

(EPA Reg. Nos. 100–1623, 264–1210, and 7969–472).

On April 28, 2021, APHIS published a notice of intent (NOI) in the **Federal Register** (86 FR 22384–22386, Docket No. APHIS–2020–0021), announcing that as part of our evaluation of the Bayer petition, we planned to prepare an EIS to consider the potential impacts of a determination of nonregulated status for MON 87429 maize on the human environment.<sup>5</sup>

APHIS solicited public comment for a period of 30 days, ending May 28, 2021, as part of its scoping process to identify issues to address in the draft EIS. On June 30, 2021, APHIS announced in the **Federal Register** (86 FR 34714–34715, Docket No. APHIS–2020–0021) that the comment period was reopened for 30 days to allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments until July 30, 2021. APHIS received a total of 3,069 comments by the end of the comment period.

Comments received were from the agricultural industry, nongovernmental organizations, Tribal governments, and individuals. The most common topics and issues of concern raised in the comments received on the NOI for the draft EIS included: The potential for dicamba or 2,4–D drift to adversely impact crops not resistant to these herbicides, as well as adversely impact wild plants and plants on residential and commercial properties; the potential economic impacts of herbicide drift on crop and non-crop plants; herbicide-resistant crops and their influence on herbicide use; the potential for development of weed resistance to herbicides; potential effects of pesticides on the soil microbiome, pollinators, wildlife, biodiversity, and endangered species; potential effects on Tribal nations, including Tribal nation corn production, indigenous corn varieties, and food sovereignty; and potential benefits of MON 87429 corn in weed and herbicide resistant weed management, and U.S. corn production.

APHIS evaluated all comments received on the NOI in developing the draft EIS. A summary of the comments received and APHIS response to

comments are provided in appendix 1 of the draft EIS.

Because the introduced trait genes in MON 87429 maize are involved in weed management, and considering public comments received on the NOI, the primary topics of focus in the draft EIS, in relation to potential impacts on the human environment are: (1) Weed and herbicide resistant weed management, (2) herbicide use with MON 87429 maize, (3) the potential effects of exposure to the introduced trait genes and gene products on human health and wildlife, (4) gene flow and potential weediness of MON 87429 maize, and (5) potential socioeconomic impacts.

The draft EIS has been 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). APHIS is making available the draft EIS, as well as a draft plant pest risk assessment (PPRA), for a 45-day public review and comment period. The draft EIS and draft PPRA are available as indicated under **ADDRESSES** and **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

A notice of availability regarding the draft EIS will also be published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the **Federal Register**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of March 2024.

**Donna Lalli,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2024–06050 Filed 3–21–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–34–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Prince William Sound Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Prince William Sound Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a public meeting according to the details shown below. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The purpose of the committee is to improve

collaborative relationships and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with Title II of the Act as well as to make recommendations on recreation fee proposals for sites on the Chugach National Forest within boroughs associated with the Prince William Sound RAC, consistent with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

**DATES:** An in person and virtual meeting will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Alaska daylight time (AKDT).

**Written and Oral Comments:** Anyone wishing to provide in-person and/or virtual oral comments must pre-register by 5:00 p.m. AKDT on April 5, 2024. Written public comments will be accepted by 11:59 p.m. AKDT on April 6, 2024. Comments submitted after this date will be provided to the Forest Service, but the committee may not have adequate time to consider those comments prior to the meeting.

All RAC meetings are subject to cancellation. For status of the meeting prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held in-person and virtually at the Cordova Ranger District, located at 612 Second Street, Cordova, Alaska 99574. RAC information and meeting details can be found at the following website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/workingtogether/advisorycommittees/?cid=fsepr1127267> or by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**Written Comments:** Written comments must be sent by email to [tanya.zastrow@usda.gov](mailto:tanya.zastrow@usda.gov) or via mail (*i.e.*, postmarked) to Tanya Zastrow, P.O. Box 280, Cordova, Alaska 99574. The Forest Service strongly prefers comments be submitted electronically.

**Oral Comments:** Persons or organizations wishing to make oral comments must pre-register by 11:59 p.m. AKDT, April 5, 2024, and speakers can only register for one speaking slot. Oral comments must be sent by email to [tanya.zastrow@usda.gov](mailto:tanya.zastrow@usda.gov) or via mail (*i.e.*, postmarked) to Tanya Zastrow, P.O. Box 280, Cordova, Alaska 99574.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven Namitz, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), by phone at 907–424–4747 or email at [steven.namitz@usda.gov](mailto:steven.namitz@usda.gov) or Tanya Zastrow, RAC Coordinator, at 907–424–4722 or email at [tanya.zastrow@usda.gov](mailto:tanya.zastrow@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting is to:

<sup>5</sup> The National Environmental Policy Act as amended, and Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations at 40 CFR 1500–1508 require Federal agencies to thoroughly assess the potential environmental consequences of federal actions on the “human environment”. Human environment means comprehensively the natural and physical environment and the relationship of present and future generations of Americans with that environment. Impacts/effects include ecological (such as effects on natural resources, and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected ecosystems), aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health effects (see 40 CFR 1508.1).

1. Hear from Title II project proponents; and  
 2. Review and recommend projects for funding under the Secure Rural Schools allocations to the Prince William Sound area.

The agenda will include time for individuals to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should make a request in writing at least three days prior to the meeting date to be scheduled on the agenda. Written comments may be submitted to the Forest Service up to 14 days after the meeting date listed under **DATES**.

Please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, by or before the deadline, for all questions related to the meeting. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received upon request.

*Meeting Accommodations:* The meeting location is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the USDA provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpretation, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable accommodation to the person listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section or contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA's policies will be followed in all appointments to the committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the committee have taken in account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include to the extent possible, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women,

and persons with disabilities. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Dated: March 18, 2024.

**Cikena Reid,**

*USDA Committee Management Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 3411-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

#### Fermi Research Alliance, et al., Application(s) for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments

Pursuant to section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, as amended by Pub. L. 106-36; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be postmarked on or before April 11, 2024. Address written comments to Statutory Import Programs Staff, Room 41006, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Please also email a copy of those comments to [Dianne.Hanshaw@trade.gov](mailto:Dianne.Hanshaw@trade.gov).

*Docket Number:* 24-001. Applicant: Fermi Research Alliance, P.O. Box 500, Batavia, IL 60510. Instrument: Helium Refrigeration/Liquefaction Plant and accompanying accessories. Manufacturer: Air Liquide, France. Intended Use: The PIP II linear accelerator will provide unparalleled achievement in particle acceleration. These accelerated particles will be born at the FNAL site in Batavia, IL and accelerated via the PIP II linear accelerator through the Earth approximately 900 miles west into the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE) located in Lead, SD, to discover whether neutrinos violate the fundamental matter-antimatter symmetry of physics. The design, research, development, and results from the construction and use of the PIP II Linear Accelerator will be the subject of high energy physics and physics engineering courses at dozens of domestic and international institutions of higher education. No specific course titles are available at this time, but the information will be extensively discussed and challenged at college and university classrooms for years to come. Justification for Duty-Free Entry:

According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: December 19, 2023.

*Docket Number:* 24-002. Applicant: Washington University in St. Louis, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130-4899. Instrument: Two-Dimensional Material Metallographic Microscopic Transfer System. Manufacturer: HIGH HOPE ZHONGDING CORPORATION, China. Intended Use: The instrument is intended to be used for all general two-dimensional (2D) materials like graphene, molybdenum sulfide, black phosphorus, 2D magnetic et al., to perform a comprehensive set of optical experiments aimed at elucidating optical and magnetic properties of superlattices based on 2D materials et al. The main objective is to create new quantum materials as designed, to study exotic quantum states, which is crucial for the evolution of optical, electronic and information technologies of the future. This transfer stage is particularly developed for cutting-edge technology in the fabrication and manipulation of two-dimensional materials, which is crucial for researchers in these fields. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: January 3, 2024.

*Docket Number:* 24-003. Applicant: University of Colorado JILA Department, Campus Box 440 UCB, JILA Building, Room S/175, Boulder, CO 80309. Instrument: Narrow Linewidth Laser. Manufacturer: Shanghai Precilasers Technology Co, Ltd., China. Intended Use: The instrument will be intended to be used for Quantum simulation using Lithium atoms in a cryogenic environment. Ultracold Lithium atoms will be used for studies of the Fermi-Hubbard model, which are an ideal platform for such studies due to their broadly tunable interactions with Feshbach resonances. Observation will determine whether low temperature phases of the Fermi-Hubbard model can be revealed by performing our experiments within a cryogenically pumped environment to improve the evaporatively cooled gas temperatures due to suppression of hole-induced heating. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: January 17, 2024.