Finding of No Significant Impact Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program Soil Insecticide Applications in Florida

Environmental Assessment
April 2015

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) evaluating the impacts of a new soil insecticide for certain uses in the Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program in the state of Florida. The EA is incorporated into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by reference and is available at the APHIS website at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/ or from-

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The draft EA was made available to the public for comment in March 2015, and was prepared to evaluate the potential impacts to human health and the environment from the proposed use of a new insecticide, lambda cyhalothrin, in the Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program. The EA was prepared and made available to the public for a 30-day public comment period beginning on March 3, 2015, on the APHIS web site at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/. Notice of the availability of the EA was published in the Tampa Tribune and Miami Herald newspapers. APHIS received no comments on the EA. The analysis in the EA suggests that the addition of lambda cyhalothrin to the Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program will not have significant impacts to human health and the environment. The preferred alternative is the use of the insecticide lambda cyhalothrin as a replacement for diazinon when any non-native, mated female, egg, larva, or pupa of tephritid fruit flies are detected in the state of Florida, and in nurseries with host material under fruit fly quarantine. Applications of lambda cyhalothrin would occur on the following sites: (a) within the drip line of fruit-bearing fruit fly host plants that are located within a 400-meter (m) radius from a non-native, mated female fruit fly, egg, larva, or pupa find, and (b) as a regulatory treatment on host containerized nursery stock and to soil around nursery stock to allow nursery stock to move out of the quarantine area. All other aspects of the fruit fly cooperative eradication program would continue as described in previous environmental documentation. The selective use of lambda cyhalothrin in the program, the method of application, and the notification of the public prior to any treatments within the 400-m radius to select host trees suggests that impacts to human health and the environment will not be significant.

APHIS consults with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) when non-native fruit fly detections in Florida trigger quarantine and eradication treatments. Federally listed species and critical habitat are not expected to occur where lambda cyhalothrin treatments are likely to take

place, such as in residential areas and plant nurseries. In cases where they do co-occur, APHIS will consult with the appropriate FWS office to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

There are no disproportionate adverse effects to minorities, low-income populations, or children, in accordance with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations," and Executive Order 13045, "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks." Treatments for fruit fly are not anticipated on historic properties; however, in cases where there may be these types of treatments, they would be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer and other appropriate contacts to ensure the program will have no impact to historic properties, including sites of tribal importance, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

I have determined that there would be no significant impact on the quality of the human environment from the implementation of the preferred alternative. APHIS' finding of no significant impact from the preferred alternative is based on the results of the risk assessment that was appended to this EA and additional information that was evaluated in this document. Lastly, because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impact associated with the proposed program, I further find that no additional environmental documentation needs to be prepared and that the program may proceed.

Paul L Hornby

4/2/15

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Date