

compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) permitted the releases after it completed additional environmental risk analyses and provided the public an opportunity to comment on the documents.

In 2005, APHIS initiated a biological control program for saltcedar defoliation in the northern United States using the tamarisk leaf beetle as the biological control agent in limited locations outside of the habitat of the southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL, *Empidonax traillii extimus*). Greater than anticipated natural dispersion and intentional human-assisted movement of the beetle into SWFL habitat caused defoliation of saltcedar trees, hampering the flycatcher's nesting success.

After tamarisk leaf beetles were discovered in SWFL habitat, APHIS terminated its saltcedar biological control program in 2010 and canceled release permits because of concern about the potential adverse effects on SWFL. APHIS reinitiated consultation with USFWS on these actions, in compliance with section 7(a)(2) of the ESA and 16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2), and USFWS concurred with APHIS' determination that these actions were not likely to adversely affect the SWFL.

On September 30, 2013, the Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit against USDA, APHIS, ARS, the Department of the Interior (DOI), and USFWS alleging that the APHIS saltcedar biological control program violated the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the ESA. On May 3, 2016, the Court granted the plaintiff's second of five claims, finding that APHIS did not comply with the ESA section 7(a)(1), which requires Federal agencies to consult with DOI and "utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of [the ESA] by carrying out programs for the conservation of endangered species and threatened species listed pursuant to [16 U.S.C. 1533]" 16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(1). On June 19, 2018, the Court ordered USDA and APHIS to publish proposed conservation program alternatives in compliance with ESA section 7(a)(1), solicit public comments on the proposed alternatives, then publish a draft environmental assessment (EA) for public comment, and complete review of all public comments, and issue final decision and final EA, or an environmental impact statement (EIS) should it be appropriate.

On October 26, 2018, APHIS published in the **Federal Register** (83 FR 54080–54082, Docket No. APHIS–

2018–0064) a notice<sup>1</sup> informing the public of APHIS' intent to conduct a scoping process and prepare an EA. We solicited comments for 30 days ending on November 26, 2018. We received 23 comments by that date.

After taking into consideration the comments that we received, on July 9, 2019, we published in the **Federal Register** (84 FR 32701–32702, Docket No. APHIS–2018–0064) a notice in which we announced the availability, for public review and comment, of an EA that examined the environmental effects of possible SWFL conservation measures available to USDA and APHIS, as well as a "no action" alternative.

We solicited comments on the EA for 30 days ending August 8, 2019. We received 22 comments by that date. Four commenters were supportive of the preferred alternative in the EA without further comment, and one expressed general opposition to all APHIS biocontrol efforts. Additionally, several commenters asked for changes in nomenclature or phrasing within the draft EA in order to clarify its provisions without changing its meaning; we have incorporated the requested changes to the extent possible within the final EA. The remaining comments are addressed in the final EA itself.

In this document, we are advising the public of our finding of no significant impact (FONSI) regarding our preferred alternative for SWFL conservation measures. The finding, which is based on the EA, reflects our determination that the preferred alternative will not have significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

The EA and FONSI may be viewed on the *Regulations.gov* website (see footnote 1). Copies of the EA and FONSI are also available for public inspection at USDA, Room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect copies are requested to call ahead on (202) 799–7039 to facilitate entry into the reading room. In addition, copies may be obtained by calling or writing to the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

The EA and FONSI have been prepared in accordance with: (1) NEPA, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for

<sup>1</sup>To view the notice of intent and the comments that we received on that document, or the subsequent notice of availability of the environmental assessment, its supporting documents, and the comments that we received on that document, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=APHIS-2018-0064>.

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).

Done in Washington, DC, this 26th day of November 2019.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2019–26110 Filed 12–2–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–34–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2019–0075]

#### Notice of Request for Revision to and Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Phytosanitary Export Certification

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request a revision to and extension of approval of an information collection associated with the regulations for the issuance of phytosanitary certificates for plants or plant products being exported to foreign countries.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before February 3, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=APHIS-2019-0075>.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2019–0075, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=APHIS-2019-0075> or in our reading room, which 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) 799-7039 before coming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on the regulations for phytosanitary export certification for plants and plant products being exported to foreign countries, contact Mr. Christian Dellis, Export Specialist North America and U.S. Territories, PHP, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 131, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-2154. For more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2483.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Phytosanitary Export Certification.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579-0052.

*Type of Request:* Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection.

*Abstract:* The Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to certify as to the freedom of plants, plant products, or biological control organisms from plant pests or noxious weeds, or the exposure of plants, plant products, or biological control organisms to plant pests or noxious weeds, according to the phytosanitary or other requirements of the countries to which the plants, plant products, or biological control organisms may be exported.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), among other things, provides export certification services to assure other countries that the plants and plant products they are receiving from the United States are free of plant pests specified by the receiving country. Our regulations do not require that we engage in export certification activities. However, we perform this work as a service to exporters who are shipping plants or plant products to countries that require phytosanitary certification as a condition of entry.

The export certification regulations in 7 CFR part 353 describe the procedures for obtaining certification for plants and plant products offered for export or re-export. To request that we perform a phytosanitary inspection, an exporter must complete and submit an Application for Inspection and Certification of Plants and Plant Products for Export.

After assessing the condition of the plants or plant products intended for export (*i.e.*, after conducting a phytosanitary inspection), an inspector (who may be an APHIS employee or a State or county plant regulatory official) will issue an internationally recognized

phytosanitary certificate, a phytosanitary certificate for re-export, or an export certificate for processed plant products. These forms are critical to our ability to certify plants and plant products for export. Without them, we would be unable to conduct an export certification program.

In addition, APHIS requires information collection activities such as the recordkeeping, a memorandum of understanding for State inspectors, request for APHIS to negotiate with national plant protection organizations for industry-issued certificates or documentation, memorandum of understanding with industry for inspection and use of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (ISPM 15), and the application of an ISPM 15 mark.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities, as described, for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

- (1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

*Estimate of burden:* The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.0074 hours per response.

*Respondents:* State, local, and county plant regulatory officials, U.S. growers, shippers, and exporters.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 9,101.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 6,155.3.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 56,019,465.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 412,985 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual

number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 26th day of November 2019.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2019-26111 Filed 12-2-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Foreign-Trade Zones Board**

[S-185-2019]

**Approval of Subzone Status; Pueblo, Inc.; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico**

On September 19, 2019, the Executive Secretary of the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board docketed an application submitted by the Department of Economic Development and Commerce, grantee of FTZ 61, requesting subzone status subject to the existing activation limit of FTZ 61, on behalf of Pueblo, Inc., in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

The application was processed in accordance with the FTZ Act and Regulations, including notice in the **Federal Register** inviting public comment (84 FR 50374, September 25, 2019). The FTZ staff examiner reviewed the application and determined that it meets the criteria for approval.

Pursuant to the authority delegated to the FTZ Board Executive Secretary (15 CFR Sec. 400.36(f)), the application to establish Subzone 61X was approved on November 26, 2019, subject to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations, including Section 400.13, and further subject to FTZ 61's 1,821.07-acre activation limit.

Dated: November 27, 2019.

**Andrew McGilvray,**

*Executive Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2019-26154 Filed 12-2-19; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Foreign-Trade Zones Board**

[B-72-2019]

**Foreign-Trade Zone 122—Corpus Christi, Texas; Application for Subzone Cheniere Energy, Inc., Portland, Texas**

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board by the Port of Corpus Christi Authority,