

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket 03-074-1]

International Plant Protection Convention Draft Standard on the Plant Pest Risks Associated with Living Modified Organisms; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice of a public meeting to solicit comments on a draft international standard concerning the plant pest risks associated with living modified organisms.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on September 18, 2003, from 1 to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the USDA Center at Riverside, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD, in Conference Rooms C and D.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Terri Dunahay, Director for International Biotechnology Policy, BRS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 146, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; phone (301) 734-4308, fax (301) 734-8669, e-mail: terri.g.dunahay@aphis.usda.gov.

For further information on APHIS's participation in international standard-setting activities, contact Mr. Nancy Klag, Manager, International Standards Management, PIM, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 60, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-8469, e-mail: narcy.g.klag@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is recognized as the standard-setting body for international phytosanitary (plant health) issues by the World Trade Organization. In April 2001, the IPPC's Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM)

recommended that an international standard be developed to address potential plant pest risks associated with living modified organisms (LMOs). An expert working group was established to develop detailed specifications for the standard. The decision to develop an international standard was the result of requests from IPPC member countries for guidance from the IPPC on evaluating potential phytosanitary issues that may be associated with LMOs.

APHIS has held two public meetings regarding the development of an LMO standard in the IPPC. The need for a standard was discussed at a public meeting announced in the **Federal Register** on February 20, 2001 (66 FR 10874, Docket No. 01-012-1), and held on March 8, 2001. At the second public meeting, which was announced in the **Federal Register** on July 27, 2001 (66 FR 39136, Docket No. 01-061-1), and held on August 23, 2001, we solicited public comments on the development of specifications for the LMO standard. The transcripts of both meetings are available on the Internet at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/standards/draft_standard_&_discussion_for_review.htm.

The specifications for the standard were adopted at the ICPM-4 meeting in March 2002. The United States supported the development of a stand-alone risk analysis standard for LMOs, but the decision at ICPM-4 was to draft the LMO standard as a supplement to an existing IPPC standard, International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 11, "Pest Risk Analysis for Quarantine Pests." The specifications describe the scope of the standard as guidance on how to assess the phytosanitary risks that could be presented by LMOs, and charge the working group with the following tasks:

- Consider existing pest risk analysis procedures and IPPC and other relevant standards;
- Identify relevant hazards and methods for the evaluation of the potential phytosanitary risks presented by LMOs;
- Formulate a draft supplement to ISPM No. 11 providing guidance on the conduct of pest risk analyses for LMOs consistent with relevant aspects of the Cartagena Protocol, taking account of Annex III of the Cartagena Protocol and September 2001 statements from the

Open Ended Working Group, as amended by ICPM-4; and

- Maintain a clear and easily understood standard, and provide comprehensive guidance on pest risk analysis for LMOs.

The working group, consisting of seven experts, one from each FAO region plus representation from the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Invasive Species Program, and Canada (as host) met in September 2002 to draft the standard. The draft standard was reviewed by the Standards Committee in May 2003 and posted for country consultation in June 2003. The draft standard and guidelines for submitting comments are available on the Internet at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/standards/draft_standards_4_comment.htm. Comments should be submitted to Mr. Nancy Klag on or before September 22, 2003 (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at the beginning of this notice for Mr. Klag's postal and e-mail addresses).

We are holding this public meeting to provide a forum for the submission of comments from representatives of non-governmental organizations on the format and content of the draft standard. If you wish to speak at the meeting, please register in advance by sending an e-mail or fax to Dr. Terri Dunahay (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at the beginning of this notice for Dr. Dunahay's e-mail address and fax number). Registrants should include their name, affiliation, address, and telephone number. Speakers are welcome, but not required, to submit written copies of their comments via e-mail to Dr. Dunahay. Based on the number of registered speakers, limits may be imposed on the length of each speaker's presentation. The meeting will be recorded, and information about obtaining a transcript will be provided at the meeting.

We will also provide the opportunity for interested persons to participate by teleconference. Those wishing to do so should contact Dr. Dunahay via e-mail by Friday, September 12, 2003, for phone-in information.

If you require special accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, please contact either of the persons listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Parking and Security Procedures

Please note that a fee of \$2.25 in exact change is required to enter the parking lot at the USDA Center at Riverside. The machine accepts \$1 bills or quarters.

Upon entering the building, visitors should inform security personnel that they are attending the Living Modified Organisms public meeting. State-issued photo identification is required and all bags will be screened. Security personnel will direct visitors to the registration tables located outside of Conference Rooms C and D on the first floor. Registration upon arrival is required for all participants, including those who have registered in advance to speak. Visitor badges must be worn at all times in the building.

Further information regarding the meeting may be obtained from either of the persons listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 15th day of August 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-21421 Filed 8-20-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Objections to New Land Management Plans, Plan Amendments, and Plan Revisions

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension, with revision, of the information collection for objections to new land management plans, plan amendments, and plan revisions as required by Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 219 (36 CFR part 219).

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before October 20, 2003 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Forest Service, USDA, Assistant Director for Planning, Ecosystem Management Coordination, Mail Stop 1104, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-1104. Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (202) 205-1012 or by e-mail to: froth@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the Ecosystem Management Coordination Office, 201 14th St SW., Washington, DC during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (202) 205-0895 to facilitate entry into to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Frank Roth, Ecosystem Management Coordination, at (202) 205-1547 or e-mail to: froth@fs.fed.us. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

Title: Objection to new land management plans, plan amendments, and plan revisions.

OMB Number: 0596-0158.

Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension with revision of currently approved collection.

Abstract: The information that would be required by 36 CFR 219.19 is the minimum information needed for a citizen or organization to explain the nature of the objection being made to a proposed land management plan, plan amendment, or plan revision and the reason why the individual or organization objects. Specifically, an objector must provide name, mailing address, and if possible, telephone number; an identification of the specific proposed plan, amendment or revision that is the subject of the objection; and a concise statement explaining how the environmental disclosure documents, if any, and proposed plan, amendment, or revision are inconsistent with law, regulation, Executive order, or policy and any recommendations for change. The Reviewing Officer must review the objection(s) and relevant information and then respond to the objector(s) in writing.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 10 hours to prepare the objection.

Type of Respondents: Interested and affected individuals, organizations, and governmental units who participate in the planning process: such as persons who live in or near National Forest System (NFS) lands; local, State, and Tribal governments who have an interest in the plan; Federal agencies with an interest in the management of NFS lands and resources; not-for-profit organizations interested in NFS management, such as environmental groups, recreations groups, educational

institutions; and commercial users of NFS land and resources.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 1210 a year.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 12,100 hours.

Comment Is Invited

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comments

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. In submitting this proposal to the Office of Management and Budget for approval, the Forest Service will summarize and respond to comments received.

Dated: August 14, 2003.

Gloria Manning,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 03-21407 Filed 8-20-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on September 17 and 18, 2003, in Ukiah, California. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct annual implementation monitoring of two projects completed in previous years, relating to standards and guidelines in the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP).