

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 No. 99-093-1]

Asian Longhorned Beetle; Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that an environmental assessment has been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to a proposed field test program for the control of the Asian longhorned beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Motschulsky). The environmental assessment documents our review and analysis of environmental impacts associated with the proposed field test program. We are making this environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive by March 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send your comment and three copies to: Docket No. 99-093-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 99-093-1.

You may read any comments that we receive on this environmental assessment 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.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related

information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS rules, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ron Milberg, Operations Officer, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 135, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Asian longhorned beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Motschulsky), an insect native to China, Japan, Korea, and the Isle of Hainan, is a destructive pest of hardwood trees. It is known to attack healthy maple, horse chestnut, birch, Rose of Sharon, poplar, willow, elm, locust, mulberry, chinaberry, apple, cherry, pear, and citrus trees. It may also attack other species of hardwood trees. In addition, nursery stock, logs, green lumber, firewood, stumps, roots, branches, and debris of a half an inch or more in diameter are subject to infestation. The beetle bores into the heartwood of a host tree, eventually killing it. Immature beetles bore into tree trunks and branches, causing heavy sap flow from wounds and sawdust accumulation at tree bases. They feed on, and overwinter in, the interiors of trees. Adult beetles emerge in the spring and summer months from round holes approximately 3/8-inch diameter (about the size of a dime) that they bore through the trunks of trees. After emerging, adult beetles feed for 2 to 3 days and then mate. Adult females then lay eggs in oviposition sites that they make on the branches of trees. A new generation of Asian longhorned beetle is produced each year. If this pest moves into the hardwood forests of the United States, the nursery and forest products industries could experience severe economic losses.

The Asian longhorned beetle regulations (7 CFR 301.51-1 through 301.51.9) restrict the interstate movement of regulated articles from quarantined areas to prevent the artificial spread of Asian longhorned beetle to noninfested areas of the United States. Portions of New York City and Nassau and Suffolk Counties in the State of New York and portions of the city of Chicago, Du Page County, and

the village of Summit in the State of Illinois are already designated as quarantined areas.

APHIS' current Asian longhorned beetle eradication activities are limited to the removal and destruction of trees that are determined to be infested with Asian longhorned beetle. Because the removal of host trees is time consuming and expensive, APHIS is investigating the use of prophylactic methods to prevent new infestations of healthy trees in the vicinity of infected areas.

APHIS has completed an environmental assessment that considers various methods of prophylactic protection for trees against the harmful effects of the Asian longhorned beetle. Based on our findings, we believe that the most effective prophylactic treatment available for trees appears to be the use of a soil-injected insecticide. Therefore, we are planning to conduct field tests on this method in the spring of 2000 to determine whether it can be a successful and efficient deterrent to the spread of the Asian longhorned beetle.

APHIS' review and analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with these proposed field tests are documented in detail in an environmental assessment entitled "Asian Longhorned Beetle Field Trial" (October 1999). We are making this environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment. We will consider all comments that we receive by the date listed under the heading **DATES** at the beginning of this notice.

The environmental assessment may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ead/alb/html>. You may request paper copies of the environmental assessment by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the environmental assessment when requesting copies. The environmental assessment is also available for review in our reading room (information on the location and hours of the reading room is listed under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice).

The environmental assessment 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 1), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 14th day of January 2000.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 00–1493 Filed 1–27–00; 11:53 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

National Power Cooperative; Notice of Intent

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.
ACTION: Notice of intent to hold a public meeting and prepare an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1794) proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment for possible financing assistance to National Power Cooperative, Inc. (NPC) to construct a 510 megawatt, natural gas fired combustion turbine electric generation plant in northwest Ohio.

MEETING INFORMATION: RUS will conduct a public meeting in an open house forum on Wednesday, February 16, 2000, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., at Delphos Jefferson Senior High School on Route 66 in Delphos, Ohio. All interested parties are invited to attend the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service, at (202) 720–0468. Bob's E-mail address is: bquigel@rus.usda.gov. You can also contact Keith A. Crabtree of NPC at (614) 846–5757. Keith's email address is: kac@buckeyepower.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NPC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, proposes to construct the natural gas fired electric generation plant at one of two potential sites. One site is located in Van Wert County near Convoy, just southwest of the intersection of Mentzer Road and Shaner Road. The other site is located in Allen County, east of Cairo, north of

the Lincoln Highway between Stewart Road and Slabtown Road.

The proposed project will be composed of three gas fired turbine generation units with an output of 170 megawatts each. The entire plant will require approximately 30 acres. No major natural gas pipeline or electric transmission line improvements will be needed at either site beyond the proposed site boundaries. Specific details of the plant will be available at the scoping meeting.

Alternatives to be considered by RUS to constructing the generation facility proposed include: (a) No action, (b) Load management, (c) Purchased power, and (d) An alternative site location.

To be presented at the public scoping meeting will be a siting study and alternative evaluation study prepared by AEP Resources and Dames & Moore for NPC. The siting study and alternative evaluation study are available for public review at RUS in Room 2242, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, and at the NPC headquarters located at 6677 Busch Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio. This document will also be available at the Lima Public Library, 650 W. Market St., Lima, Ohio (419–228–5113) and it's Cairo Branch, 519 Wall St., Cairo, Ohio (419–641–7744) and at the Brumback Library, 215 W. Main St. in Van Wert, Ohio (419–238–2168) and it's Convoy Branch, 116 E. Tully St., Convoy, Ohio (419–749–4000).

Government agencies, private organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the planning and analysis of the proposed project. Representatives of RUS and NPC will be available at the scoping meeting to discuss RUS' environmental review process, describe the project and alternatives under consideration, discuss the scope of environmental issues to be considered, answer questions, and accept oral and written comments. Written comments will be accepted for at least 30 days after the public scoping meeting.

From information provided in the siting study and alternative evaluation study, input that may be provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public, NPC will prepare an environmental analysis to be submitted to RUS for review. RUS will use the environmental analysis to determine the significance of the impacts of the project and may adopt it as its environmental assessment of the project. RUS' environmental assessment of the project would be available for review and comment for 30 days.

Should RUS determine, based on the environmental assessment of the

project, that the impacts of the construction and operation of the plant would not be significant, it will prepare a finding of no significant impact. Public notification of a finding of no significant impact would be published in the **Federal Register** and in newspapers with a circulation in the project area.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with environmental review requirements as prescribed by CEQ and RUS environmental policies and procedures.

Dated: January 24, 2000.

Glendon D. Deal,

Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff.

[FR Doc. 00–2014 Filed 1–28–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–428–827, A–475–828, A–557–809, A–565–801]

Initiation of Antidumping Duty Investigations: Stainless Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Germany, Italy, Malaysia and the Philippines

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 31, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For Germany: Carrie Blozy or Rick Johnson at (202) 482–0165 and (202) 482–3818, respectively; for Italy, Helen Kramer or Linda Ludwig at (202) 482–0405 and (202) 482–3833, respectively; for Malaysia, Becky Hagen or Rick Johnson at (202) 482–3362 and (202) 482–3818, respectively; for the Philippines, Fred Baker or Robert James at (202) 482–2924 and (202) 482–0649, respectively, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20230.

Initiation of Investigations

The Applicable Statute and Regulations

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Tariff Act of 1930 (“the Act”) by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (“URAA”). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department's regulations are references to the provisions codified at 19 CFR part 351 (1999).