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EPA OPENS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR OXITEC'S EXPERIMENTAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE FRIENDLY™ MOSQUITO

March 9, 2018 - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published in the Federal Register a notice of receipt of an application for an Experimental Use Permit (EUP) for the release of Oxitec's *Aedes aegypti* Friendly™ mosquitoes in Monroe County, Florida. This marks the opening of the 30-day public comment period, after which the EPA will review the comments as part of their evaluation of Oxitec's Friendly Mosquito EUP project.

The purpose of Oxitec's proposed pilot project is to determine the efficacy of Oxitec's *Aedes aegypti* Friendly™ mosquitoes as a control method of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in Monroe County.

"The *Aedes aegypti* is a very difficult mosquito to control," said Florida Keys Mosquito Control District (FKMCD) Executive Director Andrea Leal. "We are constantly looking at new technologies to combat this mosquito and we look forward to the EPA's review of the Oxitec mosquito."

The link to EPA's docket containing information on the EUP application will be available on the FKMCD website (<http://www.keysmosquito.org>) by mid-day Friday. For more information, please contact the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District by email (questions@keysmosquito.org) or phone (305-292-7190).

About the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

The mission of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District is to control the mosquito population using the most effective methods, techniques, equipment and insecticides; thus enhancing the quality of life for all residents and reducing the possibility of mosquito transmitted diseases.

Follow FKMCD on Twitter at [@FKKeysMosquito](https://twitter.com/FKKeysMosquito) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FKKeysMosquito). For more information about the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, please visit www.keysmosquito.org.