



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 17 2008

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

David A. Bergsten
Supervisory Biological Scientist
Environmental Services
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
4700 River Road, Unit 149, Room #3D-06D
Riverdale, MD 20737

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement – Use of Genetically Engineered Fruit Fly and Pink Bollworm in APHIS Plant Pest Control Programs

Dear Mr. Bergsten:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Use of Genetically Engineered Fruit Fly and Pink Bollworm in APHIS Plant Pest Control Programs in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

EPA reviewed the Draft (EIS) and provided comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on August 8, 2008. In our comment letter, we indicated that we had no environmental concerns about the project; however, we identified a few areas that needed clarification or further explanation.

EPA is pleased that the issues identified in our review of the Draft EIS have been addressed in the Final EIS. Specifically, the Final EIS provided additional details in Appendix E, Summary of Public Comments, with regards to the impact to predators from loss of Pink Bollworm as prey (identified as Issue 12). The Final EIS also includes an expanded explanation of potential uses of preventative-based measures for the No Action Alternative and Expansion of Existing Program Alternative (identified as Issue 13). Based on our review of the Final EIS, EPA reiterates that we have no environmental concerns about the proposed action.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Final EIS. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 564-5400, or have your staff contact Arthur Totten at (202) 564-7164.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan E. Bromm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Susan E. Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities