

Done in Washington, DC, this 16th day of February, 2005.

Elizabeth E. Gaston,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E5-701 Filed 2-22-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 05-006-1]

Ventria Bioscience; Availability of Environmental Assessment for Field Test of Genetically Engineered Rice Expressing Lactoferrin

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared an environmental assessment for a confined field planting of rice plants genetically engineered to express the protein lactoferrin. This environmental assessment is available for public review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments we receive on or before March 25, 2005.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- **EDOCKET:** Go to <http://www.epa.gov/feddoCKET> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once you have entered EDOCKET, click on the "View Open APHIS Dockets" link to locate this document.

- **Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:** Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 05-006-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 05-006-1.

Reading Room: You may read the environmental assessment and any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

Other Information: You may view APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register** and related information on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Levis Handley, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-5721. To obtain copies of the environmental assessment, contact Ms. Ingrid Berlinger, at (301) 734-4885; e-mail ingrid.e.berlinger@aphis.usda.gov. The environmental assessment is also available on the Internet at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/04_30201r_ea.pdf.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 7 CFR part 340, "Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason to Believe Are Plant Pests," regulate, among other things, the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests. Such genetically engineered organisms and products are considered "regulated articles." A permit must be obtained or a notification acknowledged before a regulated article may be introduced into the United States. The regulations set forth the permit application requirements and the notification procedures for the importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment of a regulated article.

On October 28, 2004, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a permit application (APHIS permit number 04-302-01r) from Ventria Bioscience, Sacramento, CA, for a permit for a confined field planting of rice (*Oryza sativa*) plants genetically engineered to express a gene coding for the protein lactoferrin, rice line LF164-12. The field planting is to be conducted in Scott County, MO. The subject rice plants have been genetically engineered, using micro-projectile bombardment, to express human lactoferrin protein. Expression of the gene is controlled by the rice glutelin 1 promoter, the rice glutelin 1 signal peptide, and the NOS, (nopaline synthase) terminator sequence from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*. The gene is expressed only in the endosperm. In addition, the plants contain the coding sequence for the gene hygromycin phosphotransferase (*hpt*), an enzyme which confers

tolerance to the antibiotic hygromycin. This gene is a selectable marker that is only expressed during plant cell culture and is not expressed in any tissues of the mature plant. Expression of the gene is controlled by the rice glucanase 9 (*Gns 9*) promoter and the Rice Alpha Amylase 1A (RAmy1A) terminator. The genetically engineered rice plants are considered regulated articles under the regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because they contain gene sequences from plant pathogens.

The purpose of the field planting is for pure seed production and for the extraction of lactoferrin for a variety of research and commercial products. The planting will be conducted using physical confinement measures. In addition, the experimental protocols and field plot design, as well as the procedures for termination of the field planting, are designed to ensure that none of the subject rice plants persist in the environment beyond the termination of the experiments.

To provide the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of any potential environmental impacts and plant pest risk associated with the proposed confined field planting of the subject rice plants, an environment assessment (EA) has been prepared. The EA was prepared in accordance with (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372). Copies of the EA are available from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 16th day of February 2005.

Elizabeth E. Gaston,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E5-703 Filed 2-22-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Rehabilitation of Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 4 of the Martinez Creek Watershed, Bexar County, TX

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACTION: Notice of a finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the rehabilitation of Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 4 of the Martinez Creek Watershed, Bexar County, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry D. Butler, Ph.D, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 101 South Main, Temple, Texas 76501-7682, telephone (254) 742-9800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Larry D. Butler, Ph.D, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement is not needed for this project.

The project will rehabilitate Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 4 to maintain the present level of flood control benefits and comply with the current performance and safety standards.

Rehabilitation of the site will require the dam to be modified to meet current performance and safety standards for a high hazard dam. The modification will consist of raising the top of dam 2.8 feet, replacing the 24 inch principal spillway pipe with a 42 inch principal spillway pipe, and lowering the sediment pool by 3.6 feet. The detention pool area would increase slightly due to the decreased size of the sediment pool. All disturbed areas will be planted with plants that have wildlife values. The proposed work will not affect any prime farmland, endangered or threatened species, wetlands, or cultural resources.

Federal assistance will be provided under authority of the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments of 2000 (Section 313, Pub. L. 106-472). Total project cost is estimated to be \$1,026,400, of which \$745,800 will be paid from the Small Watershed Rehabilitation funds and \$280,600 from local funds.

The notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various

Federal, State, and local agencies and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Larry D. Butler, Ph.D, State Conservationist.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

Larry D. Butler,

State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 05-3394 Filed 2-22-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: 2005 Census Survey of

Maricopa County, Arizona.

Form Number(s): CSMA-1, CSMA-1(PV), CSMA-1 L1, CSMA-1 L2, CSMA-1 L3, CSMA-2, CSMA-1(RI), SC-116, and SC-351(GQ).

Agency Approval Number: None.

Type of Request: New collection.

Burden: 12,042 hours.

Number of Respondents: 118,607.

Avg. Hours Per Response: Housing Units—6 min.; Group Quarters—10 min.; Reinterview—8 min.

Needs and Uses: In lieu of a Special Census, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), at the request of their member jurisdictions (24 cities and towns within Maricopa County), requested the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct a data collection effort for the purpose of updating population and housing unit information from the Census 2000. This data collection effort is called the 2005 Census Survey of Maricopa County, Arizona (CSMA). The CSMA will produce September 1, 2005 estimates for housing units, occupied housing units, resident population; resident population living in housing units; and resident population not living in housing units (group quarters and outdoor locations) for Maricopa County, 24 cities in the county, the balance of the county, 5 sub-areas for Phoenix, and 2 sub-areas for Mesa. The resident population estimates will be used to distribute state-shared revenues.

The MAG requested that we produce the estimates by a survey of housing units and a 100 percent enumeration of the non-housing unit population.

The Census Bureau will conduct a survey of housing units to produce the estimates for resident population in housing units, the number of housing units, and the number of occupied housing units. We will contact each identified group quarters and visit outdoor locations to obtain the resident population not living in housing units. We will sum the two resident populations to produce the total number of residents.

We will mail each sample housing unit a questionnaire to determine whether it was occupied on September 1, 2005. If it was occupied, we will ask for the total number of people living in the housing unit and for each person's name, age, and sex. We will follow-up with each housing unit that does not return its questionnaire and conduct either a computer assisted telephone interview or a personal visit interview. We will use a vendor's data base to obtain phone numbers by matching on the address.

We will have a reinterview program for the cases completed by personal visit. The reinterview program will contact approximately ten percent of the personal visit cases to check the enumerators' work. Reinterview is necessary to deter the falsification of data by enumerators in the field. Its primary purpose is to identify enumerators who intentionally falsify data, and to promptly remove them. Reinterview is also used for quality assurance purposes to ensure that enumerators are following procedures correctly, and to retrain those who are not.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: One time.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: 13 U.S.C. 8.

OMB Desk Officer: Susan Schechter, (202) 395-5103.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Susan Schechter, OMB Desk