present in the United States; (2) an organism of foreign origin that is present in the United States but is capable of further expansion beyond its present established range; and (3) an organism of foreign origin that has reached its full range of potential establishment in the United States but is sufficiently biologically different from the organism that is present in the United States to warrant concern. In each of these three categories, the regulated organism may be also of concern if it can vector a foreign plant pest that also falls into one of the three categories. The criteria we may use to further determine whether a regulated organism in one of the above categories warrants concern may be whether the organism causes an increase in the population of a plant pest or whether the organism causes injury or disease to plants.

We believe the information that would be required in a permit application is necessary for APHIS to be able to gain a clear understanding of the potential plant pest risk and environmental effects of the introduction for which a person is seeking a permit. The specific data requirements are discussed in detail

below.

The first item that would be required under proposed paragraph (b) for all permit applications would be the name, address, telephone number, and facsimile number of the person seeking a permit. This information is necessary because the permit will be issued to that person, and we will likely need to contact that person during the application review process.

We would then require several items that would serve to identify the regulated organism and describe its biology. To that end, we would require:

 The scientific name, common name, and any other information that serves to identify the regulated organism as specifically as possible (including the subspecies, race, and strain of the regulated organism) and a description of the methods used to establish the identity of the regulated organism. The accurate identification of a regulated organism is a necessary first step in APHIS' review of an application, and knowing what methods were used, including consultation with experts, to identify the regulated organism would enable APHIS to evaluate the accuracy of the identification. If new techniques or information become available that allow the regulated organism to be more accurately identified, APHIS may need this information from the applicant in order to fairly review the application and assess the plant pest and environmental risks associated with the

proposed introduction of the regulated organism. This type of information would also help APHIS to verify whether the application is complete by comparing information provided in the application to that available in the literature and other sources.

2. A description of the measures that have been taken to establish that the regulated organism and any material associated with the introduction of the regulated organism do not contain any organisms not identified in the permit application. This information would be used by APHIS to address the issue of purity as it applies not only to the regulated organism itself, which may have hyperparasites or other organisms, for example, but also as it applies to any material, such as packaging or host material, associated with the introduction of the regulated organism. By knowing what organisms will be associated with the regulated organism, APHIS can more comprehensively determine the plant pest risk associated with the regulated organisms and assign appropriate conditions on the permit.

3. The intended use of the regulated organism. This information would apprise APHIS of the materials, methods, or procedures to be used in the intended experimental, commercial, or other uses of the regulated organism. That knowledge would be used by APHIS to assess plant pest risk, determine conditions necessary to mitigate the risk, and come to a decision regarding the issuance or denial of a permit. Additionally, pursuant to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), we will consider, during our analysis, the potential beneficial or harmful effects that a regulated organism could have on the environment, such as the effects that a regulated organism used as a biological control agent could have on

its target and nontargets. A description of the life cycle, biology, and ecology of the regulated organism. Understanding a regulated organism's potential for survival, establishment, and dispersal would enable APHIS to determine the plant pest risk associated with the regulated organism. A description of the biological characteristics of the organism would be of use to APHIS during its review of the permit application, especially if relatively little is known about the organism.

5. Whether the regulated organism has been genetically modified (if so, include a description of the genetic modification). If the regulated organism has been genetically modified through sexual recombination and selection for

traits not typical of the organism in nature, through induced mutation and selection for special traits, or through other classical techniques, APHIS would need a description of the modification in order to assess the biology of the modified regulated organism insofar as it differs from that of an unmodified organism of the same species. If, on the other hand, recombinant DNA techniques had been used to effect a modification, BATS would refer the applicant to the Biotechnology Permits staff of Biotechnology, Biologics, and Environmental Protection, which handles permits for genetically engineered organisms.

6. The country and locality where the regulated organism was originally collected from nature, and the countries and localities where the regulated organism has been propagated and maintained since its collection. When assessing plant pest risk, APHIS would consider the conditions in the country or countries in which a regulated organism was collected, propagated, and maintained. This information would be used by APHIS to determine whether sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent contamination of the regulated organism by other organisms. In addition, an organism may genetically vary from area to area, so this information may have bearing on APHIS' determination of plant pest risk.

7. The established range of the regulated organism in the United States. If the regulated organism is already established in one or more areas of the United States, this information would be used to determine the plant pest and environmental risks to areas of the United States in which the organism does not already occur, and to identify circumstances under which consultation with specific States and other parties may be necessary before assigning conditions for the movement or release of a regulated organism that is established within the United States.

We would also require information relating to details of the proposed introduction:

8. The number of specimens or units of the regulated organism to be introduced. The scale of the introduction would be one factor considered when assessing the possible plant pest risk associated with a regulated organism. APHIS would consider whether the destination facility listed on the application is equipped to handle any large quantities of a regulated organism. The safeguards assigned as conditions of a permit would have to be adequate to mitigate that risk.