

nodes on the recipient list that the control node authorizes to modify the record and to distribute the modified record to the nodes on the recipient list. The user can instruct the control node to exercise various control powers that the other nodes do not have over the record.

*Inventor:* H. Larry Blumen  
*Application #* 09/373,343  
*Tech I.D. #* I-036-98/0

#### **Synthetic Peptides Immunoreactive with Hepatitis A Virus Antibodies**

The invention discloses synthetic peptides immunoreactive with hepatitis A virus (HAV) antibodies. The peptides are useful as laboratory reagents to detect or quantify HAV antibodies in biological samples and clinical or research-based assays. They are also useful for inducing an immune response to HAV when administered to a human or animal. The peptides contain antigenic epitopes, the major structural capsid polypeptides, or non-structural polypeptides of HAV. They also contain one or more molecules of the amino acid glutamine at the carboxyl end of the peptide, which enhances immunoreactivity and immunogenicity.

*Inventor:* Fields et al.  
*Application #* 60/144,412  
*Tech I.D. #* I-015-98/0

#### **Methods and Compositions for Detecting Larval *Taenia solium***

The invention relates to compositions and methods for diagnosing cysticercosis. More specifically the invention discloses compositions and methods for the detection, the diagnosis and treatment of *T. solium* infection, commonly referred to as the pork tapeworm. It provides the nucleotide and amino acid sequences of the antigenic polypeptides TS-14, TS-18 and TSRS-1. The compositions contain antigenic polypeptides of larval origin. These polypeptides are useful as research tools for studying *T. solium* and as reagents in assays for the detection of *T. solium* antibodies in a biological sample.

*Inventor:* Tsang, et al.  
*Application #* 60/147,318  
*Tech I.D. #* I-035-98/0

#### **Method for Characterization of Rock Strata in Underground Mining Operations**

The invention discloses a method and system for determining the relative strength and classification of rock strata during drilling operations for use in underground mines. Neural network technology is used to classify mine roof strata in specified terms. For example,

the relative strength or strength index of rock strata may be determined as a roof bolthole is being drilled. Measurements are used to compute the specific energy input and convert the data to suitably scaled features. A neural network is then used to classify the strength of the layer. The neural network can be trained using data of known rock strata classifications prior to using it to classify new measurements. The system allows for detection of unsafe conditions and for appropriate warnings to be issued.

*Inventor:* Walter Utt  
*Application #* 60/143,777  
*Tech I.D. #* I-017-98/0

#### **Methods and Compositions for Diagnosing *Rochalimaea henselae* and *Rochalimaea quintana* Infection**

The invention discloses a method of diagnosing cat scratch disease and a method of diagnosing bacillary angiomatosis in a subject by detecting the presence of *Rochalimaea henselae* in the subject. Also provided is a vaccine comprising an immunogenic amount of a nonpathogenic *Rochalimaea henselae*. The invention allows the diagnosing *Rochalimaea quintana* infection in a subject by detecting the presence of a nucleic acid specific to *Rochalimaea quintana* in a sample from the subject. A purified heat shock protein of *Rochalimaea* is also provided.

*Inventor:* Anderson, et al.  
*Application #* 08/472,904  
*Tech I.D. #* E-048-92/6

#### **Ore Pass Level and Blockage Locator Device**

The invention discloses a method of, and apparatus for, detecting level and blockages in an ore pass or other near-vertical shaft. The level and blockage detector includes a flexible metal strip in which a plurality of strain gages have been located and spaced apart from one another. A plurality of anchors secure the metal strip to the interior surface of the shaft such that the metal strip is displaced a fixed distance from the interior surface. When the ore pass fills up with bulk material, the bulk material causes the metal strip to deflect toward the interior surface of the shaft. This causes the resistance of the strain gage in the region of the deflection to change. A microcontroller cycles through each strain gage to detect the location of the blockage. When a change in the output voltage across the bridge circuit is detected, the location of the strain gage causing the change in output voltage is an indication of the presence of bulk material (ore).

*Inventor:* Todd Ruff  
*Application #* 09/361,828  
*Tech I.D. #* I-006-98/1

#### **Method and Apparatuses for Detecting a Temperature Increase in an Electrical Insulator**

The present invention provides a heat-sensitive warning device and a related method for visually detecting an increase in the temperature of the outer surface of an electrical insulator. When the temperature of the outer surface of the electrical insulator increases to a preselected temperature, a visual indication of this rise in temperature will be provided by the ejection of a spool from a heat-sensitive warning device which has been attached to the outside of the electrical insulator. The temperature at which this visual indication of electrical insulator temperature increase occurs is preferably well below an unsafe temperature for the particular electrical insulator being used so that the electrical insulator may be replaced prior to reaching this unsafe temperature.

*Inventor:* Arthur Hudson  
*Application #* 09/361,008  
*Tech I.D. #* I-016-97/1

Dated: November 29, 1999.

**Joseph R. Carter,**

*Associate Director for Management and Operations, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[FR Doc. 99-31467 Filed 12-3-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4163-18-P**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

##### **Health Resources And Services Administration**

##### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Comment Request**

In compliance with the requirement for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects (section 3506(c)(2)(A) of Title 44, United States Code, as amended by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) publishes periodic summaries of proposed projects being developed for submission to OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and draft instruments, call the HRSA Reports Clearance Officer on (301) 443-1129.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information

is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### **Proposed Project: Hepatitis C Among Health Care for the Homeless Program Patients—New**

The Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network (HCHCN) of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Inc., through a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Primary Health Care, Health Resources and Services Administration, proposes to conduct epidemiological research regarding hepatitis C. The study will be of adult homeless patients and will be conducted using laboratory tests and

patient interviews. The study is designed to estimate the prevalence of lifetime hepatitis C infection among homeless adults and the rate of comorbidity of hepatitis C and hepatitis B infection, identify high-risk groups, describe health service utilization specific to hepatitis C, and assess patient knowledge and attitudes regarding hepatitis C. The participants will be recruited from eight clinics of the national Health Care for the Homeless Program.

The estimated response burden is as follows:

Respondent	Number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Hours per response	Total hour burden
Patients .....	400	1	1	400
Total .....	400			400

Send comments to Susan G. Queen, Ph.D., HRSA Reports Clearance Officer, Room 14-33, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: November 30, 1999.

**Jane Harrison,**

*Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.*

[FR Doc. 99-31515 Filed 12-3-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4160-15-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **National Institutes of Health**

#### **National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; Meeting of the National Reading Panel**

Notice is hereby given of the Washington, DC area meeting of the National Reading Panel. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 8, 1999, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM and on Thursday, December 9, 1999, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The meeting location is the Holiday Inn Georgetown, 2101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20007. The entire meeting will be open to the public.

The National Reading Panel was requested by Congress and created by the Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in consultation with the Secretary of Education. The Panel will study the effectiveness of various approaches to teaching children how to read and report on the best ways to apply these findings in classrooms and at home. Its members include prominent reading

researchers, teachers, child development experts, leaders in elementary and higher education, and parents. The Chair of the Panel is Dr. Donald N. Langenberg, Chancellor of the University System of Maryland.

The Panel will build on the findings presented by the National Research Council's Committee on the Prevention of Reading Difficulties in Young Children. Based on these findings and the National Reading Panel's own review of the literature, the Panel will: Determine the readiness for application in the classroom of the results of these research studies; identify appropriate means to rapidly disseminate this information to facilitate effective reading instruction in the schools; and identify gaps in the knowledge base for reading instruction and the best ways to close these gaps.

The agenda for this meeting will include presentations of subgroup reports and discussions of the reports by The National Reading Panel. A period of time will be set aside at approximately 3:00 PM on Thursday, December 9 for members of the public to address the Panel and express their views regarding the Panel's mission. Individuals desiring an opportunity to speak before the Panel should address their requests to F. William Dommel, Jr., J.D., Executive Director, National Reading Panel, c/o Mr. Patrick Riccards and either mail them to the Widmeyer-Baker Group, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Fifth Floor, Washington, DC 20009, or e-mail them to patrickr@twbg.com, or fax them to 202-667-0902. Request for addressing the Panel should be received by December 6, 1999. Panel business permitting, each public speaker will be allowed five minutes to present his or

her views. In the event of a large number of public speakers, the Panel Chair retains the option to further limit the presentation time allowed to each. Although the time permitted for oral presentations will be brief, the full text of all written comments submitted to the Panel will be made available to the Panel members for consideration.

For further information contact Mr. Patrick Riccards at 202-667-0901. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Mr. Patrick Riccards by December 6, 1999.

Dated: November 29, 1999.

**Duane Alexander,**

*Director, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.*

[FR Doc. 99-31582 Filed 12-3-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-M**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

#### **Issuance of Permit for Incidental Take of Threatened Species**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Issuance.

On September 22, 1999, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 51333-51334) that an application had been filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) by South Central Utah Telephone Association for a permit to incidentally take, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16