

55-page attachment
withheld in full under
(b)(5)

Schmeissner, Peter J.

From: Schmeissner, Peter J.
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2010 7:02 PM
To: 'M. Schechtman'; 'M. Gregoire'; (b) (6); 'K. Matthews'; 'C. Wozniak';
'J. Dietz'; 'E. Porter'; 'Jack Bobo'; 'M. Szymanski'; Agustin, Melissa R.; Malanoski, Margaret A.;
Perraut, Andrew B.; Athas, Ellen; Nuzum, R. Scott
Subject: Interagency review of another draft EA by USFWS
Attachments: DraftEA_Farming_MidwestRegion_November2010 (2).pdf

Thanks to everyone for reviewing the previous environmental assessment on the use of genetically-engineered crops on national wildlife refuges from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6 (the mountain region). Now the USFWS Region 3 (the Midwest region) independently has developed an EA on the same topic. This EA is attached for interagency review and comment. **Deadline for interagency comments on this EA is COB, Friday, December 10th.**

(b) (5)

many thanks,
Peter

*Peter Schmeissner, Ph.D.
Senior Policy Analyst
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President*

(b) (6)

From: Schmeissner, Peter J.
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2010 12:10 PM
To: 'M. Schechtman'; 'M. Gregoire'; (b) (6); 'K. Matthews'; (b) (6);
'C. Wozniak'; 'J. Dietz'; 'E. Porter'; 'Jack Bobo'; 'M. Szymanski'; Agustin, Melissa R.; Malanoski, Margaret A.; Perraut,
Andrew B.; Athas, Ellen; (b) (6); 'R. Macke'
Subject: Interagency review of draft EA by USFWS

As a follow up to earlier discussions in the Ag. Biotech Working Group on NEPA analyses being undertaken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, please find attached for interagency review a draft Environmental Assessment compiled by USFWS Region 6 (the Mountain and Prairie region).

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Please direct any comments on the Region 6 EA to me, if possible by COB Friday November 5.

many thanks,
Peter

Peter Schmeissner, Ph.D.

Schmeissner, Peter J.

From: Adrienne Massey (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 12:59 PM
To: Schmeissner, Peter J.
Cc: 'will_meeks@fws.gov'; Robert Rosado
Subject: FWS Court settlement with PEER on cultivation of ag biotech crops in wildlife refuges

Peter,

FYI. If I recall correctly, the interagency group is working on this??

Hope you're well.

Adrienne

From: Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) [mailto: (b) (6)]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:29 AM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: PRESS RELEASE: Feds Yank GE Crops From All Northeast Refuges

Having trouble with images or links? Try adding us ((b) (6)) to your address book or go to:
http://www.peer.org/news/news_id.php?row_id=1443

For Immediate Release: Monday, January 10, 2010.

Contact: Kirsten Stade [PEER] (b) (6) | Paige Tomasilli [Center for Food Safety] (b) (6),
Mark Martell [Delaware Audubon Society] (b) (6); Kenneth Kristl [Widener Environmental and
Natural Resources Law Clinic] (b) (6)

FEDS YANK GE CROPS FROM ALL NORTHEAST REFUGES
Settlement of Bombay Hook Suit Makes Southeast Refuges Next Legal Target

Washington, DC — The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has agreed to stop planting genetically engineered (GE) crops on all its refuges within a dozen Northeastern states, according to a settlement agreement in a lawsuit brought by conservation and food safety groups. Because the federal government would not agree to end illegal GE agriculture in refuges nationally, new litigation is being prepared in other regions where as many as 75 other national wildlife refuges now growing GE crops are vulnerable to similar suits.

The lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for Delaware, filed by the Widener Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic on behalf of Delaware Audubon Society, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and the Center for Food Safety, charged that the Fish & Wildlife Service had illegally entered into Cooperative Farming Agreements with private parties, allowing hundreds of acres on its Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware to be plowed over without the environmental review required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In settling the suit, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service promised to revoke any authorization for further GE agriculture at Bombay Hook and the four other refuges with GE crops: the Rappahannock River Valley Refuge and the Eastern Shore of Virginia Refuge, Montezuma Refuge in New York and Blackwater Refuge of

Schmeissner, Peter J.

From: Adrienne Massey (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 1:41 PM
To: Schmeissner, Peter J.
Subject: FWS EA midwest

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Peter,

I met with the good folks of the USFWS-NWR Midwest region yesterday regarding their EA. Mike Brown said that you had reviewed an earlier draft of the document and didn't seem to have a concern that I had expressed to them. When is a good time for us to talk about this? I want to make sure I'm clear on all facets of the issue before we submit comments—if we submit comments.

Thanks for your help.

Adrienne

Adrienne Massey, PhD
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Schmeissner, Peter J.

From: Adrienne Massey (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:10 AM
To: Schmeissner, Peter J.
Subject: FW: FWS EA on biotech crops in refuge areas

FYI – in case you haven't seen this: something EA-like from the Southeast region of FWS-NWR. No need to discuss, just wanted to make sure you had seen it.

From: Adrienne Massey
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 2:58 PM
To: Ab Basu
Subject: FW: FWS EA on biotech crops in refuge areas

Hi Ab,

Here's the document that the SE region apparently put forth as its EA. But only place I have been able to find it (or anything on SE region) is on the website of a Tennessee NWR. Covers 25 refuges or refuge complexes in the SE region where they state deregulated GE crops are grown. It is a pretty brief document (6 pages) and relies heavily on the previous evaluations done by APHIS. It would appear that this effort was not widely known about within the region or within larger FWS circles.

While it provides some coverage for the region – the EA prepared is nowhere near the scale and scope of the document prepared in the Midwest region.

No date so don't know when it was posted—only that it must have been more than 30 days ago since it uses past tense to describe the public comment period.

<http://www.fws.gov/tennesseerefuge/pdf/Region%20IV%27s%20EA%20FONSI%20Adoption%202011.pdf>

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Adrienne