Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Pale Cyst Nematode Eradication in Bingham and Bonneville Counties, Idaho
Supplemental Environmental Assessment
May 2017

In March 2017, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), prepared a supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) that analyzed potential environmental consequences of eradicating the pale cyst nematode (*Globodera pallida*) (PCN) from infested fields in Bingham and Bonneville Counties, Idaho. The preferred alternative for eradication includes using a Federal quarantine, the fumigant 1,3-dichloropropene, and trap cropping using *Solanum sisymbriifolium* (litchi tomato). The SEA was prepared to update changes to the program that were analyzed in an amended Environmental Assessment (EA) from July 2007. Changes to the program from the July 2007 EA that were analyzed in the SEA included changes in the number of regulated acres, discontinuing methyl bromide use, and implementing trap cropping. The original draft SEA was published in April 2016; however, due to public comments and changes in the program, the SEA was updated and published for another 30-day public comment period beginning in March 2017. The final SEA and finding of no significant impact are available at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/pcn.shtml. Five comments were received during the 30-day comment period. The first comment was received from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, supporting the use of the preferred alternative. The second comment was from the USDA, Agriculture Research Service, with recommendations to improve the efficacy of the fumigant 1, 3-dichloropropene. The other three comments, all in support of the preferred alternative, were received from the National Potato Council, the Washington State Potato Commission and the Idaho Potato Commission.

The analysis conducted in the SEA determined that the actions described in the preferred alternative would not result in significant impacts to human health and the environment. The use of the fumigant, 1, 3-dichloropropene, will only be used in known PCN-infested fields. The risk of fumigant use to human health will be minimized for workers by following all labeled requirements for reducing exposure. Exposure and risk to the general public will also be low based on label requirements regarding applications of the proposed fumigant. Risk to fish and wildlife is also low based on the toxicity profile for 1, 3-dichloropropene and its proposed use pattern. Treatments will only occur in PCN-infested fields which are highly disturbed areas. There may be some impacts to non-target invertebrates from fumigant use, but these impacts would be localized to treated fields. The risk to air, water and soil quality from fumigant applications is also expected to be low based on the environmental fate of 1, 3-dichloropropene. There will be some impacts to soil-borne organisms that could affect soil quality, however, these impacts will be isolated to PCN-infested fields that are treated with the fumigant.

The risk to human health and the environment from the use of litchi tomato as a trap crop is also expected to be low. Litchi tomato is a plant not native to Idaho that may become invasive if not properly managed. The potential for environmental impacts from litchi tomato plantings in the proposed program will be reduced based on its restricted use by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, and the implementation of a weed management plan designed to prevent its unintended introduction into other areas.

APHIS has determined that there will be no impacts to listed species protected under the Endangered Species Act. The proposed actions will occur on potato fields where listed species and their habitat do not occur.

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."

An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared if implementation of the proposed action may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Based on the above information, I have determined that the proposed changes in the PCN eradication program will not result in significant impact to the human environment and, therefore, an EIS does not need to be prepared.

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3 May 2017

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Date