

**Finding of No Significant Impact for  
2011 Cooperative Gypsy Moth Eradication Project for Onslow County  
Environmental Assessment  
February 2011**

In cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, 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 the gypsy moth in Onslow County, North Carolina. 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](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/gm.shtml) and from:

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

or

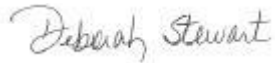
N.C. Department of Agriculture  
& Consumer Services  
Plant Industry Division  
Plant Inspection Section  
1060 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1060

The EA analyzed two alternatives—no action and the proposed action. The proposed action would use a combination of Gypchek® and mating disruption (using the gypsy moth pheromone) on the Onslow 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. Gypchek®, a naturally occurring nucleopolyhedrosis virus which is specific only to gypsy moth larvae, was chosen to protect a sensitive butterfly species, *Atrytonopsis new species*, which has been found at the treatment site. The proposed treatment would include three applications of Gypchek®, timed for the early instar stages of the gypsy moth, applied to a 400-acre site, followed by one application of mating disruption, timed immediately prior to male moth emergence on a 20-acre site where gypsy moth egg masses have been found.

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 a local newspaper in Swansboro, Onslow County, North Carolina, and no comments were received during the 30-day public comment period following publication. Public meetings were also held in Swansboro, Onslow County, North Carolina.

Based upon the EA and the results of public outreach efforts, I find that the proposed program will pose no disproportionate adverse effects to minority or 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.



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Deborah J. Stewart  
State Plant Health Director

03/18/2011  
Date