



Dear BRS Stakeholder,

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is announcing its determination of nonregulated status for Dow AgroSciences' genetically engineered (GE) cotton that is resistant to the herbicides known as 2, 4-D and glufosinate. This notice also includes the availability of our Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

APHIS is taking this action based on a final plant pest risk assessment (PPRA) that finds this GE cotton is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk to agriculture and other plants in the United States. APHIS also completed an environmental assessment (EA) to comply with NEPA that finds deregulation is not likely to have a significant impact on the human environment.

Under APHIS' regulations, pursuant to the Plant Protection Act (PPA), APHIS is specifically required to evaluate if this cotton variety is a plant pest risk to agricultural crops or other plants or plant products. The Act defines a plant pest as organisms, such as bacteria, fungi, or insects that can cause harm to agricultural crops or other plants or plant products. If APHIS finds through its rigorous scientific review that a new GE plant is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk, then under its regulations, it deregulates the GE plant.

A copy of the Dow AgroSciences petition, determination, FONSI, and supporting documents can be found on the News and Information page of the BRS website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/news>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is nearing completion of its concurrent review of the new use of the related herbicides on this GE plant. It is expected that EPA will make its proposed regulatory decision in the coming months.

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