approve any herbicide tolerant crops, including 16 Dow's Enlist corn and soybeans, until the Plant 17 Protection Act rules are revised to adequately 18 cover the risks of genetically engineered crops. 19 Until then, the USDA should focus its attention on 20 the proliferation of non-chemical weed control 21 methods because if we continue down this path of 22 high input agriculture, we will be fighting</p>	25	<p>1 for more food to feed a growing population, 2 production losses to weeds are unacceptable. 3 Growers are searching for solutions, which will 4 continue to support their efficient and 5 environmentally conscious production practices. 6 The Enlist Weed Control Strategy of 7 genetic material, Enlist 2,4-D tolerant soybeans 8 and corn, and the new 2,4-D product, represent new 9 technologies in the Enlist Weed Control System 10 that will especially help farmers in their efforts 11 to control tough new weeds. 12 Weed control is one of the greatest 13 challenges agriculture faces every year. Weeds 14 crowd the seedlings soon after emergence, 15 threatening yield potential. In addition, each 16 weed can produce tens of thousands of seeds that 17 threaten subsequent crops in neighboring fields. 18 Historically, effective weed management takes 19 considerable time and expense. Multiple 20 applications of a wide variety of herbicides to 21 control a wide variety of weeds and grasses have 22 had varying degrees of success.</p>

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26	<p>1 Multiple applications of herbicide and 2 narrow windows of timing make it very difficult to 3 manage weed pressures with conventional tools. 4 In addition, existing chemicals used for 5 weed control can damage plants and reduce the crop 6 yield. Again, on behalf of the Michigan 7 AgriBusiness Association, we strongly support the 8 full deregulation of Dow AgroSciences Enlist 2,4-D 9 tolerant corn and soybeans. 10 We appreciate your consideration. Thank 11 you. 12 MR. GEORGE: Thank you for your comment. 13 We have another caller in the queue. If you 14 would, say and spell your name and go ahead with 15 your comment, please. 16 OPERATOR: You have two questions 17 remaining. 18 MR. ZELHART: My name is Dale Zelhart. 19 I work for Plunk Brothers in Mansfield, Illinois. 20 We grow 3,000 acres of seed corn and conventional 21 corn as well as 3,000 acres of seed beans and 22 conventional beans.</p>	28
27	<p>1 I have been involved in ag my entire 2 life. I grew up on a farm 60 miles south of 3 Chicago. I have a business degree and economics 4 degree from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, 5 Indiana. 6 Before I started working for Plunk 7 Brothers in 2003, I was a plant manager at a 8 retail fertilizer plant for 12 years. I have been 9 involved in the crop protection business for 22 10 years. We have been using Round Up Ready Tech 11 since it was first introduced in 1996 with great 12 success until the past three to four years. 13 The past few years, weeds like waterhemp 14 and Mare's Tail have become increasingly harder to 15 control and in some instances, we have not been 16 able to control them at all. 17 We do not yet have a catastrophe, but if 18 we do not get some new technology to help control 19 these weeds, it's just a matter of time before 20 things will get beyond our control. We need the 21 new Enlist technology as soon as possible to help 22 control these and many other weeds that have not</p>	29

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30	<p>1 In closing, I feel very strongly that</p> <p>2 all the issues that have been raised concerning</p> <p>3 Enlist are being dealt with by Dow's Stewardship</p> <p>4 Plan and producers across the country will work</p> <p>5 together to meet these concerns because all</p> <p>6 producer's livelihood is at stake.</p> <p>7 If there's one thing that is for sure,</p> <p>8 resistance weeds do not discriminate. They will</p> <p>9 show up on any far no matter what type it is.</p> <p>10 My name is Dale Zelhart. I thank you</p> <p>11 for listening.</p> <p>12 MR. GEORGE: Dale, thank you so much for</p> <p>13 your comment. We have another caller in the</p> <p>14 queue, if the next caller would please go ahead</p> <p>15 with your comment.</p> <p>16 OPERATOR: You have three questions</p> <p>17 remaining.</p> <p>18 MS. CAUTHEN: My name is Leigha Cauthen</p> <p>19 with the Alabama AgriBusiness Council.</p> <p>20 On behalf of the members of the Alabama</p> <p>21 AgriBusiness Council, I would like to thank you</p> <p>22 for the opportunity to comment on the deregulation</p>	32
31	<p>1 of Dow AgroScience's Enlist crops.</p> <p>2 We appreciate that the USDA has kept</p> <p>3 this process moving forward. The Alabama</p> <p>4 AgriBusiness Council supports farmers having a</p> <p>5 choice to use safe and valuable agriculture</p> <p>6 technologies that increase yields and</p> <p>7 profitability. As the global demand for food</p> <p>8 increases, we must support the necessary</p> <p>9 technologies to remain sustainable, profitable,</p> <p>10 and globally competitive.</p> <p>11 Enlist crops will help farmers manage</p> <p>12 glyphosate-resistant weeds without having to</p> <p>13 return to aggressive tillage practices, which</p> <p>14 would adversely impact soil, air, and water</p> <p>15 quality. 2,4-D is a widely used herbicide with an</p> <p>16 extensive history of safe and effective use, and</p> <p>17 the new herbicide formulation has been used on</p> <p>18 Enlist crops and is significantly less volatile</p> <p>19 than current forms of 2,4-D.</p> <p>20 I would like to express my strong</p> <p>21 support for the deregulation of Enlist 2,4-D on</p> <p>22 behalf of members of the Alabama AgriBusiness</p>	33

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34	<p>1 technologies in place and then we are wasting fuel 2 and we're also wasting our resources and that's 3 not in the benefit of anybody. 4 This is also important to us herein 5 Georgia because poultry production is our largest 6 individual commodity that's produced. Not only is 7 it the largest in Georgia, but Georgia's the 8 largest poultry producer in the nation, and as 9 you're probably aware, chickens like a lot of corn 10 and they like soybeans. So, this is a tremendous 11 benefit to us so that we can feed this very 12 important industry here in our state and also to 13 provide these resources not only across the U.S., 14 but all over the world as we are very proud of the 15 exports that we provide, not only in poultry, but 16 also beef, pork, and other products. 17 As we look to fuel the future of our own 18 agricultural growth, we look at a lot of different 19 varieties of opportunities and looking for 20 technology. Enlist provides the resources that we 21 need to do that. 22 We appreciate your consideration. We</p>	36	<p>1 shown in scientific literature and a higher 2 content of phytic acid, which can lead to growth 3 problems in children. 4 If this is the case, the GMO is not 5 substantially equivalent to the non-GMO parent, 6 and may present a health risk depending on the 7 levels found in testing in America. 8 Another concern is the metabolization of 9 2,4-D in GMO plants. There is very little work on 10 this topic as Dow does not want to release its own 11 data. The glyphosate tolerant plants, 28 percent, 12 60 percent of glyphosate sprayed on the plant is 13 metabolized by the bladder. The rate of 14 metabolization is similar in GM plants resistant 15 2, 4-D, this can be very hazardous to human 16 health. There is vast scientific literature 17 regarding its toxicity. 18 That's my comment. Thank you. 19 MR. GEORGE: Thank you for your comment. 20 We have another caller in the queue. If you would 21 go ahead and make your comment now, please? 22 OPERATOR: You have one question</p>
35	<p>1 appreciate USDA's action and we hope that you'll 2 consider our comments as you move forward on the 3 decision to deregulate all three of the Enlist 4 corn and soybean traits. Thank you very much. 5 Again Bryan Tolar, President of the Georgia 6 AgriBusiness Council. 7 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Bryan. We have 8 another caller in the queue, if you would please 9 go ahead and make your comment please. 10 OPERATOR: You have one question 11 remaining. 12 MR. RAWLING: My name Henry Rawling 13 (phonetic), I'm representing Sustainable Path, a 14 global organization to sustainable agriculture. 15 I was wondering if the USDA was aware of 16 Dr. Leonardo Melgarejo. He's a doctor for CTNBio 17 in Brazil. He's a doctor in agronomy and an 18 official of the Ministry of Rural Development. 19 He has recently done a report on these 20 three traits of soy and corn and regarding what 21 these traits actually contain, and he has found 22 that they contain less vitamin E, the minimum</p>	37	<p>1 remaining. 2 MR. PODOLL: Good afternoon, everybody. 3 This is David Podoll. I have been a farmer in 4 southeastern North Dakota for 40 years. We raise 5 specialty crops, triticale, hairy vetch, 6 buckwheat, proso millet, a variety of vegetable 7 seeds from corns to tomatoes, onions, squash, 8 pumpkins, melons, many of which we developed on 9 our farm from our own breeding program. 10 We had an incident of drift on our farm 11 this last season from a combination of 2,4-D and 12 glyphosate that cost us \$180,000 worth of damage 13 and we don't consider that we will be able to 14 survive if Enlist is allowed to be sold and used. 15 We consider it a very serious thing for our 16 operation and we consider many horticultural crops 17 unable to exist in our area as a viable cropping. 18 So, thanks for your consideration. 19 MR. GEORGE: Thanks, David, for your 20 comment. Let me remind folks if you're listening, 21 if you want to make a comment press one then zero 22 on your telephone keypad and we'll know that you</p>

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38	<p>1 want to make a comment and the operator will come 2 on and let you know. 3 At the moment we have no other callers 4 in the queue. I'm going to take a little pause 5 here and if someone would like to make a comment, 6 again, press one then zero on your telephone 7 keypad and we'll come right back on. In the 8 meantime, we're going to take a little pause and 9 if someone wants to make a comment, we'll be back. 10 In any case, we'll be back every few minutes just 11 to check in and we encourage folks to make 12 comments if they care to. 13 So, we're going to take a little pause 14 at this time. 15 (Pause.) 16 MR. GEORGE: I understand we have 17 caller. So, caller, please go ahead with your 18 comment. 19 OPERATOR: You have one question 20 remaining. 21 MR. SOLOMON: My name is Phillip 22 Solomon. I'm a weed scientist at Kansas State</p>	40
39	<p>1 University and in recent years I've been working 2 almost exclusively with glyphosate-resistant 3 weeds. They are threatening agriculture as we 4 know it at the present time and therefore I 5 believe that Enlist crops are needed as an 6 additional tool to help growers manage the 7 increasing abundance of glyphosate-resistant weeds 8 and to help reduce the need for tillage. 9 In the area that I work, tillage is a 10 serious threat to sustainability of farms in the 11 dryer regions and I think that tillage is actually 12 a threat--will threaten the conservation gains 13 that have been achieved over the past couple of 14 decades. 15 Now, 2,4-D, you would know, is one of 16 the oldest of the modern day herbicides and has 17 been used extensively for more than 60 years with 18 very few examples of evolved resistance to 2,4-D 19 in weed species, and I believe when used properly, 20 there is considerable safety in its use. 21 Now, one concern we have often heard 22 about 2,4-D is the concern of volatility and</p>	41

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42	<p>1 We've used 2,4-D on our farm for many, 2 many years safely. We've used it around the 3 country and around the world safely and I just 4 think it's been a really great help to have the 5 ability to use 2,4-D. It will be an even much 6 better help to help us to address weed resistance 7 problems that we have with glyphosate, not only in 8 Iowa, in my part of Iowa, but around the country. 9 So, I think it's going to be a really 10 important tool for soybean farmers and corn 11 farmers in the United States to be able to use 12 these new products so we can continue using the 13 no-till and the conservation tillage that we've 14 been able to use to avoid the erosion problems, 15 the soil health problems with massive tilling that 16 we have used if we use some of our old products 17 that we used 30 or 40 years ago. 18 I'd really like to speak in favor of 19 this and also remind you and everyone that the new 20 formulation of 2,4-D is the Colex-D formulation 21 that Dow would like to use, is even less volatile 22 than the formulations that we have a long history</p>	44	<p>1 take a short pause at this time. Thanks. 2 (Break.) 3 MR. GEORGE: And we're back. We still 4 have no callers in the queue, however, I'd just 5 like to remind folks who may be listening, if 6 you'd like to make a comment, please press one 7 then zero on your telephone keypad and we will get 8 you on and you can make your comment as quickly as 9 possible. 10 Do we have one? We do have one, so 11 caller, if you could go ahead with your comment, 12 please. 13 OPERATOR: You have one question 14 remaining. 15 MR. COWAN: Yes, this is Wade Cowan 16 (phonetic). I'm a producer from West Texas. My 17 family's been farming and ranching in Texas since 18 before it was a state. We have farmed on the high 19 plains of Texas for over 100 years and we are 20 really seeing an increase, in the last 20 years 21 with the improved genetics of crops, and the 22 existence of the Round Up Ready trait has really</p>
43	<p>1 of using. So, I highly would encourage you to 2 deregulate that, let us as farmers in the United 3 States use these new tools to keep our soil in 4 place to maintain our conservation practices and 5 feed everyone. Thank you. 6 MR. GEORGE: Great. Thanks for your 7 comment. 8 OPERATOR: You have zero questions 9 remaining. 10 MR. GEORGE: We have no commenters in 11 the queue at the moment. I will mention once 12 again, if you'd like to comment, please press one 13 then zero on your telephone keypad and we'll see 14 that and we'll give you your opportunity to speak 15 right away. 16 However, seeing none at the moment, 17 we're going to take a short pause. You'll hear 18 some music. We'll be coming back on every few 19 minutes. In the meantime, if you should hit one 20 and 0, we'll come back very quickly to receive 21 your comment. 22 So, having said that, we're going to</p>	45	<p>1 helped us. 2 And on the high plains of Texas, we 3 exist in an area of extremes and the use of crop 4 rotation has allowed us to reduce tillage and now 5 what we really need is some more effective 6 chemical rotation, that's why I'm in support of 7 the Dow Enlist program and using 2,4-D as well as 8 glyphosate. I believe in our area that it will 9 actually reduce the amount of chemicals that we 10 put on each crop because we will be able to 11 effectively use the two different modes of action 12 throughout the different planting cycles and the 13 different crops we'd use. 14 One thing that we found in our area is 15 that the 2,4-D mode of action works much better in 16 drought conditions as we've had the last few years 17 out here. Round Up seems to be very good on a 18 plant that's actively growing and doing well, but 19 it does not do so well when the plant is stressed 20 and 2,4-D does very well in both conditions 21 because when the plant is stressed, it seems to do 22 very well at killing those short-term crops.</p>

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46	<p>1 I'd also like to answer some of the 2 questions that have been raised about coexistence 3 in that we raise crops in an area that has quite a 4 lot of--a number of acres of grapes, which are a 5 highly sensitive crop to 2,4-D. We've been able 6 to coexist with those crops with very strict 7 stewardship practices and Dow's program of helping 8 work with the farmers and making even more 9 stewardship practices that will be more effective 10 even than what we already have, will be very 11 effective. So, I really would encourage USDA to 12 deregulate the Dow Enlist program and thank you 13 for allowing me to have these comments. 14 MR. GEORGE: Thank you for your comment. 15 A reminder. If you'd like to make a comment, 16 press one then 0-- 17 OPERATOR: You have zero questions 18 remaining. 19 MR. GEORGE: --on your telephone 20 keypad, one then 0, and we'll know that you'd like 21 to make a comment. Being that we have none at the 22 moment, we're going to take another pause, you'll</p>	48	<p>1 So far, we've been successful in trying 2 to battle those weeds, but I think this new 3 technology would really give me the ability to use 4 multiple modes of action that I don't have today 5 and maybe to even prevent glyphosate-resistant 6 weeds from showing up on my farm at all. 7 I have adopted the use of no-till over 8 the last few years by the use of using Round Up 9 Ready technology and I just think this complements 10 that. If I do get resistant weeds then I may be 11 forced to continue with--to go back to using 12 conventional tillage, which would cost a lot of 13 time and fuel and labor that would make me not 14 very competitive. 15 So, I think it really offers some 16 benefits in that way too. 17 I have used 2,4-D on my farm for quite a 18 few years and never had any incidents or problems 19 with applying it and I understand that the new 20 technology, the new formulation, will really be 21 even a lower volatility and probably prevent the-- 22 maybe offsite movement that might would damage</p>
47	<p>1 hear some music, and we'll come back every few 2 minutes just to check in and see if anyone would 3 like to make a comment. 4 In the meantime, anyone hitting one then 5 0, we shall see that and we'll be right back to 6 take that. So, having said that, we'll take a 7 short pause. Thanks. 8 (Break.) 9 MR. GEORGE: And we have a commenter 10 ready to comment. Caller, if you would go ahead 11 with your comment, please. 12 OPERATOR: You have one question 13 remaining. 14 MR. MURPHY: Hi. This is Danny Murphy. 15 I'm a soybean and corn farmer from Mississippi and 16 I think Mississippi farmers want and need this 17 2,4- D technology to deal with our glyphosate weed 18 resistance we have all over the state. 19 Presently, on my farm, I don't have 20 resistant pig weeds, but I'm always afraid that 21 they're going to show up just every time I spray 22 or every new crop year.</p>	49	<p>1 other crops. 2 And as I've reviewed the literature on 3 this and looked at the stewardship requirements, 4 you know, I'm already using the nozzle technology 5 that's been recommended and I can understand and I 6 see the techniques that are going to be required 7 to apply it safely and that, to me, you know, it's 8 not a lot new. I think farmers are doing that 9 with the new sprayers we have today, we understand 10 how to use those and make sure that we don't get 11 that offsite movement. 12 I want to thank USDA and APHIS for 13 completing the draft EIS. I hope that this 14 technology will soon be available, that you can 15 complete this regulatory process in the near 16 future and allow us to move this technology as we 17 move forward. We need it to be competitive in the 18 future. So, thank you. 19 MR. GEORGE: Thank you for your comment, 20 Danny. If I could ask you to please spell your 21 name for us, please. 22 MR. MURPHY: D-A-N-N-Y M-U-R-P-H-Y.</p>

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50	<p>1 MR. GEORGE: Great. Thank you so much. 2 And I see we have another commenter on the line. 3 If the next caller could please go ahead with your 4 comment. 5 OPERATOR: You have one question 6 remaining. 7 MR. STUEVER: This is Jim Stuever in 8 Dexter, Missouri. 9 MR. GEORGE: Go ahead. 10 MR. STUEVER: Okay. I wanted to comment 11 that I think the Enlist system will be very good 12 addition to my weed control program. I currently 13 farm southeast Missouri with corn, soybeans, and 14 cotton. I have resistant pig weed at the present 15 time, need another tool in my toolbox to be able 16 to effectively control these weeds without any 17 adverse effect on the environment and without 18 having to change my tillage practices. I have 19 minimum till to minimize erosion and improve my 20 water quality. 21 I am familiar with 2,4-D for the fact 22 that I've farmed for nearly 40 years and have used</p>	52	<p>1 MR. GEORGE: We have no callers in our 2 queue at the moment. I'll remind folks who may be 3 listening if you'd like to make a comment to 4 please press one then zero on your telephone 5 keypad. I see that we have no one in the queue at 6 the moment. We'll take another pause. We'll be 7 coming back every few minutes. However, if you'd 8 like to make a comment, press one then zero and 9 we'll come back and pick up the comment as fast as 10 we can. 11 So, thanks so much, and we'll take a 12 short pause. Thank you. 13 (Break.) 14 MR. GEORGE: And we're back to invite 15 anyone listening in on the call, if you'd like to 16 make a comment, we invite you to do so. Please 17 press one then zero on your telephone keypad, and 18 we will get to comments as quickly as we can. And 19 we do have one commenter in the queue, so, Caller, 20 if you would go ahead, please. 21 OPERATOR: You have one question 22 remaining.</p>
51	<p>1 it in the past. The new Enlist 2,4-D choline will 2 be a very good addition to that because it will 3 address the volatility problem. I do understand 4 that it will require stewardship to be able to 5 effectively use it without damage to neighboring 6 crops, but it is not an impossible task to do with 7 today's modern technology and equipment that we 8 have available. 9 And presently, we already employ those 10 methods and I do believe that the program will be 11 a very good addition for many of the farmers in my 12 area and I look forward to being able to have that 13 made available to us. Thank you. 14 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Jim. Can I ask 15 you to spell your name for us, please? 16 MR. STUEVER: It's Jim Stuever, S-T-U-E- 17 V- 18 E-R. 19 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Jim. Thanks for 20 your comment. 21 OPERATOR: You have zero questions 22 remaining.</p>	53	<p>1 MR. ANDERSON: My name is Dan Anderson. 2 I'm a third-generation producer out of 3 northeastern Colorado, and I'd like to make a 4 statement about the Enlist technology. 5 MR. GEORGE: Sure, go ahead. And would 6 you spell your name, please? 7 MR. ANDERSON: Dan Anderson, D-A-N, A-N- 8 D- 9 E-R-S-O-N. 10 MR. GEORGE: Thank you. 11 MR. ANDERSON: As I said, I'm a third- 12 generation producer out of northeastern Colorado. 13 First off, I'd like to thank USDA for moving along 14 the Environmental Impact Statement and the draft 15 EIS in a very timely way. It's always nice to 16 know that USDA is working for us as producers and 17 basing all of your information and decisions on 18 sound science. And I'd like, of course, to urge 19 USDA to keep the review process moving forward 20 expediently and hopefully getting Enlist 21 technology available for us as producers in 2015 22 anyway.</p>

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54	<p>1 Challenges that we meet every day on the 2 farm are growing as far as resistance levels. Our 3 operation was actually involved in one of the test 4 plot sites for the Enlist corn technology last-- 5 in the summer of 2013, and I would say that both 6 the efficacy of the product and the safeness of 7 the product were very well received by this 8 operation, and it allows us another tool in our 9 toolbox to be able to go after some trouble weeds. 10 We in northeastern Colorado don't have 11 the problems that some other areas have right now, 12 but we'd like to keep this technology and other 13 technologies in the pipeline so that we can keep 14 fighting against having other resistance issues 15 and some of the things that are happening in other 16 parts of the country. 17 We in agriculture have been asked for a 18 long time to feed the world, and, you know, it's a 19 very rewarding job. And part of that feeding the 20 world comes with technology, and whether it's 21 equipment technology or seed technology, they're 22 both very important to us to be able to facilitate</p>	56	<p>1 (Break.) 2 MR. GEORGE: Hi, we're back. We're here 3 to take public comments on two petitions from Dow 4 for determinations for non-regulated status for a 5 corn and two soybeans that have been genetically 6 engineered to be resistant to 2, 4-D and other 7 herbicides. So we're here to take comments. If 8 you'd like to make a comment on the draft EIS for 9 those petitions, please press one then zero on 10 your telephone keypad. 11 We have no callers in the queue at the 12 moment. However, we invite you, if you're on the 13 line and would like to make a comment, to please 14 do so. Just hit one and zero, we'll see that, and 15 we'll come on to take your comment as quickly as 16 we can. 17 And having said that, we still have no 18 one in the queue, and so we'll break away once 19 again, and we'll be checking back in every few 20 minutes. Thanks so much. 21 (Break.) 22 MR. GEORGE: And we have a commenter on</p>
55	<p>1 our jobs as good producers and good stewards of 2 the land. 3 So I would encourage USDA to move 4 forward with the Enlist corn and soybean 5 deregulation, and hopefully by 2015 we can use the 6 technology. You know, I just wanted to come on 7 and voice my opinion in favor of things, and I 8 appreciate the opportunity to be able to do that. 9 MR. GEORGE: Thank you very much for 10 your comment. 11 MR. ANDERSON: You bet. 12 OPERATOR: You have zero questions. 13 MR. GEORGE: And we have no callers in 14 the queue at the moment, so once again I will 15 remind folks, if you want to comment, press one 16 then zero on your telephone keypad. And being 17 that there are none at the moment, we will take 18 another pause. We'll be back every few minutes. 19 In the meantime, if we see someone waiting to 20 speak, we'll come back and you speak that comment. 21 One then zero on your telephone keypad. We'll be 22 back in a few minutes. Thanks so much.</p>	57	<p>1 the phone. Caller, if you would go ahead with 2 your comment, please. 3 OPERATOR: You have one question 4 remaining. 5 MS. DARROW: Hi. My name is Roxanne 6 Darrow (phonic) and I'm an organic farmer in Los 7 Altos Hills, California. 8 MR. GEORGE: Welcome and go ahead with 9 your comment. 10 MS. DARROW: Thank you. I'm part of a 11 coalition of farmers and other groups that has 12 formed to express our opposition to Dow's new 2, 13 4- D resistant seeds. Sustainable weed management 14 is possible without dumping dangerous drift-prone 15 herbicides on our soil. And as a new organic 16 farmer, I'm facing many obstacles to enter this 17 profession. If the USDA approves Dow's 2, 4-D 18 seeds, then it will make it more difficult for me 19 to find land capable of achieving USDA organic 20 certification. 21 The USDA needs to break the cycle of 22 super weeds instead of exacerbating the problem by</p>

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58	<p>1 approving even more toxic methods that will create 2 new 2, 4-D resistant weed. 3 Please consider the economic and 4 biological damage these seeds will cause to 5 conventional and organic farmers. Thank you. 6 MR. GEORGE: Thank you for your comment. 7 MS. DARROW: Thanks. 8 OPERATOR: You have zero questions 9 remaining. 10 MR. GEORGE: And we have no other 11 callers in the queue. I would remind folks who 12 may choose to make a comment to press one then 13 zero on your telephone keypad, and we'll know that 14 you're ready to make a comment. Seeing, however, 15 that we have none at the moment, we will take a 16 break and be back in a few minutes. In the 17 meantime, hit one then 0, we'll see that, and 18 we'll break back in if someone has a comment. 19 So we'll take a brief pause. 20 (Break.) 21 MR. GEORGE: And we have a commenter on 22 the line in the queue, so, Commenter, if you would</p>	60
59	<p>1 remaining. 2 MS. PODOLL: Again, this is Theresa 3 Podoll. The name is spelled T-H-E-R-E-S-A, last 4 name is P-O-D-O-L-L. And I have a question 5 regarding the deregulation. Would Dow require the 6 use of its Enlist herbicide, or would farmers have 7 the option of using the more volatile formula of 8 2, 4-D, especially given that it's lower cost, and 9 so it creates a market incentive for them to 10 continue using it? So I would ask that question. 11 MR. GEORGE: Okay. I frankly don't know 12 the answer to that question, and we're not really 13 here to answer questions but to take comments. So 14 the fact that you've raised it, that will be on 15 the record and in the transcript and will be 16 considered in the development of the final EIS 17 petition. 18 MS. PODOLL: Okay, and I would make one 19 more comment, too, that even though Dow has 20 developed this less volatile formula, you know, I 21 live in--I'm surrounded by genetically modified 22 crops, and Roundup, we were told that Roundup was</p>	61

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62	<p>1 not supposed to drift either. Well, we've 2 experienced drift from Roundup. And so even 3 though there are idealized best practices for 4 preventing drift, there are no absolutes in farm 5 country and drift happens. And I know that from 6 experience. 7 And so, even though Enlist is supposed 8 to be a less volatile formula, that does not give 9 me much comfort, especially with the volume of 10 genetically modified crops that surround our small 11 organic farm. And if I am drifted upon, it is my- 12 - the onus of proving who drifted on me is in my 13 court, and it's--2, 4-D can travel much further 14 than Roundup can, and if you combine 2, 4-D and 15 Roundup, the combination of those two chemicals 16 creates more damage than either of those 17 herbicides alone. 18 So that is of great concern to me, and 19 if I have to spend my time litigating drift events 20 instead of farming my farm, that strips me of my 21 opportunity to farm. 22 MR. GEORGE: Okay. Thank you so much</p>	64	<p>1 And I stated earlier that we are surrounded by GE 2 Roundup Ready crops, and this has led to the rapid 3 selection of 21 species of glyphosate-resistant 4 weeds. And so the GE herbicide-resistant 5 technology has really failed in its promise to 6 provide sustainable weed control because of the 7 development of herbicide-resistant weeds. And I 8 remember when this technology was released, and it 9 was stated at that time already that there was a 10 high probability that if farmers did not manage 11 this technology properly, that herbicide-resistant 12 weeds would develop, and that has, in fact, 13 happened. 14 And Albert Einstein is widely credited 15 with the quote that, "The definition of insanity 16 is doing the same thing over and over again and 17 expecting a different result." There are already 18 weeds resistant to synthetic auxin herbicides, and 19 that's the class that dicamba and 2, 4-D belong 20 to. So since there's already numerous resistant 21 weeds to that, it's prevalent in the plant world 22 that auxin resistance is already there, so we're</p>
63	<p>1 for your comment. 2 MS. PODOLL: Thank you. 3 OPERATOR: You have zero questions 4 remaining. 5 MR. GEORGE: Okay. We have no callers 6 in the queue at the moment. Again, I'll remind 7 folks, one then zero on your telephone keypad if 8 you'd like to make a comment. We welcome all 9 comments. If you've commented already and would 10 like to say more, that would be fine as well. 11 However, seeing that there are no calls in the 12 queue at the moment, we will take a short pause 13 and be back in a few minutes. Thanks so much 14 (Break.) 15 MR. GEORGE: And we have a commenter on 16 the line. Would you please go ahead with your 17 comment? 18 OPERATOR: You have one question 19 remaining. 20 MS. PODOLL: This is Theresa Podoll 21 again. I'm providing further comment. My name is 22 spelled T-H-E-R-E-S-A, last name is P-O-D-O-L-L.</p>	65	<p>1 going to find that we will have even more rapid 2 selection for resistance to these auxin 3 herbicides. And that is not sustainable, and we 4 certainly have other methods of weed control that 5 are much more sustainable. 6 So in addition to that, I would also 7 like to add comments about the health problems 8 that would be associated with the release of 2, 4- 9 D and dicamba ready crops. These two herbicides 10 are linked to major health problems, including 11 cancer, especially non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. It has 12 been linked to lower sperm counts, liver disease, 13 Parkinson's disease. It adversely affects 14 hormonal activity in our bodies, our reproductive 15 systems, neurological and immune systems. And 16 besides that, 2, 4-D has been shown to be 17 contaminated with dioxins, which are highly toxic 18 chemical compounds, and those bio-accumulate. So 19 that can lead to dangerous levels of exposure. 20 And I would add the question of since 21 they have developed this less volatile formulation 22 of 2, 4-D that contains choline salts, does that</p>

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<p>66</p> <p>1 make it more water soluble? And what happens to 2 these chemicals once they're released to our 3 environment? Are we going to find them in our 4 water table the same as we have now found Roundup 5 glyphosate to be present in the water table in 6 Iowa? 7 Those are my questions, those are my 8 concerns, and I would urge USDA not to deregulate 9 these crops. 10 MR. GEORGE: Thank you for your comment. 11 MS. PODOLL: Thank you. 12 OPERATOR: You have zero questions 13 remaining. 14 MR. GEORGE: At this time we have no 15 other commenters in the queue, and so I would 16 remind folks just press one then zero on your 17 telephone keypad if you'd like to make a comment. 18 We have none in the queue at the moment, so we 19 will take another short pause. We'll be back 20 every few minutes, and if someone has a comment to 21 make, we'll be back quicker than that. 22 So thanks so much, and we'll be back in</p>	<p>68</p> <p>1 plants that are resistant to it, making the 2 situation worse, which I think is the reason why 3 these seeds are supposed to be helpful, but 4 they're even more poisonous than the Roundup 5 already that we have, which, you know, the concern 6 is that they're just going to make even more 7 plants resistant, so the problem will just 8 continue to worsen and worsen continuously. 9 And I know that the 2, 4-D is both water 10 soluble and can quickly contaminate water, which 11 is such a huge problem already with the other 12 kinds of issues that we put onto our--chemicals 13 that we put onto our agricultural lands, and also 14 probably by air, airborne. 15 And that brings up the problem of 16 putting that onto other agricultural areas, 17 organic or not, people who are not interested in 18 having the 2, 4-D seed ready plants out there. 19 You know, I'm very concerned also that 20 with the amount of travel that 2, 4-D can do, the 21 human health effects. It has been seen to cause 22 lymphoma, which is so serious of a disease, and</p>
<p>67</p> <p>1 a few minutes. 2 (Break.) 3 MR. GEORGE: And we have another 4 commenter on the line, so, Caller, if you would go 5 ahead, please. And please say and spell your name 6 for us. Go ahead. 7 OPERATOR: You have one question 8 remaining. 9 MS. MURPHY: Kristen Murphy, K-R-I-S-T- 10 E- N, Murphy is M-U-R-P-H-Y. I am, like the other 11 woman who was calling earlier, I am very concerned 12 so much about even the reason why this is being 13 introduced into our agricultural system or why it 14 could be. 15 The cycle of pesticides is something 16 that is so prolific in pesticide use in general, 17 and I myself am at UC Davis in the agricultural 18 institute here, which is the number one actually 19 in the world. And it is known throughout here 20 that we-- that the cycle of pesticides is real, 21 and that with Roundup already having given us 22 super weeds with already more than 21 varieties of</p>	<p>69</p> <p>1 these people are ill from it. I know that it 2 causes blindness and ALS. And that a side part of 3 the 2, 4-D are the dioxins, which is, of course, 4 one of the most--one of the worst carcinogens that 5 people have made. And to have that, putting all 6 of that into our food, onto it, to be ready, is 7 absolutely disgusting to me. 8 You know, then I'm very concerned that 9 the only testing that has been done and is being 10 looked at is by Dow itself. I understand that 11 they are a very major and generally well respected 12 agricultural business, but to have only the 13 testing done by them is not actually something 14 that's done in science, right? Like we have peer 15 review for a reason, to make sure that all of 16 these things are going smoothly and accurately and 17 the information is correct. And I really think 18 that more testing needs to be done on it, on the 19 seeds themselves, on what kind of environmental 20 effects that happen when 2, 4-D is released into 21 our environment, especially in such humongous 22 quantities as what will happen once the seed</p>

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70	<p>1 becomes available for commercial agriculture. 2 Thank you. 3 MR. GEORGE: You're welcome, and thank 4 you for your comment. 5 OPERATOR: You have zero questions 6 remaining. 7 MR. GEORGE: So we have no callers in 8 the queue at the moment. Again, I would invite 9 folks, if you'd like to make a comment, press one 10 then zero. And we have one. So, Caller, if you 11 would remember to say and spell your name for us, 12 and please go ahead with your comment. 13 OPERATOR: You have one question 14 remaining. 15 MR. GEORGE: Hello, Caller. Are you 16 there? 17 (No response.) 18 MR. GEORGE: We're hearing sound but 19 there's no voice. Theresa, it may be that your 20 phone is open? 21 MS. PODOLL: Hi. I'm sorry. I'm on a 22 cell phone, and it's cutting out. I'll try to</p>	72
71	<p>1 call back in. Thank you. 2 MR. GEORGE: Okay. Thank you. 3 OPERATOR: You have zero questions 4 remaining. 5 MR. GEORGE: So we'll pause for a second 6 and give Theresa a chance to call back in. 7 (Pause.) 8 MR. GEORGE: So we're waiting to give 9 Theresa an opportunity to call back. In the 10 meantime we're going to take a brief pause. If we 11 do get her call, or anyone else's for that matter, 12 we will come right back on the line. 13 A reminder, press one then zero on your 14 keypad if you'd like to make a comment. Thanks so 15 much, and we'll be back in a few minutes. 16 (Break.) 17 MR. GEORGE: And we're back at our BRS 18 virtual public meeting, and we do have a caller 19 who would like to make a comment. So, Caller, I 20 would ask you to go ahead and please spell your 21 name for us, if you would, please, at the 22 beginning of your comment.</p>	73

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74	<p>1 until we can further study its impact on health 2 and the environment? 3 Thank you. 4 MR. GEORGE: Thank you for your comment. 5 OPERATOR: You have zero questions 6 remaining. 7 MR. GEORGE: And seeing again that we 8 have no callers in the queue, we will invite those 9 who may care to make a comment to do so by 10 pressing one then zero on your telephone keypad. 11 However, seeing that there are none, we will take, 12 again, a short pause. We will be back in a few 13 minutes. Thanks so much. 14 (Break.) 15 MR. GEORGE: And we're back to receive 16 comments on the draft EIS for corn and soybeans 17 genetically engineered to be resistant to 2, 4-D 18 and other herbicides. If you would like to make a 19 comment, please feel free to do so by pressing one 20 then zero on your telephone keypad. We will be 21 here until 8 o'clock Eastern time, which is 15, 20 22 minutes or so. We welcome your comments. If</p>	76	<p>1 biological methods. And as a pest control 2 adviser, I'm really concerned about the increased 3 use of 2, 4-D. It's a really, really bad actor as 4 far as drift and other things. This is probably 5 the worst possible herbicide you could look at as 6 far as engineering into--engineering resistance to 7 it into a plant. 8 The whole idea of genetic engineering is 9 looking at what's on the market as a failed 10 technology. It's bad science based on a static 11 view of the genome, and it's a failed technology 12 as far as the genetically engineered plants 13 developing--not giving farmers a benefit as far as 14 increased yield, increased return on investment, 15 and it doesn't offer anything to the consumer that 16 the consumer does not have an advantage as far as 17 having more herbicides in their food. The 18 herbicide, in fact, glyphosates or Roundup, has 19 been shown to cause tumors in rats, to cause 20 problems as far as the gut lining and imbalances 21 of nutrients. So there's many, many problems with 22 this technology.</p>
75	<p>1 you've already commented and would like to say 2 more, you're also welcome to do that. We have 3 time for that as well. 4 So we will--seeing that there are no 5 callers in the queue, we will break away, but 6 we'll be checking back in every few minutes. And 7 if we see a caller who is interested in making a 8 comment, we'll be back pretty quick. 9 So we'll be back in a few minutes. 10 Thanks so much. 11 (Break.) 12 MR. GEORGE: And we have a commenter in 13 the queue who would like to comment, so please go 14 ahead, and if you would, please, remember to say 15 and spell your name for us. Please go ahead. 16 OPERATOR: You have one question 17 remaining. 18 MR. WHITEHURST: Hello. My name is Ron 19 Whitehurst. That's R-O-N, W-H-I-T-E-H-U-R-S-T. 20 I'm a pest control adviser in Ventura, California, 21 working with Rincon-Vitova Insectaries. I help 22 farmers transition from toxic pesticides to</p>	77	<p>1 Then you're spraying this 2, 4-D out 2 into the environment, which is a known carcinogen, 3 and there's questions as far as its taint in the 4 environment that it may cause, even though the 5 plant is resistant to it, it still has the 2, 4-D 6 in the plant. And so that can cause stress in the 7 plant and possibly induce mineral--nutrient 8 deficiencies in the plant. It may accumulate in 9 certain plant tissues. Certainly it will be 10 present in the corn or soy that's taken in for 11 consumption by humans or animals and cause 12 problems there. Then it will move into the roots 13 and into the soil and be exuded out along with the 14 other things into the root zone, disrupting the 15 microbes living in the soil. And it may make the 16 plant more susceptible to diseases. It may 17 increase the virulence of soil-borne disease 18 organisms. It may be toxic to normal biological 19 control organisms. 20 What is the fate of it as far as the 21 beneficial soil organisms, such as nitrogen-fixing 22 microbes, nitrogen-fixing, free-living algae and</p>

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78	<p>1 microiatae (phonetic) and earthworms and the other 2 organisms that help to promote plant growth? So 3 there's lots of questions. 4 And then you have the seed, the corn and 5 soy, and the other genetically engineered plants. 6 It's been established through peer-reviewed 7 scientific studies that there's cause for concern 8 with these as food, that they cause problems. In 9 the 15 years that we have had genetically 10 engineered crops in the marketplace, we've seen an 11 increase in our kids of allergies, ADHD, diabetes, 12 obesity, autism, and cancer. This certainly 13 doesn't speak well for that material in the food 14 supply. 15 So we need to stop this craziness. We 16 need to not release--or deregulate this material. 17 We need to have--take another direction into a 18 more sustainable and life-supporting technology 19 that doesn't have all of these myriad downfalls 20 and problems for the rest of society and the rest 21 of the environment. 22 Thank you.</p>	80
79	<p>1 MR. GEORGE: Thank you for your comment. 2 And we have another caller in the queue. 3 If you would please go ahead, and remember to say 4 and spell your name for us, please. 5 OPERATOR: You have one question 6 remaining. 7 MR. PALMER: My name is Damon Palmer, D- 8 A- M-O-N, P-A-L-M-E-R. I'm the U.S. commercial 9 leader for Enlist products at Dow AgroSciences in 10 Indianapolis, Indiana. I appreciate this 11 opportunity to publicly comment in support of 12 Enlist, which will help American farmers solve the 13 tremendous challenge they're facing to control 14 resistant weeds. 15 Problematic weeds are now affecting 86 16 percent of corn and soybean growers in the South 17 and 61 percent in the Midwest. Resistant and 18 hard- to-control weeds more than doubled from 2009 19 and affect an estimated 70 million acres. Those 20 are staggering numbers and illustrate the 21 significant, urgent need for Enlist corn and 22 soybeans.</p>	81

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82	<p>1 a safer and more environmentally friendly method 2 of production. As USDA recognized in its draft 3 EIS, the 2, 4-D choline to be used on Enlist crops 4 is significantly less volatile than current forms 5 of 2, 4-D, reducing the potential for off-target 6 movement. Similarly, the proprietary herbicide 7 formulation used on Enlist crops will reduce 8 drift. And as USDA also stated, Enlist crops will 9 help farmers manage glyphosate-resistant weeds 10 without having to return to aggressive tillage 11 practices which would adversely impact soil, air, 12 and water quality.</p> <p>13 The USDA has conducted very extensive 14 reviews of the Enlist traits through a previous 15 environmental assessment and now with this draft 16 EIS. The data package that supports Enlist 17 contains the latest and best science on the traits 18 and the chemistry.</p> <p>19 In addition, the Enlist technology has 20 been reviewed and approved by respected regulatory 21 agencies around the world, including Canada and 22 Japan.</p>	84
83	<p>1 Again, Dow AgroSciences appreciates the 2 USDA's extensive draft EIS and strongly encourages 3 USDA to finalize its review and deregulate the 4 technology so that American farmers can access 5 Enlist corn and soybeans in 2015. The most 6 important thing we can do is provide technology 7 farmers need to raise healthy crops, put food on 8 our tables, and steward their land for generations 9 to come. Enlist can help get us there.</p> <p>10 MR. GEORGE: Thank you for your comment. 11 And we have another caller ready to 12 comment. If you would go ahead, please, and say 13 and spell your name.</p> <p>14 OPERATOR: You have two questions 15 remaining.</p> <p>16 MS. DIETRICK: My name is Jan Dietrick, 17 J- A-N, D-I-E-T-R-I-C-K. I am a former registered 18 dietician and now work with the Dietrick Institute 19 for Applied Insect Ecology. I have a master's 20 degree in public health and a strong interest in 21 food safety. I am in Ventura, California. 22 It has been said and quite well known</p>	85

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86	<p>1 know the levels in the food. We want to see data 2 that have characterized the transgenes over a 3 period of years because we understand that they 4 move. A review of all approved crops in the EU 5 shows that in every single one approved, the 6 transgene had been rearranged, and either within 7 the genome and in one study there's a 30-percent 8 chance of--greater chance of the transgene 9 escaping its host genome and spreading to 10 neighboring plants.</p> <p>11 We need more evidence that these GE 12 crops are stable; otherwise, they are already 13 immediately and from the very get-go in violation 14 of EPA regulations in that they are substantially 15 not equivalent, and even to each other over time, 16 much less to their natural non-engineered 17 counterparts. We want the health risks to be 18 assessed.</p> <p>19 Of course, as I started out my comment, 20 there are so many health risks, and yet if the 21 transgene is unstable, then even a health risk 22 assessment seems like an absurd exercise. It's</p>	88
87	<p>1 just time to move on to biological, natural, 2 sustainable methods for weed control. Let's have 3 our USDA put its attention on non-toxic weed 4 management.</p> <p>5 In summary, Roundup is bad enough. 2, 6 4-D is worse, and the entire process of inserting 7 foreign traits into genomes has serious problems 8 that have not been adequately studied.</p> <p>9 And then, finally, I would say that 10 scientists all over the world have reported in the 11 ISTAD report and in the 2013 review of the UN 12 Convention on Trade and Development that 13 industrial agriculture using biotechnology is 14 getting in the way of the development of 15 appropriate organic and sustainable methods that 16 are definitely proven superior for food security 17 and a warming climate.</p> <p>18 Thank you very much.</p> <p>19 MR. GEORGE: Thank you. Thank you for 20 your comment.</p> <p>21 And I think we have two other commenters 22 from the line, and that will be it for tonight.</p>	89
86	<p>1 We will take these last two comments. So, Caller, 2 if you could go ahead and say and spell your name, 3 please?</p> <p>4 Caller, are you there? Hello?</p> <p>5 Do you have a comment to make, please?</p> <p>6 (Pause.)</p> <p>7 MR. GEORGE: Seeing that we have no 8 comment, I think we will bring our meeting to a 9 close. I will thank everyone who has participated 10 in tonight's meeting. We're very glad to have 11 your input. Thank you for joining our virtual 12 public meeting.</p> <p>13 I will also remind folks that if you 14 would like to make a written comment, you can do 15 so by going to www.regulations.gov. You can leave 16 a written comment there up through February 24th, 17 and we'll be glad to have it. You would put 18 APHIS- 2013-0042 in the (phone interruption) box.</p> <p>19 Also, I will remind you that the 20 PowerPoint presentation tonight and a lot of other 21 documents and background concerning this subject 22 are at the website, which is www.aphis.usda.gov/</p>	88
87	<p>1 aphisvirtualmeeting. And I would invite you to go 2 there to get more information.</p> <p>3 Also, there's a survey there at that 4 website. Those of you that have been on the line 5 who have commented and also those who have been 6 listening, we would welcome your input as to how 7 effective this meeting was, any difficulties you 8 had logging on, and so forth. So if you would 9 take a few minutes to take the survey at that 10 site, we would be most appreciative.</p> <p>11 So at this time, again, our thanks to 12 you all for joining us, and we'll be taking this 13 meeting to a close.</p> <p>14 Thanks so much and good night.</p> <p>15 (Whereupon, at 8:05 p.m., the virtual 16 meeting was adjourned.)</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22</p>	89

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