

**Finding of No Significant Impact for
European Gypsy Moth Cooperative Eradication Program
SE Goldsboro Block, Wayne County, NC and Hubert Block, Onslow County, NC
Environmental Assessment
March 2010**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for its participation in the eradication of gypsy moth populations in Wayne County, NC and Onslow County, NC. The EA, incorporated by reference into this document, is tiered to the “Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: A Cooperative Approach.” This EA is available online at www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/gm.shtml and from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Program Support
4700 River Road, Unit 134
Riverdale, MD 20737

or
N. C. Department of Agriculture
Plant Industry Division
Plant Protection Section
1060 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1060

The EA analyzed the following alternatives: no action and the proposed action which uses a combination of the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* variety *kurstaki* (*Btk*) on the SE Goldsboro site and Gypchek® on the Hubert site. The proposed action was preferred because of its ability to achieve the eradication objective in a way that minimizes potential environmental consequences and provides the best opportunity for successful eradication.

APHIS has determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the proposed program. APHIS’ Finding of No Significant Impact for this program was based upon its analysis of the program’s characteristics and its anticipated environmental consequences, as analyzed in the EA. There are no threatened or endangered species or critical habitat in the treatment area and therefore APHIS has made a no effect determination.

The notice of availability for the EA was published in several local newspapers in Wayne and Onslow Counties between February 21, 2010 and February 24, 2010. No written comments were received during the 30-day public comment period following publication. Public meetings were held on February 4, 2010 in Swansboro, Onslow County, NC for the Hubert block and on February 11, 2010 in Goldsboro, Wayne County, NC for the SE Goldsboro block. I find that the proposed program will pose no disproportionate adverse effects to minority and low-income populations and the actions undertaken for this program are entirely consistent with the principles of “environmental justice,” as expressed in Executive Order 12898, and the protection of children, as expressed in Executive Order 13045. Lastly, because I have not found evidence of a significant

environmental impact associated with the proposed program, I further find that an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared and that the proposed program may be implemented.

Deborah Stewart

03/24/2010

Deborah J. Stewart
State Plant Health Director

Date