

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals or plants is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. A species is considered recovered when the species' ecosystem is restored and/or threats to the species are removed so that self-sustaining and self-regulating populations of the species can be supported as persistent members of native biotic communities. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires that recovery plans be developed for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that during recovery plan development, we provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment. Information presented during the comment period has been considered in the preparation of the approved recovery plan, and is summarized in an appendix to the recovery plan. We will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to appropriate Federal agencies and other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions.

The Mead's milkweed was listed as a threatened species under the Act on September 1, 1988 (53 FR 33982). The Mead's milkweed is currently known to persist in eastern Kansas, Missouri, south-central Iowa, and southern Illinois. Populations no longer occur in Wisconsin and Indiana. Seventy-five percent of the Mead's milkweed populations are in the Osage Plains Physiographic Region in Kansas and Missouri. The remainder of the populations occur in the Shawnee Hills of Illinois; the Southern Iowa Drift Plain in Iowa; the Glaciated Plains, Ozark Border, Ozark Springfield Plateau, the Ozark-St. Francois Mountains, Missouri; and the Glaciated Physiographic Region of Kansas. Mead's milkweed populations have been eliminated by wide-scale agriculture in the eastern part of the species' range. Many large populations occur in private hay meadows where a century of annual mowing has severely reduced genetic diversity by preventing sexual reproduction. Among the surviving populations in eastern Missouri,

Illinois, and Iowa, most consist of a few genetically invariant clones that are incapable of reproduction. Population restoration efforts are being made in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin by introducing Mead's milkweed into suitable habitat.

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of the Mead's milkweed so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. As recovery criteria are met, the status of the species will be reviewed and it will be considered for removal from the list of Endangered and Threatened Plants (50 CFR part 17). The Mead's milkweed will be considered for delisting when 21 populations are distributed across plant communities and physiographic regions within the historic range of the species, each of these 21 populations is highly viable, and monitoring indicates that these populations have had a stable or increasing trend for 15 years. A highly viable population has the following characteristics: more than 50 mature plants; seed production; increase in size and maturity; genetically diverse with more than 50 genotypes; 125 acres (50 hectares) or more of late-successional habitat; habitat protection through long-term conservation easements, legal dedication as a nature preserve, or other means; and habitat management by fire in order to maintain a late-successional graminoid vegetation structure that is free of woody vegetation.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533 (f).

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigations Nos. 731-TA-1048-1053 (Preliminary)]

Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide from Australia, China, Greece, Ireland, Japan, and South Africa

Determinations

On the basis of the record¹ developed in the subject investigations, the United States International Trade Commission (Commission) determines, pursuant to section 733(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1673b(a)) (the Act), that there

is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of imports from Australia, Greece, Ireland, Japan, and South Africa of electrolytic manganese dioxide, provided for in subheading 2820.10.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that are alleged to be sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The Commission has determined that U.S. imports from China are negligible.

Commencement of Final Phase Investigations

Pursuant to § 207.18 of the Commission's rules, the Commission also gives notice of the commencement of the final phase of its investigations. The Commission will issue a final phase notice of scheduling, which will be published in the **Federal Register** as provided in § 207.21 of the Commission's rules, upon notice from the Department of Commerce (Commerce) of affirmative preliminary determinations in the investigations under section 733(b) of the Act, or, if the preliminary determinations are negative, upon notice of affirmative final determinations in those investigations under section 735(a) of the Act. Parties that filed entries of appearance in the preliminary phase of the investigations need not enter a separate appearance for the final phase of the investigations. Industrial users, and, if the merchandise under investigation is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations have the right to appear as parties in Commission antidumping and countervailing duty investigations. The Secretary will prepare a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the investigations.

Background

On July 31, 2003, a petition was filed with the Commission and Commerce by Kerr-McGee Chemical, LLC, Oklahoma City, OK, alleging that an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of LTFV imports of electrolytic manganese dioxide from Australia, China, Greece, Ireland, Japan, and South Africa. Accordingly, effective July 31, 2003, the Commission instituted antidumping duty investigations Nos. 731-TA-1048-1053 (Preliminary).

Notice of the institution of the Commission's investigations and of a public conference to be held in connection therewith was given by posting copies of the notice in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International

¹ The record is defined in § 207.2(f) of the Commission's rules of practice and procedure (19 CFR 207.2(f)).