

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[Docket No. 98-049N]

National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing that the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection will be meeting to consider five new issues: (1) Revisions to Meat, Poultry, and Related Laws; (2) Equivalency of Foreign Inspection Programs; (3) Animal Production Food Safety; (4) Review of the FSIS Budget and User Fees; and (5) Consumer Education. All interested persons are welcome to attend the meeting and to submit written comments and suggestions on these issues and others the Committee might consider.

DATES: The meeting will be held on November 4 and 5, 1998. The full Committee will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on November 4 and 5. Subcommittees will meet from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on November 4 to continue work on issues discussed during the full Committee meeting.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Quality Hotel & Suites, Courthouse Plaza, 1200 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, VA 22201; telephone (703) 524-4000. Submit written comments on the discussion topic to the FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket No. 98-049N, Room 102, Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. The comments and official transcript of the meeting will be kept in the Docket Clerk's office when they become available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Micchelli at (202) 720-6269, by FAX at (202) 690-1030 or E-mail to Michael.Micchelli@usda.gov. A

schedule for discussion of each of the topics is available on the FSIS Homepage at <http://www.usda.gov/agency/fsis/homepage.htm>. This schedule also is available by FAST FAX, FSIS' automated FAX retrieval system, at (800) 238-8281 or (202) 690-3754. The reference number to access FAST FAX is 4000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 12, 1997, the Secretary of Agriculture renewed the charter for the Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection. The Committee provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary on Federal and State meat and poultry programs pursuant to sections 7(c), 24, 205, 301(c) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and sections 5(a)(3), 5(c), 8(b), and 11(e) of the Poultry Products Inspection Act. The Committee has three standing subcommittees to deliberate on specific issues and make recommendations through the whole Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture. The FSIS Administrator is the Committee Chair. Committee membership is drawn from representatives of consumer groups, producers, processors, and marketers from the meat and poultry industry and State government officials. The current members of the Committee are:

Dr. Deloran M. Allen, Excel Corporation
Dr. William L. Brown, ABC Research Corporation
Terry Burkhardt, Wisconsin Bureau of Meat Safety and Inspection
Caroline Smith-DeWaal, Center for Science in the Public Interest
Nancy Donley, Safe Tables Our Priority
Michael J. Gregory, Tyson's Foods Inc.
Dr. Cheryl Hall, Zacky Farms, Inc.
Dr. Margaret Hardin, National Pork Producers
Alan Janzen, Circle Five Feedyards, Inc.
Dr. Daniel E. LaFontaine, South Carolina Meat-Poultry Inspection Department
Dr. Dale Morse, New York Office of Public Health
Rosemary Mucklow, National Meat Association
William Rosser, Texas Department of Public Health
J. Myron Stolfus, Stolfus Meats
Dr. David M. Theno, Jr., Foodmaker Inc.

The meeting is open to the public on a space-available, first-come basis. Registration is required and will take place at the meeting. Pre-registration is not required. Interested persons are

encouraged to comment on the discussion issues and to file written comments.

Done in Washington, DC, on: September 1, 1998.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-24126 Filed 9-8-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[Docket No. 98-051N]

HACCP Implementation for Small Plants; Public Meetings

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is holding two public meetings in September to discuss ways to help owners and managers of small plants prepare for the HACCP implementation date of January 25, 1999. The meetings will give all stakeholders an opportunity to hear what is currently being done to help small plants and to discuss additional ways of ensuring that small plants receive the assistance they need to make the timely transition to HACCP. In addition to the September meetings, FSIS will hold eight meetings in October, six meetings in November, and two meetings in December at various locations throughout the country in preparation for the 1999 implementation date for small plants.

DATES: The meetings will be held on September 19 and September 26, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The September 19 meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Raleigh, NC, at the Ramada Inn/Blue Ridge, 1500 Blue Ridge Rd., Raleigh, NC 27607; telephone (919) 832-4100. The September 26 meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in College Park, MD, at the Holiday Inn College Park, 10000 Baltimore Blvd., College Park, MD 20740; telephone (301) 345-6700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To register for the meeting, contact Ms. Sheila Johnson of the FSIS Planning Staff at (202) 501-7138 or by FAX at (202) 501-7642. If a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation is required, please contact Ms. Johnson as soon as possible.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 25, 1996, FSIS published a final rule, "Pathogen Reduction: Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems," (61 FR 38806). The rule established a HACCP implementation schedule for establishments based on their size. Large plants began implementing HACCP on January 26, 1998. Small plants have a scheduled implementation date of January 25, 1999, and very small plants are required to implement HACCP by January 25, 2000.

After publication of its final HACCP rule, FSIS has been holding a series of public meetings to facilitate implementation of HACCP plans, especially by small and very small plants. The Agency also has provided extensive information and technical assistance that would be helpful to plant managers in development of HACCP plans. FSIS also has developed and distributed generic HACCP models and guidance materials specifically to aid small plant managers.

The upcoming meetings will discuss small plant initiatives, including contacts and a coordinators assistance network, small plant demonstration projects, plant sponsorship, and land grant university workshops. A panel will address the key elements of implementation, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions and seek additional information.

Times and locations of additional small plant implementation meetings scheduled for October through December 1998 will be announced in a future **Federal Register** notice.

Done in Washington, DC, on: September 2, 1998.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-24125 Filed 9-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute, Board of Directors, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute (BMNRI) Board of Directors will meet on September 25, 1998, at Agriculture Service Center Conference Room, 10507 N. McAlister Road, La Grande, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. Agenda items to be

covered will include: (1) Program status; (2) research results of specific projects; (3) outreach activities; (4) report on Initiatives; (5) presentations by guest speakers; (6) forum for issues discussion; (7) public comments. All BMNRI Board Meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Members of the public who wish to make a brief oral presentation at the meeting should contact Larry Hartmann, BMNRI, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, Oregon 97850, 541-962-6537, no later than 5:00 p.m. September 22, 1998, to have time reserved on the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Larry Hartmann, Manager, BMNRI, 1401 Gekeler Lane La Grande, Oregon 97850, 541-962-6537.

Dated: September 1, 1998.

Lawrence A. Hartmann,
Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-24175 Filed 9-8-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RIN 0596-AB65

Categorical Exclusion for Certain Ski Area Permit Actions

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; adoption of interim directive.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is issuing an interim directive to guide its employees in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act when issuance of a ski area permit is a purely ministerial action and no changes are proposed in permitted activities or facilities. The interim directive implements a provision of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, which states that reissuance of a ski area permit for activities similar in nature and amount to the activities authorized under the previous permit shall not constitute a major Federal action. Public comment on the proposed interim directive published in the **Federal Register** on October 27, 1997 (62 FR 55571) was considered in development of this interim directive.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The interim directive is effective September 24, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about this action should be addressed to Alice Carlton, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources Staff, (MAIL STOP 1125), Forest

Service, USDA, PO Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090, (202)-205-1399.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To reduce administrative costs, section 701(i) of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 497c) states that the reissuance of a ski area permit for activities similar in nature and amount to the activities provided under the previous permit shall not constitute a major Federal action for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4331 *et seq.*). Agency direction regarding this provision is needed to guide Forest Service employees in complying with NEPA and the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 when ski area permits are issued.

Section 701(i) of the 1996 act applies to issuance of permits for up to the maximum tenure allowable under the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (the Ski Area Permit Act) (16 U.S.C. 497b) for existing ski areas when permit issuance involves only administrative changes, such as issuance of a permit when no changes to the Master Development Plan and no new facilities or activities are authorized, to the following: (1) To a new owner of the ski area improvements; (2) to the existing owner upon expiration of the current permit; or (3) to a holder of a permit issued under the Term Permit and Organic Acts converting to a permit under the Ski Area Permit Act. The effect of section 701(i) is that an environmental impact statement is not required for issuance of permits under these circumstances.

The Forest Service currently authorizes ski areas on National Forest System lands through permit issuance under the Ski Area Permit Act. The permit provides the legal framework for the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands, including terms for renewal; conditions for issuance of a new permit in the event of sale of the ski area improvements to another owner; permit tenure; fee schedules and payment methods; accountability and reporting requirements; liability and bonding requirements; and any other customized terms and conditions needed to ensure consistency with applicable forest land and resource management plans or to meet the requirements of other applicable laws.

The Ski Area Permit Act, its implementing regulations at 36 CFR 251.56, and existing policy in Forest Service Manual (FSM) section 2721.61e provide that under ordinary