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# **APHIS Completes Final Environmental Assessment for First Seven States Affected by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza**

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has completed a final Environmental Assessment (EA), “Emergency Response for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreaks in Seven States” and a Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the EA.

An Emergency Declaration was made per 7 CFR 372.10(b) for USDA APHIS to respond to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks within Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, New York, and Virginia and those actions have been completed.

The EA evaluates the potential environmental impacts from the proposed action in which USDA APHIS would work together with state and local authorities and affected owners in HPAI response activities within the seven States. These activities included monitoring wild birds and poultry, depopulating and disposing of HPAI-infected domestic poultry flocks, disinfecting premises, and conducting follow up monitoring and quarantine release.

Due in part to APHIS invoking the process for rapid response to emergencies in 7 CFR 372.10, APHIS made the draft EA and FONSI simultaneously available for public comment from April 26, 2022 through May 31, 2022. USDA APHIS evaluated and responded to the comments in the FONSI and, where appropriate, modified or added text in the EA.

Interested parties may view the EA and FONSI at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/APHIS-2022-0031> or by visiting [www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and typing APHIS-2022-0031 into the search bar.

The following is the contact for questions or requesting a hard copy of the EA or FONSI:

Attn: HPAI Environmental Assessment  
USDA APHIS PPD Environmental and Risk Analysis Services  
4700 River Road, Unit 149  
Riverdale, MD 20737  
(301) 851-3089

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