

Finding of No Significant Impact
Chemical Treatment Study in New York City, New York, and Central New Jersey
for the Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program.
Environmental Assessment, September 2010

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the study of chemical treatments for potential use in the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) eradication program. The EA is available online at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/downloads/ALB-NY-NJ-TreatmentStudy.pdf and from

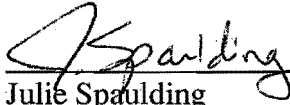
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine
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The EA analyzed two alternatives: (1) no action by APHIS, and (2) the preferred alternative, to determine residue levels in the summer from fall and spring treatments of imidacloprid and spring treatments of dinotefuran. These studies could result in modifications to the treatment protocols used in future ALB eradication programs, depending on outcomes of the study. The study will involve chemical treatments in the spring and fall to a small number of Norway maple, red maple, London plane, and elm trees throughout New York City and Central New Jersey. Imidacloprid would be applied through basal soil injection or trunk injection in the fall and spring. Dinotefuran will only be applied through trunk injection in the spring.

APHIS considered the potential environmental consequences of each alternative in the EA. Adherence to labels and the nature of the treatments reduces exposure and risk to applicators, the public, and terrestrial and aquatic nontargets. The environmental impacts from the preferred alternative should be minimal. APHIS is sensitive to concerns by bee keepers and others about the potential impacts to honey bees and other pollinators from the use of these chemicals. Based on available information (the number of trees to be treated, other flowering plants in the area, lack of flowering structures on the treated trees, and results from previous studies showing that imidacloprid levels in pollen and flowers are low) the risk to pollinators is likely to be minimal. In addition, select treatment areas from this study will be monitored as part of a bee study being conducted by USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

APHIS determined that program activities will have no effect on listed species in or near the program area. The program activities will also not have disproportionate adverse effects to any minority or low-income family or children in adherence with Executive Orders (EO) 12898 and 13045.

The EA was provided to the public in August 2010 for a 30 day public comment period that ended on September 9, 2010. No comments were received. Based on the evaluations in the EA and the lack of public comments, I have determined that there would be no significant impact on the quality of the human environment from the implementation of the preferred alternative and further find that an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared.



Julie Spaulding
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Plant Protection and Quarantine
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9/14/10

Date