

The original product, Camel Gold 100s, was previously found by FDA substantially equivalent and received a marketing order on June 16, 2016. The new product is made by modifying the original product. These modifications are to the cork tipping paper and filter tow (Confidential Appendix 1).

4. Alternatives to the Proposed Action

The no-action alternative is FDA does not issue a marketing order for the new tobacco product.

5. Potential Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternative – Manufacturing the New Product

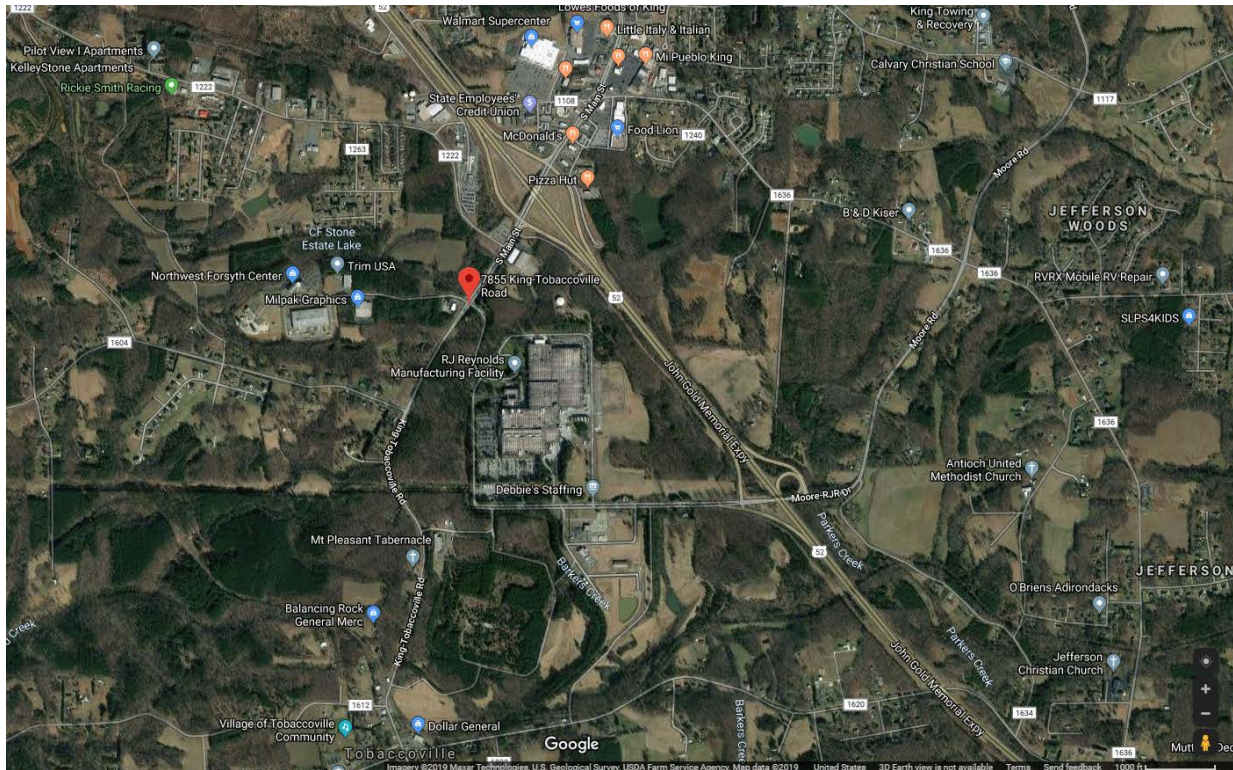
The Agency considered potential impacts to resources in the environment that may be affected by manufacturing the new product and found no significant impacts based on the Agency-gathered information and the following applicant-submitted information:

- The new and original products will not be marketed simultaneously as the original product is not currently marketed.
- The new product will compete with similar tobacco products currently manufactured at the same facility
- No additional equipment or facility expansion is expected due to manufacturing the new product.
- Components of the new product are commonly used in other commercially marketed cigarettes currently manufactured at the facility.

5.1 Affected Environment

The affected environment includes human and natural environments surrounding the facility. The new product would be manufactured at the address listed in section 1 of this document (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Location of the Manufacturing Facility¹



The manufacturing facility is located in Forsyth County, NC in Headwaters Muddy Creek watershed, hydrologic unit code 03040101, which is the largest of the Yadkin River tributaries.^{2,3} The facility is surrounded by woodlands; bounded by the city of King, NC to the north; US 52 (a four-lane, divided highway) to the east; and mixed use residential, commercial, and agricultural land to the south and west.

5.2 Air Quality

The Agency does not anticipate that manufacturing the new product would cause the release of any new chemicals or new type of emissions into the environment. The applicant stated that manufacturing the new product would not require additional environmental controls for air emissions. The applicant also stated that the original product is not currently marketed.

¹ Google Maps. 2019. Map of 7855 King Tobaccoville Road, Tobaccoville, North Carolina 27050. Retrieved from Google Maps. Accessed December 16, 2019.

² A watershed is an area of land where all bodies of water drain to a common outlet such as the outflow of a reservoir, mouth of a bay, or any point along a stream channel. Such bodies of water include the following: surface water from lakes, streams, reservoirs and wetlands; the underlying ground water; and rainfall. See <https://water.usgs.gov/edu/watershed.html>.

³ USGS. National Water Information System: Mapper. Available at: <https://maps.waterdata.usgs.gov/mapper/index.html>. Accessed December 16, 2019.

5.3 Water Resources

The Agency does not anticipate that manufacturing the new product would cause the discharge of any new chemicals into water. Components of the new product reflect existing basic ingredients commonly used in other tobacco products at the facility. Additionally, the applicant stated that manufacturing the new product would not require additional environmental controls for water discharge.

5.4 Soil, Land Use, and Zoning

The Agency does not anticipate that manufacturing the new product would lead to changes in soil, land use, or zoning. The applicant stated that there would be no expected facility expansion due to manufacturing the new product. Therefore, there would be no zone change or land conversion of prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance to non-agricultural use.

5.5 Biological Resources

The Agency does not anticipate that manufacturing the new product would jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the habitat of any such species identified under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The applicant stated that manufacturing the new product will not require expansion of the manufacturing facility. Additionally, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) maps show that the facility is not within or near a critical habitat, or endangered animal and plant species.⁴

The U.S. FWS identifies three vertebrates, one invertebrate, and one vascular plant as being present in Forsyth County⁵ as listed in Table 1:

Table 1. Species Identified by USFWS in Forsyth County, North Carolina

Species	Status
Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus /eucocephalus</i>)	Protected*
Bog turtle (<i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i>)	Threatened (S/A)**
Northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Threatened
Brook floater (<i>Alasmidonta varicose</i>)	At Risk Species
Small-anthered bittercress (<i>Cardamine micranthera</i>)	Endangered
*Protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act	
**Threatened due to similarity of appearance	

Because the proposed action does not require expansion of the manufacturing facility, and the listed species are not found in the immediate vicinity of the facility, there would be no impacts to protected species or their potential habitat.

⁴ Critical habitat map available at: <https://databasin.org/maps/new#datasets=d579d87eb54f4374a77ea53e7ef66449>. Accessed December 17, 2019.

⁵ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (U.S. FWS), available at: <https://www.fws.gov/raleigh/species/cntvlist/forsyth.html>. Accessed December 16, 2019.

5.6 Regulatory Compliance

The applicant stated that the manufacturing facility complies with all federal, state, and local environmental regulations. The manufacturing facility has the following permits:

- (1) Air permit number 00745-TV-39 issued by the Forsyth County Office of Environmental Assistance Protection.⁶
- (2) Storm water permit number NCG060079 issued by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.⁷

Additionally, the facility submits release data to the EPA under the provisions of the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) program (permit # 27050RJRYN7855A).

The Agency's search of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) database did not reveal any violations of the federal environmental laws and regulations.⁸

The applicant also stated that the facility complies with the ESA and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

5.7 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

No changes on socioeconomics are anticipated due to manufacturing the new product. The Agency does not anticipate any impacts on employment, revenue, or taxes because the new product is intended to compete with other cigarettes manufactured at the facility and no facility expansion is required.

Manufacturing the new product would not disproportionately impact minority populations, because only 9% of the population within a three-mile radius of the manufacturing facility is minority per 2010 U.S. Census and American Community Survey data.⁹ In addition, the facility is not located in or near Native American lands.

5.8 Solid Waste and Hazardous Materials

The Agency does not foresee that the introduction of the new product would notably affect the current manufacturing waste generated from the facility production of all combusted, filtered cigarettes. The Agency anticipates the waste generated due to manufacturing the new product would be released to the environment and disposed of in landfills in the same manner as any other waste generated from any other products manufactured in the same facility. The applicant stated that manufacturing the new product would not require any additional environmental controls for solid waste disposal. Therefore, no new or revised waste permit or construction of new waste management facility is expected.

⁶ Air permit available at: https://www.co.forsyth.nc.us/EAP/assets/doc/00745_TV_permit.pdf Accessed January 7, 2020.

⁷ U.S. EPA ECHO Detailed Facility Report: R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Tobaccoville, NC. Available at: <https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110000345225>. Accessed January 7, 2020.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ See footnote 6.

5.9 Floodplains, Wetlands, and Coastal Zones

There would be no facility expansion due to manufacturing the new product and the applicant did not propose any land disturbance. Therefore, there would be no effects on floodplains, wetlands, or coastal zones.

5.10 Cumulative Impacts

The Agency does not anticipate the proposed action would incrementally increase or change the chemicals released to the environment from the tobacco manufacturing facility. A search in EPA's TRI database showed that in 2018, R.J. Reynold's manufacturing facility in Tobaccoville, North Carolina released 8,399 pounds of ammonia and 19,639 pounds of nicotine and nicotine salts to air (a total of 28,038 pounds), and 885 pounds of ammonia and 4,884 pounds of nicotine and nicotine salts (a total of 5,769 pounds) offsite (Table 2).¹⁰ Ammonia's adverse health effects are ocular and respiratory; nicotine and nicotine salts have known adverse developmental effects.¹¹ The TRI database search did not show that the R.J. Reynolds manufacturing facility disposed of, treated, or released into the environment any other reportable toxicants associated with manufacturing tobacco products. In addition, EPA's ECHO database did not show that the facility released the following reportable criteria pollutants: ozone, lead, particulate matter, or sulfur dioxide, at or above the reportable threshold levels to air.

Table 2. Management of Chemical Waste Associated with Manufacturing Tobacco Products at R.J. Reynolds Facility in 2018

Production-Related Waste Managed or Released		Chemical Mass (pounds)
Recycled		0
Energy Recovery		0
Treated*		5,815
<i>Subtotal Waste Managed</i>		<i>5,815</i>
On-Site Release	Ammonia	8,399
	Nicotine and Nicotine Salts	19,639
Off-Site Release	Ammonia	885
	Nicotine and Nicotine Salts	4,884
<i>Subtotal Waste Released</i>		<i>33,807</i>
Total Production-Related Waste		39,622
*Ammonia plus nicotine and nicotine salts		

¹⁰ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). TRI Data <https://www3.epa.gov/enviro/facts/tri/ef-facilities/#/Facility/27050RJRYN7855A>. Searched December 17, 2019.

¹¹ U.S. EPA. myRight-to-Know, available at: <https://myrtk.epa.gov/info>. This site allows for searching the industrial facilities that manage toxic waste chemicals by entering the facility address and clicking on the facility location on the map. Accessed December 17, 2019.

According to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, water quality in Headwaters Muddy Creek watershed where the facility is located is relatively good compared to other sub basins in the greater Yadkin-Pee Dee River basin.¹²

Additionally, the applicant stated that (1) manufacturing the new product will not require additional environmental controls for air emission, water discharge, or solid waste disposal, (2) materials released into the environment would not exceed what is allowed under relevant environmental law, and (3) no facility expansion would be required.

5.11 Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

The environmental impacts of the no-action alternative would not change the existing condition of manufacturing cigarettes at the listed facility, as many similar tobacco products would continue to be manufactured.

6. Potential Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternative – Use of the New Product

The Agency considered potential impacts to resources in the environment that could be affected by use of the new product and found no significant impacts based on Agency-gathered information and the applicant's submitted information. Included in the information the Agency considered were the projected market volumes for the new product and the documented decline in cigarette use in the United States.

6.1. Affected Environment

The affected environment includes human and natural environments in the United States because the marketing order would allow for the new tobacco product to be sold to consumers in the United States.

6.2. Air Quality

The Agency does not anticipate that new chemicals would be released into the environment as a result of use of the new product, relative to chemicals released into the environment due to use of other cigarettes already on the market because (1) the combustion products from the new product would be released in the same manner as the combustion products of the original product and any other marketed cigarettes, (2) the new product is expected to compete with, or replace, other currently marketed cigarettes, and (3) the ingredients in the new product are used in other currently marketed tobacco products.

6.3. Environmental Justice

No new emissions are expected due to use of the new product. Therefore, there would be no disproportionate impacts on minority or low-income populations.

¹² North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. *Yadkin River Headwaters*. Available at: https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Water%20Quality/Planning/BPU/BPU/Yadkin/Yadkin%20Plans/2010%20Plan/2_03040101%20Yadkin%20River%20Headwaters-2010.pdf. Accessed December 17, 2019.

6.4. Cumulative Impacts

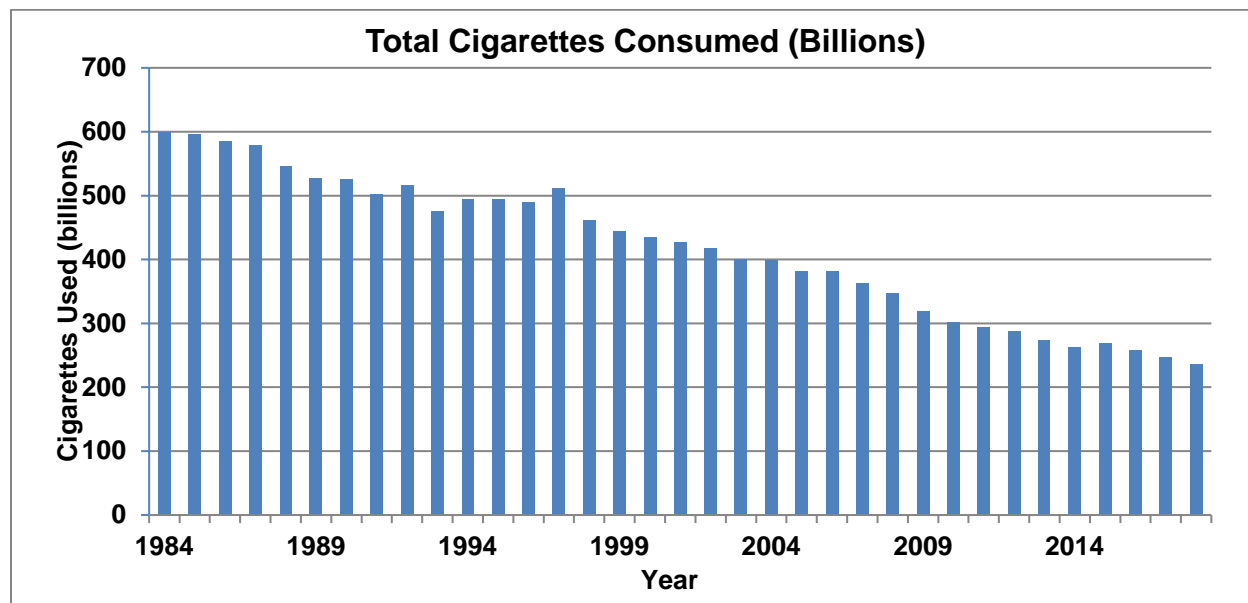
Impacts from use of combusted tobacco products include health effects to both non-users and users. When using cigarettes, the users inhale and exhale smoke. Non-users may also inhale smoke, known as secondhand smoke (SHS). Furthermore, particles emitted by smoking may remain on surfaces, be re-emitted back into the gas phase, or react with oxidants and other compounds in the environment to yield secondary pollutants: referred to as thirdhand smoke (THS). These pollutants coexist in mixtures in the environment alongside SHS (Burton, 2011; Matt et al., 2011).

There is no safe level of exposure to SHS (DHHS, 2006a and 2006b). Even low levels of SHS can harm children and adults in many ways, including the following:

- The U.S. Surgeon General estimates that living with a smoker increases a nonsmoker's chances of developing lung cancer by 20 to 30% (DHHS, 2006a and 2006b).
- Exposure to SHS increases school children's risk for ear infections, lower respiratory illnesses, more frequent and more severe asthma attacks, and slowed lung growth. Such exposure can cause coughing, wheezing, phlegm, and breathlessness (DHHS, 2006a and 2006b).
- SHS causes more than 40,000 deaths per year (DHHS, 2014).

However, the use of cigarettes in the United States is declining as shown in Figure 2 (U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, 2018). Declining cigarette use is likely responsible for the decline in SHS exposure observed in several studies that evaluated the levels of SHS exposure in children and nonsmokers living in homes of smokers (Homa et al., 2015; Yao et al., 2016). Despite the considerable ethnic and racial disparities in SHS exposure in vulnerable populations, data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey showed a decline in SHS exposure from 1999–2000 to 2011–2012, with the highest prevalence of exposure among non-Hispanic subpopulations (46.8%) as compared to Mexican Americans (23.9%) and non-Hispanic whites (21.8%) in 2011–2012 (Homa et al., 2015). There were also significant declines in SHS exposure prevalence noted in the 2000 and 2010 National Health Interview Survey Cancer Control Supplements. Additionally, SHS exposure declined in Hispanics from 16.3% in 2000 to 3.1% in 2010, non-Hispanic Asians from 13.4% in 2000 to 3% in 2010, and non-Hispanic blacks from 31.2% in 2000 to 11.5% in 2010 as compared to exposures in non-Hispanic whites, which declined from 25.8% in 2000 to 9.7% in 2010 (Yao et al., 2016).

Figure 2. Use of Cigarettes in the United States, 1984 – 2018



As of March 2019, 28 states and the District of Columbia had implemented comprehensive smoke-free laws (American Lung Association, 2019). Such laws are also expected to reduce the levels of non-users' exposure to SHS and THS.

6.5. Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

The environmental impacts of the no-action alternative would not change the existing condition of use of cigarettes, as many similar tobacco products would continue to be used in the United States.

7. Potential Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternative – Disposal of the New Product

The Agency considered potential impacts to resources in the environment that may be affected by disposal of the new product. Based on publicly available information such as the documented continuous decline of cigarette use in the United States, and the applicant's submitted information, including market volume projections for the new product, the Agency found no significant impacts.

7.1. Affected Environment

The affected environment includes human and natural environments in the United States because the marketing order would allow for the new tobacco product to be sold to consumers in the United States.

7.2. Air Quality

The Agency does not anticipate disposal of the new product or the packaging material would lead to the release of new or increased chemicals into the air.

No changes in air quality are anticipated from disposal of the cigarette butts of the new product. The chemicals in the new product's cigarette butts are commonly used in other currently marketed cigarettes. Because the new product is anticipated to compete with or replace other currently marketed

cigarettes, the butt waste generated from the new product would replace the same type of waste. Therefore, the fate and effects of any materials emitted into the air from disposal of the new product are anticipated to be the same as any materials from other cigarettes disposed of in the United States.

No changes in air quality from disposal of the new product's package materials would be expected because (1) the paper and plastic components of the packages are more likely to be recycled, or at least a portion of the packaging waste is likely to be recycled, (2) the packaging materials are commonly used in the United States, and (3) the waste generated due to disposal of the new product's packaging is a minuscule portion of the municipal solid waste per FDA's experience in evaluating the packaging waste generated from cigarettes.

7.3. Biological Resources

The proposed action is not expected to change the continued existence of any endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the habitat of any such species, as prohibited under the U.S. ESA. Although disposal of smoldering cigarettes has been implicated in many fire incidents,^{13,14} the new product is not expected to change the fire frequency as (1) the disposal of the new product would be the same as the disposal of cigarettes that are currently marketed in the United States, and (2) there would be no anticipated increase in number of cigarettes being disposed of as the new product is anticipated to replace similar marketed cigarettes.

7.4. Water Resources

No changes in impacts on water resources are expected due to disposal of the cigarette butts and packaging from the new product because the chemicals in the new product would be used in cigarettes currently on the market. Furthermore, the new product would compete with or replace market share held by similar products.

7.5. Solid Waste

The Agency does not foresee the introduction of the new product would notably affect the current cigarette butt and packaging waste generated from all combusted, filtered cigarettes. The waste generated due to disposal of the new product would be in the same manner as any other waste generated from any other combusted, filtered cigarettes marketed in the United States. The number of cigarette butts generated would be equivalent to the market projections (Confidential Appendix 2) and a portion of those would be littered.

7.6. Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

The Agency does not anticipate changes in impacts on socioeconomic conditions or environmental justice from disposal of the new product. The waste generated due to disposal of the new product would be handled in the same manner as the waste generated from disposal of other cigarettes in the

¹³ National Fire Protection Association. The smoking-material fire problem. Available at: <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Fire-statistics-and-reports/Fire-statistics/Fire-causes/Smoking-Materials>. Accessed November 25, 2019.

¹⁴ UC Davis Health News. Available at: <https://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/publish/news/newsroom/2763>. Accessed November 25, 2019.

United States. No new emissions are expected due to disposal of the new product. Therefore, there would be no disproportionate impacts on minority or low-income populations.

7.7. Cumulative Impacts

A major existing environmental consequence of the use of the new products as well as other conventional cigarettes, is littering of discarded cigarette filters or butts (Novotny and Zhao, 1999). Cigarette butts are among the most common forms of litter found on beaches (Claereboudt, 2004; Smith et al., 1997), near streams, night clubs (Becherucci and Pon, 2014), bus stops (Wilson et al., 2014), roads, and streets (Healton et al., 2011; Patel et al., 2013). Cigarette butts have been found at densities averaging more than four cigarette butts per square meter in urban environments (Pon and Becherucci, 2012).

The chemicals found in cigarette butts can leach into water, potentially threatening human health and the environment, especially marine ecosystems (Kadir and Sarani, 2015). The environmental toxicity of cigarette butts due to air emissions is not well studied. The chemicals in cigarette butts can be the original chemicals in the unsmoked cigarettes or the pyrolysis and distillation products deposited in the cigarette butts. Airborne emissions from discarded cigarette butts depend on the environmental conditions and the chemicals in the butts. These emissions can be influenced by several factors such as the cigarette brand, cigarette length, filter material, types of tobacco, ingredients in the cigarette and tobacco filler, number of puffs, and the mass transfer behavior of combustion products along the cigarette (NIST, 2016).

The Agency did not identify any actions that would lead to changes in cumulative impacts due to marketing the new product. Additionally, the cumulative impacts from cigarette butts is declining due to declining use of cigarettes in the United States.

7.8. Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

The environmental impacts of the no-action alternative would not change the existing condition of disposal of cigarettes and cigarette packaging, as many other similar tobacco products would continue to be disposed of in the United States.

8. List of Preparers

The following individuals were primarily responsible for preparing and reviewing this programmatic environmental assessment:

Preparer:

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9. A Listing of Agencies and Persons Consulted

Not applicable.

10. References

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CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX 1. Modifications: New Product as Compared with the Original Product

STN	Modification
EX0000895	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deletion of cork tipping paper and addition of alternate cork tipping paper• Deletion of filter tow and addition of alternate filter tow

CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX 2. Market Volume for the Original Product and Market Volume Projections for the New Product and Percentage of Cigarette Use in the United States Projected to be Attributed to the New Product

First- and fifth-year market volume projections of the new product were compared to the total forecasted use of cigarettes in the United States.¹⁵ The projected use of the new product in the first and fifth year of marketing after a marketing order is issued account for about (b) (4) %, respectively, of the forecasted cigarette use in the United States. The applicant stated that if the EX Request is granted, the new product will compete with other marketed cigarettes and that the introduction of the new product is not expected to impact overall future forecasted cigarette use.

STN	Market Volume				
	Current Year	Projected Volume			
		First Year		Fifth Year	
	Original Product (Cigarettes)	New Product (Cigarettes)	New Product as a Percent of Total Cigarettes Used ¹⁶	New Product (Cigarettes)	New Product as a Percent of Total Cigarettes Used ¹⁷
EX0000895	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)	(b) (4)

¹⁵ The Agency used historical data regarding total use of cigarettes from 2002 to 2018 to mathematically estimate the total number of cigarettes used in the United States. Using the best-fit trend line with an R² value of 0.9814, the forecasted number of cigarettes that would be used in the United States is estimated at (b) (4) billion cigarettes in the first year and (b) (4) billion cigarettes in the fifth year of marketing the new products.

¹⁶ Projected Market Occupation of the New Products in the United States(%)= $\frac{\text{Projected Market Volume of the New Products (cigarette pieces)}}{\text{Projected Use of Cigarettes in United States (cigarette pieces)}} \times 100$

¹⁷ Ibid.