

**Finding of No Significant Impact
for High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza Control
in Commercial Poultry Operations – A National Approach
Environmental Assessment
August 2015**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes potential environmental consequences of an adaptive management approach for control of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks in commercial poultry operations. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services
Science, Technology and Analysis Services
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737

The EA analyzed the following alternatives: (1) the no action alternative, and (2) the preferred alternative. The no action alternative means APHIS would not be involved with HPAI activities such as depopulation, transport, and disposal of carcasses and disinfection of equipment and premises. State and local authorities would be responsible for managing and funding these types of HPAI activities. APHIS would still continue to participate in other routine, normal, and regulated poultry production practices as they are currently practiced throughout the nation. The preferred alternative would enable APHIS to use an adaptive management approach to control HPAI during outbreaks. The preferred alternative would provide consistency to the nation's response to HPAI outbreaks and represents a continuation of the baseline or current situation for future bird flu outbreaks. Based upon information in the EA, implementation of the preferred alternative would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

APHIS has determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the preferred alternative. APHIS' Finding of No Significant Impact for this regulatory action was based upon the expected limited environmental consequences, as analyzed in the EA. In addition, APHIS anticipates no impacts to threatened or endangered species or their habitats from this regulatory action. I find that the preferred alternative poses no disproportionate adverse effects to minority and low-income populations and the actions undertaken for the preferred alternative are entirely consistent with the principles of "environmental justice," as expressed in Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." Likewise, I find that the preferred alternative poses no disproportionate adverse effects to children and the actions undertaken for this program comply with the policy of Executive Order 13045, "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks."

Lastly, because I have not found evidence of any significant environmental impacts associated with the preferred alternative, I further find that an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared and that the preferred alternative may be implemented.



Dr. Burke Healey
Executive Director
Surveillance, Preparedness and Response Services
Veterinary Services
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services

8-12-15

Date