



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

JUL 3 2012

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Rebecca L. Stankiewicz Gabel, PhD
Biotechnology Regulatory Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
4700 River Road, Unit 147
Riverdale, MD 20737-1236

JUL 3

Dear Dr. Gabel:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for *Glyphosate-Tolerant H7-1 Sugar Beets: Request for Nonregulated Status*.

This Final EIS considers alternatives in response to a petition from Monsanto/KWS SAAT AG seeking to deregulate genetically engineered glyphosate-tolerant (GT) H7-1 Sugar Beets. USDA indicates its selection of Alternative 2, Full Deregulation of H7-1, to grant a non-regulated status for GT Sugar Beets. This determination is based on USDA's conclusion that genetically engineered GT H7-1 sugar beet lines are unlikely to pose plant pest risks.

EPA has reviewed the Final EIS and has no comments. If you should have any questions, please contact me at (202) 564-5400 or Arthur Totten, the staff contact for this project at (202) 564-7164.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Susan E. Bromm".

Susan E. Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities

JUL 3