



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2019-N-0994]

### Modified Risk Tobacco Product Application: Renewal Applications for VLN<sup>®</sup> King and VLN<sup>®</sup> Menthol King, Cigarette Products Submitted by 22nd Century Group Inc.

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) is announcing the availability for public comment of modified risk tobacco product applications (MRTPAs) for renewal of existing MRTP orders for two cigarette products submitted by 22nd Century Group Inc.

**DATES:** Electronic or written comments on the application may be submitted beginning [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]. FDA will establish a closing date for the comment period as described in section I.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments as follows:

#### *Electronic Submissions*

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact

information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>.

- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see “Written/Paper Submissions” and “Instructions”).

### *Written/Paper Submissions*

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- Mail/Hand delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions): Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.
- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in “Instructions.”

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA-2019-N-0994 for “Modified Risk Tobacco Product Application: Renewal Applications for VLN® King and VLN® Menthol King, Cigarette Products Submitted by 22nd Century Group Inc.” Received comments will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as “Confidential Submissions,” publicly viewable at <https://www.regulations.gov> or at the Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 240-402-7500.

- Confidential Submissions--To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states “THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.” The Agency will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out,

will be available for public viewing and posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as “confidential.” Any information marked as “confidential” will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA’s posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf>.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the “Search” box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, 240-402-7500.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dhanya John or Justin Sherren, Office of Regulations, Center for Tobacco Products, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 71, Rm. G335, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 1-877-287-1373, email: [CTPRegulations@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CTPRegulations@fda.hhs.gov).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. Background**

Section 911 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 387k) addresses the marketing and distribution of modified risk tobacco products (MRTPs). MRTPs are tobacco products that are sold or distributed for use to reduce harm or the risk of tobacco-related disease associated with commercially marketed tobacco products. Section 911(a) of the FD&C Act prohibits the introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of any MRTP unless an order issued by FDA pursuant to section 911(g) of the FD&C Act is effective with respect to such product.

Section 911(d) of the FD&C Act describes the information that must be included in a MRTPA, which must be filed and evaluated by FDA before an applicant can receive an order from FDA. FDA is required by section 911(e) of the FD&C Act to make a MRTPA available to the public (except for matters in the application that are trade secrets or otherwise confidential commercial information) and to request comments by interested persons on the information contained in the application and on the label, labeling, and advertising accompanying the application. The determination of whether an order is appropriate under section 911 of the FD&C Act is based on the scientific information submitted by the applicant as well as the scientific evidence and other information that is made available to the Agency, including through public comments.

Section 911(g) of the FD&C Act describes the demonstrations applicants must make to obtain an order from FDA under either section 911(g)(1) or (g)(2). The applicant, 22nd Century Group Inc., is seeking a renewal of an order previously issued under section 911(g)(2) of the FD&C Act.

FDA may issue an order under Section 911(g)(2) of the FD&C Act with respect to a tobacco product that does not satisfy the section 911(g)(1) standard. A person seeking an order under section 911(g)(2) of the FD&C Act must show that:

- Such an order would be appropriate to promote the public health;
- any aspect of the label, labeling, and advertising for the product that would cause the product to be an MRTP is limited to an explicit or implicit representation that the tobacco product or its smoke does not contain or is free of a substance or contains a reduced level of a substance, or presents a reduced exposure to a substance in tobacco smoke;
- scientific evidence is not available and, using the best available scientific methods, cannot be made available without conducting long-term epidemiological studies for an application to meet the standards for obtaining an order under section 911(g)(1);

- the scientific evidence that is available without conducting long-term epidemiological studies demonstrates that a measurable and substantial reduction in morbidity or mortality among individual tobacco users is reasonably likely in subsequent studies;
- the magnitude of overall reductions in exposure to the substance or substances which are the subject of the application is substantial, such substance or substances are harmful, and the product as actually used exposes consumers to the specified reduced level of the substance or substances;
- the product as actually used by consumers will not expose them to higher levels of other harmful substances compared to similar types of tobacco products then on the market unless such increases are minimal and the reasonably likely overall impact of use of the product remains a substantial and measurable reduction in overall morbidity and mortality among individual tobacco users;
- testing of actual consumer perception shows that, as the applicant proposes to label and market the product, consumers will not be misled into believing that the product is or has been demonstrated to be less harmful or presents or has been demonstrated to present less of a risk of disease than one or more other commercially marketed tobacco products; and
- issuance of an order with respect to the application is expected to benefit the health of the population as a whole taking into account both users of tobacco products and persons who do not currently use tobacco products.

Section 911(g)(4) of the FD&C Act describes factors that FDA must take into account in evaluating whether a tobacco product benefits the health of individuals and the population as a whole.

FDA is issuing this notice to inform the public that MRTPAs for the following products submitted by 22nd Century Group Inc. have been filed and are being made available for public comment:

- MR0000296.PD1: VLN<sup>®</sup> King

- MR0000296.PD2: VLN<sup>®</sup> Menthol King

The applicant is seeking renewal of the authorization to market VLN<sup>®</sup> King and VLN<sup>®</sup> Menthol King, both combusted, filtered cigarettes, as modified risk tobacco products under section 911(g)(2) of the FD&C Act.<sup>1</sup> These products previously received such authorization on December 23, 2021, and the applicant is including information from the previous MRTPAs by cross-reference.

FDA will post the application documents, including any amendments, to its website for the MRTPAs (see section II) for public comment on a rolling basis as they are redacted in accordance with applicable laws. In this document, FDA is announcing the availability of the first batch of application documents for public comment. FDA intends to establish a closing date for the comment period that is both at least 120 days after the date this notice and at least 30 days after the final documents from the application are made available for public comment. FDA will announce the closing date at least 30 days in advance. FDA believes that this comment period is appropriate given the volume and complexity of the applications being posted.

FDA will notify the public about the availability of additional application documents and comment period closing date via the Agency's web page for the MRTPAs (see section II) and by other means of public communication, such as by email to individuals who have signed up to receive email alerts. To receive email alerts, visit FDA's email subscription service management website (<https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/contact-fda/get-email-updates>), provide an email address, scroll down to the "Tobacco" heading, select "Modified Risk Tobacco Product Application Updates", and click "Submit." To encourage public participation consistent with section 911(e) of the FD&C Act, FDA is making the redacted MRTPAs that are the subject of this notice available electronically (see section II).

## II. Electronic Access

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<sup>1</sup> The notice of availability for the VLN<sup>®</sup> MRTPAs that received a modified risk granted order appeared in the *Federal Register* on July 25, 2019 (84 FR 35869) and the docket containing notices and public comments, FDA-2019-N-0994, is accessible at: <https://www.regulations.gov/search?filter=FDA-2019-N-0994>.

Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the document(s) at  
<https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/advertising-and-promotion/22nd-century-group-inc-modified-risk-tobacco-product-mrtp-applications>.

**Grace R. Graham,**

*Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs.*

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