Additional U.S. Note 5, Chapter 17 in the U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) authorize the Secretary to establish the in-quota tariff-rate quota (TRQ) amounts (expressed in terms of raw value) for imports of raw cane sugar and certain sugars, syrups, and molasses that may be entered under the subheadings of the HTS subject to the lower tier of duties during each fiscal year. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is responsible for the allocation of these quantities among supplying countries and areas.

Section 359(k) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, requires that at the beginning of the quota year the Secretary of Agriculture establish the TRQs for raw cane sugar and refined sugars at the minimum levels necessary to comply with obligations under international trade agreements, with the exception of specialty sugar.

The Secretary's authority under paragraph (a)(i) of the Additional U.S. Note 5, Chapter 17 in the U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) and Section 359(k) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, has been delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs (7 CFR 2.26).

Notice is hereby given that I have determined, in accordance with paragraph (a)(i) of the Additional U.S. Note 5, Chapter 17 in the HTS and section 359(k) of the 1938 Act, that an aggregate quantity of up to 1,117,195 MTRV of raw cane sugar may be entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption during FY 2019. This is the minimum amount to which the United States is committed under the WTO Uruguay Round Agreements. I have further determined that an aggregate quantity of 192,000 MTRV of sugars, syrups, and molasses may be entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption during FY 2019. This quantity includes the minimum amount to which the United States is committed under the WTO Uruguay Round Agreements, 22,000 MTRV, of which 20,344 MTRV is established for any sugars, syrups and molasses, and 1,656 MTRV is reserved for specialty sugar. An additional amount of 170,000 MTRV is added to the specialty sugar TRQ for a total of 171,656 MTRV.

Because the specialty sugar TRQ is first-come, first-served, tranches are needed to allow for orderly marketing throughout the year. The FY 2019 specialty sugar TRQ will be opened in five tranches. The first tranche, totaling 1,656 MTRV, will open October 1, 2018. All specialty sugars are eligible for entry under this tranche. The second tranche will open on October 10, 2018, and be equal to 50,000 MTRV. The third tranche of 50,000 MTRV will open on January 23, 2019. The fourth tranche of 35,000 MTRV will open on April 17, 2019. The fifth tranche will open on July 17, 2019, and be equal to 35,000 MTRV. The second, third, fourth, and fifth tranches will be reserved for organic sugar and other specialty sugars not currently produced commercially in the United States or reasonably available from domestic sources.

* *Conversion factor:* 1 metric ton = 1.10231125 short tons.

Dated: June 25, 2018.

Jason Hafemeister,

Acting Under Secretary, Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2018–14018 Filed 6–28–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2018–0034]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; Movement and Outdoor Use of Certain Genetically Engineered Organisms

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) plans to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) in connection with potential changes to the regulations regarding the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of certain genetically engineered organisms. This notice identifies potential issues to be evaluated in the EIS and requests public comments to define the scope of the alternatives and environmental impacts and issues for APHIS to consider.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before July 30, 2018.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2018-0034*.
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2018–0034, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Any comments we receive may be viewed at *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2018-0034* or in our reading room, which 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) 799–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Joanne Serrels, Biotechnologist, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238; (301) 851–3867.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Plant Protection Act (PPA) authorizes the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to protect plant health in the United States. Under that authority, APHIS currently regulates the introduction (movement into the United States or interstate, or release into the environment) of genetically engineered (GE) organisms that may present a plant pest risk through its 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.'' These regulations are intended to protect against plant pest risks to plant health by providing for the safe importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment of certain GE organisms.

APHIS' regulation of certain GE organisms to protect plant health is aligned with the Federal Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology (henceforth referred to as the Coordinated Framework), the comprehensive Federal regulatory policy for ensuring the safety of biotechnology research and products in the United States. The Coordinated Framework describes how Federal agencies will use their regulatory authorities under existing Federal statutes to ensure public health and environmental safety while maintaining regulatory flexibility to avoid impeding the growth of the biotechnology industry. The Coordinated Framework sets forth a science- and risk-based approach for the oversight of activities that introduce biotechnology products into the environment and describes the roles and responsibilities for the three major Federal agencies involved in

regulating biotechnology products: APHIS, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration. This document addresses only proposed changes to the APHIS regulations and is not intended to circumscribe, restrict, or otherwise preclude future actions taken by other Federal agencies under their respective authorities.

During the past 30 years, there have been major advances in the science of biotechnology, and new issues have been brought to APHIS' attention by a range of stakeholders. Over this period, APHIS has also gained considerable experience in assessing the plant health risks of GE organisms. Accordingly, APHIS is considering amending the regulations pertaining to movement and outdoor use of certain GE organisms to address the advances in biotechnology and APHIS' understanding of the issues raised by stakeholders. The proposed revisions would allow APHIS to more effectively protect plant health under the PPA by focusing APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340 on risks that may be posed by certain GE organisms rather than on the methods used to produce the products and would also make the regulatory processes more transparent while removing unnecessary regulatory burdens.

Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), Federal agencies must examine the potential environmental impacts of proposed Federal actions and alternatives. We are planning to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) in connection with the proposed revisions to APHIS' biotechnology regulations that are being considered. Aspects of the human environment that may be affected by the proposed regulatory changes and that we have preliminarily identified for evaluation in the EIS will include potential impacts on:

- U.S. agriculture and forestry production (*e.g.,* conventional, biotechnology-based, and organic);
- Current and future uses of certain GE organisms in agriculture and forestry;
- Agronomic practices employed in GE crop production that may have environmental consequences or effects (*e.g.,* tillage, crop rotation, weed and pest control, and agronomic inputs);
- Aspects of the physical environment, including soil quality, water resources, and air quality, with consideration given to the effects of dynamic climate conditions;
- Aspects of the biological environment, such as animal and plant communities, the development of weed, pathogen, and insect resistance to pesticides, the potential gene flow from certain GE organisms to sexually compatible species, the weediness of GE crop plants, and biodiversity;
- Consumer health and agricultural worker safety; and
- Animal feed safety, availability, quality, and animal health.

We will also examine socioeconomic considerations, such as the potential impacts of crop plants that are GE organisms on the domestic economic environment, international trade, and coexistence among all forms of U.S. agriculture—conventional, biotechnology-based, and organic—and on market demand for food, feed, fiber, and fuel.

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with: (1) NEPA, (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3) U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

This notice identifies the potential issues that will be evaluated in the EIS, and requests public comment to help APHIS further define the issues and alternatives that should be considered and to help APHIS identify additional impacts, both positive and negative, to the human environment that should be examined in the EIS. Public input will also be helpful in developing our proposed regulations. All comments received during the comment period will be carefully considered. A notice will be published in the **Federal Register** to announce the availability of the draft EIS when it is issued and to invite the public to provide comments.

Done in Washington, DC, this 26th day of June 2018.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2018–14019 Filed 6–28–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Notice of Public Meeting of the Tennessee Advisory Committee

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act that the Tennessee Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 to work on post-report planning for the Civil Asset Forfeiture report and discuss potential future work on legal financial obligations and civil rights issues.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday August 8, 2018 12:30 p.m. EST. Public Call Information: The meeting will be by teleconference. Toll-free call-in number: 888–334–3032, conference ID: 5510752.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Hinton, DFO, at *jhinton@usccr.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Members of the public can listen to the discussion. This meeting is available to the public through the following toll-free call-in number: 888–334–3032, conference ID: 5510752. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–977–8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and conference ID number.

Written comments may be mailed to the Regional Program Unit Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 230 S. Dearborn, Suite 2120, Chicago, IL 60604. They may also be faxed to the Commission at (312) 353–8324 or may be emailed to the Regional Director, Jeff Hinton at *jhinton@usccr.gov.* Records of the meeting will be available via *www.facadatabase.gov* under the Commission on Civil Rights, Tennessee Advisory Committee link. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's website, *http://www.usccr.gov,* or may contact the Southern Regional Office at the above email or street address.

Agenda:

Welcome and Call to Order
- Diane DiIanni, Tennessee SAC Chairman
- Jeff Hinton, Regional Director

Regional Update—Jeff Hinton

New Business: Diane DiIanni, Tennessee SAC Chairman/Staff/Advisory Committee Public Participation

Adjournment