

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.

You may request a copy of the environmental assessment (as well as the risk analysis with confidential business information removed) by writing to Dr. Larry R. Ludemann, USDA, APHIS, VS, CVB-LPD, 510 South 17th Street, Suite 104, Ames, IA 50010, or by calling (515) 232-5785. Please refer to the docket number, date and complete title of this notice when requesting copies.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Albert P. Morgan, Chief Staff Officer, Operational Support Section, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Licensing and Policy Development, VS, APHIS, USDA, 4700 River Road Unit 148, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; phone (301) 734-8245; fax (301) 734-4314. For information regarding the environmental assessment or the risk analysis, contact Dr. Larry R. Ludemann, USDA, APHIS, VS, CVB-LPD, 510 South 17th Street, Suite 104, Ames, IA 50010; (515) 232-5785.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (21 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*), a veterinary biological product must be shown to be pure, safe, potent, and efficacious before a veterinary biological product license may be issued. A field test is generally necessary to satisfy prelicensing requirements for veterinary biological products. Prior to conducting a field test on an unlicensed product, an applicant must obtain approval from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), as well as obtain APHIS' authorization to ship the product for field testing.

To determine whether to authorize shipment and grant approval for the field testing of the unlicensed product referenced in this notice, APHIS conducted a risk analysis to assess the potential effects of this product on the safety of animals, public health, and the environment. Based on the risk analysis, APHIS has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) concerning the field testing of the following unlicensed veterinary biological product:

*Requester:* Fort Dodge Animal Health, Inc.

*Product:* West Nile Virus Vaccine, DNA Vaccine, Code 1995.D0.

*Field Test Locations:* California, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, and Oklahoma.

The above-mentioned product is an *Esherichia coli* plasmid containing the prM and E genes of the West Nile virus. The vaccine is for use in horses as an aid in the prevention of viremia associated with West Nile virus infection.

The EA 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 provision 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).

Unless substantial issues with adverse environmental impacts are raised in response to this notice, APHIS intends to issue a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) based on the EA and authorize shipment of the above product for the initiation of field tests following the close of the comment period for this notice.

Because the issues raised by field testing and by issuance of a license are identical, APHIS has concluded that the EA that is generated for field testing would also be applicable to the proposed licensing action. Provided that the field test data support the conclusions of the original EA and the issuance of a FONSI, APHIS does not intend to issue a separate EA and FONSI to support the issuance of the product license, and would determine that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. APHIS intends to issue a veterinary biological product license for this vaccine following completion of the field test provided no adverse impacts on the human environment are identified and provided the product meets all other requirements for licensure.

**Authority:** 21 U.S.C. 151-159.

Done in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of January, 2003.

**Bobby R. Acord,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-1864 Filed 1-27-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Record of Decision on the Woodpecker Project Area Final Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; record of decision.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, has prepared the record of decision for the Woodpecker Project Area. The project area is located within the Petersburg Ranger District, on Mitkof Island, about 27 miles south of Petersburg, Alaska. Thomas Puchlerz, Forest Supervisor for the Tongass National Forest, has selected a modification of Alternative 6 from the final Environmental Impact Statement (final EIS, August 2001). This decision includes: (a) Harvest of approximately 5.4 million board feet of timber from approximately 400 acres, (b) parking turnouts, (c) improvement of dispersed recreation use areas, (d) closure of approximately ten miles of existing road for watershed improvement, and (e) adjustment of three small old-growth habitat reserves. Approximately 2.5 miles of temporary road will be constructed to access the timber. No new classified road designed for long-term use will be constructed. An existing log transfer facility will be used.

**DATES:** The legal notice of this decision was published in the *Juneau Empire*, the newspaper of record, published in Juneau, Alaska, on January 23, 2003. This began the 45-day appeal period, which will close on Monday, March 10, 2003. This decision may be implemented no sooner than 5 business days after close of the appeal period, if no appeal is received. If an appeal is received, this decision may be implemented no sooner than 15 days following disposition of the appeal.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the record of decision of final EIS may be directed to: Cynthia Sever, Petersburg Ranger District, P.O. Box 1328, Petersburg, Alaska 99833, Phone (907) 772-3871; fax (907) 772-5995; or e-mail [csever@fs.fed.us](mailto:csever@fs.fed.us). The Responsible Official is Thomas Puchlerz, Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, 648 Mission Street, Ketchikan, AK 99901. The Regional Forester is the Appeal Deciding Officer. Written notices of appeal must be addressed to: Regional Forester, Alaska Region, USDA, Forest Service, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, AK 99802-1628.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for further information