

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. APHIS–2013–0044]

**Environmental Impact Statement; Animal Carcass Management****AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and proposed scope of study; reopening of comment period.**SUMMARY:** We are reopening the comment period for our notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement to examine the potential environmental effects of animal carcass management options used throughout the United States. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments.**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before January 30, 2014.**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0044-0001>.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2013–0044, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0044> or in our reading room, located in Room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 7997039 before coming.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions related to the carcass management program, contact Ms. Lori P. Miller, PE, Senior Staff Officer, National Center for Animal Health Emergency Management, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 41, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851–3512. For questions related to the environmental impact statement, contact Ms. Samantha Floyd, Environmental Protection Specialist, Environmental and Risk Analysis Services, PPD, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 149, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851–3053.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**On October 25, 2013, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service published in the *Federal Register* (78 FR 63959–63960, Docket No. APHIS–2013–0044) a notice<sup>1</sup> stating our intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to examine the potential environmental effects of animal carcass management options used throughout the United States. The EIS will analyze and compare all major and readily available mass carcass management options that may be utilized during an animal health emergency.

Comments on the notice were required to be received on or before November 25, 2013. We are reopening the comment period on Docket No. APHIS–2013–0044 for an additional 30 days. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments. We will also consider all comments received between November 26, 2013 and the date of this notice.

All comments received during the scoping period will be carefully considered in developing the final scope of the EIS. Upon completion of the draft EIS, a notice announcing its availability and an opportunity to comment on it will be published in the *Federal Register*.**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 8301–8317; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, this 20th day of December 2013.

**Kevin Shea,***Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2013–31194 Filed 12–30–13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–34–P****DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. APHIS–2012–0025]

**Okanagan Specialty Fruits, Inc.; Availability of Plant Pest Risk Assessment and Environmental Assessment for Determination of Nonregulated Status of Apples Genetically Engineered To Resist Browning****AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.<sup>1</sup> To view the notice, supporting documents, and the comments we received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0044>.**ACTION:** Notice; reopening of comment period.**SUMMARY:** We are reopening the comment period for our plant pest risk assessment and draft environmental assessment regarding a request from Okanagan Specialty Fruits, Inc., seeking a determination of nonregulated status of apple events designated as events GD743 and GS784, which have been genetically engineered to resist browning. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments.**DATES:** The comment period for the notice published November 8, 2013 (78 FR 67100) is reopened. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before January 30, 2014.**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2012-0025>.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2012–0025, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2012-0025> or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799–7039 before coming.Supporting documents are also available on the APHIS Web site at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/petitions\\_table\\_pending.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/petitions_table_pending.shtml) under APHIS Petition Number 10–161–01p.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. John Turner, Director, Environmental Risk Analysis Programs, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 851–3954, email: [john.t.turner@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:john.t.turner@aphis.usda.gov). To obtain copies of the supporting documents for this petition, contact Ms. Cindy Eck at (301) 851–3892, email: [cynthia.a.eck@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:cynthia.a.eck@aphis.usda.gov).**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On November 8, 2013, we published in the *Federal Register* (78 FR 67100–67101, Docket No. APHIS–2012–0025) a notice making available for public comment our plant pest risk assessment and our

draft environmental assessment regarding a request from Okanagan Specialty Fruits, Inc., seeking a determination of nonregulated status of apple events designated as events GD743 and GS784, which have been genetically engineered to resist browning.

Comments on the PPRA and draft EA were required to be received on or before December 9, 2013. We are reopening the comment period on Docket No. APHIS-2012-0025 for an additional 30 days. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments. We will also consider all comments received between December 10, 2013, (the day after the close of the original comment period) and the date of this notice.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 7701-7772 and 7781-7786; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 20th day of December 2013.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2013-31145 Filed 12-30-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 00-108-10]

#### Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program and Interstate Movement of Farmed or Captive Deer, Elk, and Moose; Program Standards

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We are giving notice of changes to the Program Standards for the chronic wasting disease (CWD) herd certification program. The CWD herd certification program is a voluntary, cooperative program that establishes minimum requirements for the interstate movement of farmed or captive cervids, provisions for participating States to administer Approved State CWD Herd Certification Programs, and provisions for participating herds to become certified as having a low risk of being infected with CWD. The Program Standards provide optional guidance, explanation, and clarification on how to meet the requirements for interstate movement and for the Herd Certification Programs. Recently, we convened a group of State,

laboratory, and industry representatives to discuss possible changes to the current Program Standards. The revised Program Standards reflect these discussions, and we believe the revised version will improve understanding of the program among State and industry cooperators. We are making the revised version of the Program Standards available for review and comment.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 31, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2006-0118-0401>.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. 00-108-10, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2006-0118> or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Patrice Klein, Senior Staff Veterinarian, National Center for Animal Health Programs, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 851-3435.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy of cervids (members of Cervidae, the deer family) that, as of May 2011, has been found only in wild and captive animals in North America and in captive animals in the Republic of Korea. First recognized as a clinical “wasting” syndrome in 1967, the disease is typified by chronic weight loss leading to death. Species currently known to be susceptible to CWD via natural routes of transmission include Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer, sika deer, and moose.

On June 13, 2012, we published in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 35542-35571, Docket No. 00-108-8) an interim final

rule<sup>1</sup> that made effective on August 13, 2012, a final rule published on July 21, 2006 (71 FR 41682-41707, Docket No. 00-108-3), with changes to the final rule as discussed in a previous proposal and in the interim final rule itself. This action established a voluntary herd certification program in 9 CFR part 55 for CWD in farmed or captive cervids. States that choose to participate must establish State Approved Herd Certification Programs in which States agree to perform tasks and meet requirements to ensure that the program is being effectively administered. Owners of deer, elk, and moose herds who choose to participate in the approved State programs must follow the program requirements for animal identification, testing, herd management, and movement of animals into and from herds.

The interim final rule also established a new part 81 containing interstate movement requirements designed to prevent the spread of CWD through the movement of farmed or captive deer, elk, or moose. The interim final rule set a compliance date of December 10, 2012, for the interstate movement provisions in 9 CFR part 81, to give States and producers time to come into compliance with the herd certification program requirements in 9 CFR part 55.

The regulations for the voluntary CWD herd certification program in 9 CFR part 55 establish minimum requirements for State and herd owner participation and allow States and herd owners to use any effective means to comply with those requirements. For example, participating States are required in § 55.23(a)(6) to effectively monitor and enforce State quarantines and State reporting laws and regulations for CWD. Each State may have different means of meeting that requirement. Similarly, herd owners participating in the voluntary program must, under § 55.23(b)(2), have fencing around their premises that is adequate to prevent ingress or egress of cervids; the regulations do not specify what type of fencing is necessary to meet this requirement, allowing our guidance to change based on scientific information and experience.

To facilitate State and herd owner participation in the voluntary herd certification program, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) made available in July 2012 a document titled “Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards.” This document provided detailed descriptions of

<sup>1</sup>To view the interim final rule and the comments we received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2006-0118>.