

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
for
Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment for
Response Activities for African Swine Fever Outbreaks in
Domestic Swine in the United States and U.S. Territories**

May 2026

The establishment of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the United States is of great concern to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) as the disease can cause economic devastation to the swine industry and great socioeconomic impacts to consumers. Although ASF has never been detected in the United States, it was confirmed in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and outbreaks in both countries remain ongoing. International travel and trade pose a substantial risk for viral incursion into the country. Illegal entry of swine products and byproducts presents the largest potential pathway for entry of the ASF virus into the United States (USDA APHIS, 2023a). Although ASF does not affect human health and cannot be transmitted from swine to humans, the disease is a critical threat to U.S. swine due to the continued global spread, millions of susceptible swine in the United States, including feral swine, and the potential for severe economic impacts.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the USDA NEPA implementing regulations (7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1b), the USDA APHIS has completed a programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) that analyzed the potential environmental impacts associated with actions that may be taken by the Agency in response to an ASF outbreak in U.S. domestic swine. USDA APHIS Veterinary Services, USDA APHIS Environmental Risk and Analysis Services, Policy and Program Development, and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services were consulted in the preparation of the PEA. The PEA, incorporated by reference in this document, is posted on the USDA APHIS NEPA website at the following link <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/laws-regs/nepa> (see Final NEPA Documents by Program Area for Veterinary Services NEPA Documents). Copies may be requested by contacting:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Whitten Building, Room 318-E
Washington, DC 20250

The PEA analyzed two alternatives: (A) the Federal Operational Assistance Alternative (Preferred Alternative/No Action Alternative) and (B) the No Federal Operational Assistance Alternative.

Under the Federal Operational Assistance Alternative, trained USDA APHIS personnel from several programs in the agency, including VS (lead program for ASF outbreaks in domestic swine), act as first responders in addition to providing federal oversight for ASF outbreak response activities. USDA APHIS VS ASF outbreak response actions may include any combination of activities to control the spread of ASF, including implementing depopulation of swine and disposal of carcasses, which can range from loaning equipment to assisting directly in those actions, assisting in sanitizing affected premises, and providing support with monitoring and guidance as to the appropriate time to release a premises from quarantine. USDA APHIS VS and other supporting USDA APHIS programs would closely coordinate its ASF response activities with State and territory authorities, Tribes, local governments, and impacted swine producers or owners.

Under the No Federal Operational Assistance Alternative, if an ASF outbreak were to occur, state and local authorities, Tribes, and poultry owners and producers would be responsible for all actions necessary for depopulating ASF-infected swine herds, disposing of carcasses and other potentially ASF-contaminated materials, and managing any necessary transportation, cleanup and disinfection. USDA APHIS VS would provide technical guidance and equipment upon request but would not provide any operational assistance with ASF response actions. USDA APHIS would continue to conduct surveillance to monitor for ASF and determine if outbreaks have occurred. USDA APHIS VS would not be involved in depopulation, disposal, clean-up, and disinfection at sites where ASF is detected within the mainland United States. USDA APHIS VS would monitor sites after depopulation and carcass management activities have been implemented to determine if ASF has been eradicated. The U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands do not have adequate infrastructure and state or local resources to respond to an outbreak without USDA APHIS assistance. Therefore, USDA APHIS VS would provide operational assistance with an ASF response in U.S. territories under both alternatives.

The potential environmental effects of the proposed action (Federal Operational Assistance Alternative) have been reviewed in accordance with the requirements in 7 CFR part 1b, which implement NEPA. USDA APHIS VS considered the Final PEA' analysis and conclusions regarding potential effects on soil, water, and air quality; human health (including effects on health and safety, cultural and historic resources, children's health, and Tribes); and wildlife health, including migratory birds, eagles, threatened and endangered species, and critical habitat. Under the Preferred Alternative, having USDA APHIS-trained personnel and subject matter experts directly involved in ASF response efforts is expected to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of eliminating ASF from U.S. swine herds and reducing the risk of further exposure of swine. With an established incident response plan, experienced personnel, training, and funding, the potential for impacts on human environment is expected to be lower compared to the No Federal Operational Assistance Alternative.

USDA APHIS has determined that the proposed action is consistent with applicable federal, state, and local laws and environmental requirements. The proposal will not affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and will not cause the loss or destruction of scientific, cultural, or historical resources. USDA APHIS determined that there are no disproportionate adverse effects associated with the preferred action alternative to children under Executive Order 13045, Protection of

Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. Per EO 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, Tribes within the 50 states and territories that could be affected by ASF will be notified of this EA through the USDA APHIS Office of National Tribal Liaison. All Tribes that contact USDA APHIS VS will be assisted with an ASF outbreak.

Based on the environmental impact analysis in the PEA, USDA APHIS finds that the proposed action of USDA APHIS overseeing, conducting, and assisting with ASF outbreak response activities does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Specifically, there are no extraordinary circumstances that may cause any potential impacts, and there are no reasonably foreseeable adverse impacts of other related actions that might result in significant adverse impacts. Accordingly, USDA APHIS has determined that a FONSI is appropriate, and an environmental impact statement is not warranted.

I found that the implementation of the proposed action will not have a reasonably foreseeable significant effect on the quality of the human environment. I have considered the analysis contained within the PEA and based my finding of no significant impact on that analysis. Because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, I find that an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared and that the program may proceed with the action immediately following the posting of this decision document. `

Dr. Adis Dijab
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Veterinary Services
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
United States Department of Agriculture

5/21/2026

Date