concerns. The tentative program follows:

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Opening Comments

The NIEHS—Dr. Carl Barrett, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
The National Toxicology Program—Dr. George Lucier, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Comments from NIH Office of Dietary Supplements—Dr. Bernadette Marriott, National Institutes of Health
DHHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion—Dr. Kenneth D. Fisher, Dept. of Health & Human Services
Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research—Ms. Phyllis Greenberger, Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research
Keynote Speaker: ''Science, Politics, Public Opinion and Herbal Dietary Supplements''—Dr. Norman B. Farnsworth, University of Illinois, Chicago
Session I: Benefits and Risks Associated with the Use of Medicinal Herbs—Dr. H.B. Matthews, (Session Moderator)
Commonly Used Medicinal Herbs in the United States—Mr. Mark Blumenthal, American Botanical Council
Ranking Possible Toxic and Carcinogenic Hazards of Natural and Synthetic Chemicals—Dr. Lois Gold, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
USP Panel on the Identification and Standardization of Natural Products—Dr. V. Srini Srinivasan, U.S. Pharmacopoeia
Session II: International Research on the Efficacy and Safety of Dietary Supplements and Medicinal Herbs Worldwide—Dr. Bernadette Marriott (Session Moderator)
Research of Medicinal Herbs in Germany—Dr. Prof. Hildebert Wagner, Institute for Pharmaceutical Biologie
Ancient-Modern Concordance in Ayurvedic Medicinal Plants—Dr. Sukh Dev, New Friends Colony, India
Medicinal Herbs in Japan—Prof. Yutaka Sashida, Tokyo Pharmaceutical University
Open Discussion & Public Comment

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Session III: Research on Medicinal Herbs and Dietary Supplements in the U.S.—Dr. Norman Farnsworth (Session Moderator)
Methodology and Testing to Insure Product Content and Quality—Dr. Joe Betz & Dr. William Obermeyer, Food & Drug Administration
Research on Dietary Supplements: An Industry Perspective—Loren D. Israelsen, Utah Natural Products Alliance
Current Research Programs of the U.S. Dietary Supplement Industry—Dr. Jill Ellis, National Nutritional Foods Association
Session IV: Panel Discussion on Research Needs to Assure Safety of Medicinal Herbs and Dietary Supplements in the U.S.—Dr. Kenneth D. Fisher (Session Moderator)
Dr. Bernadette Marriott, Director, NIH Office of Dietary Supplements
Dr. Wayne B. Jonas, Director, NIH Office of Alternative Medicine
Dr. Linda D. Meyers, Deputy Director for Science and Nutrition DHHS, Office of Disease Prevention and Nutrition
Dr. Elizabeth A. Yetley, Director, Office of Special Nutrition, US FDA
Mr. Loren Israelsen, Executive Director, Utah Natural Products Alliance
Dr. Jill Ellis, Scientific Director, NNFA
Dr. Rossanne M. Philen, Chief Environmental Hazards Epidemiology Section, NCEH
Mr. David Schardt, Associate Nutritionist, Center for Science in the Public Interest
Session V: Open Discussion on Research Needs to Assure Safety of Medicinal Herbs and Dietary Supplements in the U.S.—Dr. H.B. Matthews (Session Moderator)
Workshop Adjourns

Co-sponsors for the workshop include National Institutes of Health's Office of Dietary Supplements and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; the Department of Health and Human Services National Toxicology Program and Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion; the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Special Nutrition and the Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research.

The meeting is open to the public, limited only by space available. The program includes time for open discussion. In addition time will be allotted to persons wishing to make oral comments. Those wishing to speak are encouraged to pre-register. The time allotted for each presenter will be dependent on the number of speakers.

To register, please submit the following: name, address, institutional affiliation, department, address, city, state, phone, fax and email address to Jaime Edge, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 (fax: 919–541–0295 or email to edge@niehs.nih.gov.

For further information on the meeting plans contact Dr. Matthews at (919) 541–3252; for any other information on the workshop contact Alma Britton (919) 541–0530; Fax (919)–541–0295 or email: britton@niehs.nih.gov.

Dated: June 30, 1998.

Kenneth Olden,

Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

[FR Doc. 98–18319 Filed 7–9–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS); Notice of Meeting to Review the Murine Local Lymph Node Assay (LLNA) as an Alternative Test Method for Contact Hypersensitivity; Request for Comments

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Public Law 103–43, notice is hereby given of a public meeting sponsored by the NIEHS and the National Toxicology Program (NTP), and coordinated by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) and the NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NTP Center). The agenda topic is the scientific peer review of the murine local lymph node assay (LLNA), which is proposed as an alternative toxicological test method for assessing contact hypersensitivity (allergic contact dermatitis) potential of chemicals and products. The meeting will be held on September 17, 1998, at the Gaithersburg Hilton, 620 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, Maryland. The meeting will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

Background

Public Law 103–43 directed the NIEHS to develop and validate alternative methods that can reduce or eliminate the use of animals in acute or chronic toxicity testing, establish criteria for the validation and regulatory acceptance of alternative testing methods, and recommend a process through which scientifically validated alternative methods can be accepted for regulatory use. Criteria and processes for validation and regulatory acceptance were developed in conjunction with 13 other Federal agencies and programs

with broad input from the public. These are described in the document ''Validation and Regulatory Acceptance of Toxicological Test Methods: A Report of the Ad Hoc Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods'' NIH publication 97–3981, March 1997, which is available on the internet at http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov/htdocs/ICCVAM/ICCVAM htm. An Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) was subsequently established in a collaborative effort by NIEHS and 13 other Federal regulatory and research agencies and programs. The Committee's functions include the coordination of interagency reviews of toxicological test methods and communication with stakeholders throughout the process of test method development and validation. The following Federal regulatory and research agencies and organizations are participating in this effort:

Consumer Product Safety Commission
Department of Defense
Department of Energy
Department of Health and Human Services
  Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
  Food and Drug Administration
  National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health/CDC
  National Institutes of Health
  National Cancer Institute
  National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
  National Library of Medicine
Department of the Interior
Department of Labor
  Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Department of Transportation
  Research and Special Programs Administration
Environmental Protection Agency

The LLNA was proposed to the ICCVAM for consideration as a stand-alone test to identify chemicals that have a potential to cause contact hypersensitivity (allergic contact dermatitis). An ICCVAM Immunotoxicity Working Group composed of Federal employees determined that there was sufficient information available to merit an independent scientific peer review of the LLNA test method. Peer review has been determined to be an essential prerequisite for consideration of a method for regulatory acceptance. The peer review panel will be charged with developing a scientific consensus on the usefulness of the test method to generate information for various human health risk assessment purposes. Following evaluation at this peer review meeting, the proposed test method and results of the peer review will be forwarded by ICCVAM to Federal agencies for consideration. Federal agencies will determine the regulatory acceptability of a method according to their mandates.

Agenda

There will be a brief orientation on the ICCVAM and the ICCVAM review process, followed by peer review of the proposed LLNA test method and supporting information. The peer review panel will discuss the usefulness of the LLNA as an alternative to test methods currently accepted by government regulatory authorities for the assessment of the contact hypersensitivity potential of chemicals and products. Copies of the proposed LLNA Test Method Protocol and supporting documentation may be obtained from the NTP Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods, MD EC–17, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC, 27709 (919–541–3398), FAX (919–541–0947), e-mail: *ICCVAM@niehs.nih.gov*. The LLNA test method documents and copies of written public comments can also be viewed at the Documents Management Branch, Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, Rockville, MD, 20852 on Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment

The NTP Center invites the submission of written comments on the proposed LLNA test method, and other available information regarding the usefulness of the LLNA, including information about completed, ongoing, or planned studies. Written comments and additional information should be sent by mail, fax, or e-mail to the NTP Center at the address listed above by August 14th. Written comments will be made available to the peer review panel members, ICCVAM agency representatives and experts, and will be made available for attendees at the meeting. Members of the public who wish to present oral statements at the meeting should also contact the NTP Center as soon as possible, but not later than September 11, 1998. Speakers will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis and will be limited to a maximum of five minutes in presentation length. Written comments accompanying the oral statement should be submitted in advance so that copies can be made and distributed to the peer panel members.

The NTP Center will furnish an agenda and a roster of peer review panel members just prior to the meeting. Summary minutes and a final report of the LLNA peer review meeting will be available subsequent to the meeting upon request to the Center. Persons needing special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other special accommodations should contact the NTP Center as described above.

Dated: June 30, 1998.

Kenneth Olden,

Director, National Toxicology Program.

[FR Doc. 98–18320 Filed 7–9–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–4341–N–18]

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities to Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice identifies unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus Federal property reviewed by HUD for suitability for possible use to assist the homeless.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 10, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Johnston, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 7256, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708–1226; TTY number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 708–2565, (these telephone numbers are not toll-free), or call the toll-free Title V information line at 1–800–927–7588.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the December 12, 1998 court order in *National Coalition for the Homeless* v. *Veterans Administration*, No. 88–2503–OG (D.D.C.), HUD publishes a Notice, on a weekly basis, identifying unutilized, underutilized, excess and surplus Federal buildings and real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. Today's Notice is for the purpose of announcing that no additional properties have been determined suitable or unsuitable this week.

Dated: July 2, 1998.

Fred Karnas, Jr.,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.

[FR Doc. 98–18049 Filed 7–9–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–29–M