

 **NOTICE**

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737-1232 • Voice (301) 743-7799 • Web: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

**USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON FIELD RELEASE FOR GENETICALLY
ENGINEERED EUCALYPTUS HYBRID**

June 2, 2009

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) is advising the public that it has prepared an environmental assessment for a proposed controlled field release of a genetically engineered clone of a *Eucalyptus* hybrid. The purpose of this release is to continue research on the effectiveness of gene constructs which are intended to confer cold tolerance; to test the efficacy of a gene introduced to alter lignin biosynthesis; and to test the efficacy of a gene designed to alter fertility. We are making the environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment.

This notice is scheduled for publication in the June 3 *Federal Register*.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before July 6. You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2008-0059> to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.
- Postal Mail/Commercial delivery: Please send two copies of your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2008-0059, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2008-0059.

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Note to Reporters: Public notices and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS news release page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information about this topic contact Jim Barrett at (301) 734-6405 or by e-mail at jim.barrett@aphis.usda.gov.