

Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 12th day of April 2001.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 01-9626 Filed 4-17-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01-013N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will meet on May 7, 2001. The meeting is open to the public. The Committee will review scientific issues related to the Agency's *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 policy. The committee will also begin discussion of the charge contained in the conference report accompanying Public Law 106-387, which states that NACMCF should undertake to consider issues regarding microbiological performance standards, including the role of such standards in ensuring meat and poultry product safety. FSIS will finalize an agenda describing the specific charges to the Committee on or before the meeting date and post it to its internet web page.

Additionally, on May 8, 9, and 10, 2001, FSIS invites Committee members to attend a technical conference and a public meeting regarding the Agency's recently proposed regulatory requirements for ready-to-eat meat and poultry products, "Performance Standards for the Production of Processed Meat and Poultry Products."

DATES: The full Committee will hold a meeting on Monday, May 7, 2001, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Washington Plaza Hotel, Federal Ballroom, #10 Thomas Circle, NW, at Massachusetts Avenue & 14th Street, Washington, DC 20005, telephone (202) 842-1300. Send an original and two copies of comments to the Food Safety and Inspection Service Docket Room: Docket #01-013N, Room 102 Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Comments may also be sent by facsimile (202) 205-0381. The comments and the official

transcript of the meeting, when it becomes available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Persons interested in making a presentation, submitting technical papers, or providing comments should contact Ms. Karen Thomas (202) 690-6620, Fax (202) 690-6634, e-mail address:

karen.thomas@dcqexs1.hqnet.usda.gov, or mailing address: Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, Office of Public Health and Science, Aerospace Center, Room 333, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Thomas, by April 25, 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NACMCF was established in April 1988, in response to a recommendation in a 1985 report of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Food Protection, Subcommittee on Microbiological Criteria, "An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria for Foods." The Charter for the NACMCF is available for viewing on the FSIS internet web page at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/programs/nacmcf_chart.htm

The NACMCF provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on public health issues relative to the safety and wholesomeness of the U.S. food supply including development of microbiological criteria and review and evaluation of epidemiological and risk assessment data and methodologies for assessing microbiological hazards in foods. The Committee also provides advice to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Departments of Commerce and Defense. Dr. I. Kaye Wachsmuth, Deputy Administrator, Office of Public Health and Science, FSIS, is the Committee Chair.

At the May 7, 2001, meeting announced in this document, the Committee will review scientific issues related to the Agency's policy with respect to the following issues:

- Research on *E. coli* O157:H7 in blade tenderized beef steaks, including a preliminary study by scientists at Kansas State University.
- Technical issues related to scientifically determined criteria, including microbiological performance standards, and how such criteria and standards best function to provide scientific support for approaches to

ensure the safety of meat and poultry products.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of this **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300 organizations and individuals. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent fax list consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through these various channels, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-5704.

Done at Washington, DC on: April 12, 2001.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 01-9622 Filed 4-17-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area (SRA) Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: An Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council meeting will convene in Salem, Oregon on Saturday, May 5, 2001. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., and will conclude at approximately 2 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Salem City Library, Anderson Room B, located at 585 Liberty Street SE in Salem, Oregon.

The Opal Creek Wilderness and Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Act of 1996 (Opal Creek Act) (Public Law 104-208) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory

Council. The Advisory Council is comprised of thirteen members representing state, county and city governments, and representatives of various organizations, which include mining industry, environmental organizations, inholders in Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area, economic development, Indian tribes, adjacent landowners and recreation interests. The council provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on preparation of a comprehensive Opal Creek Management Plan for the SRA, and consults on a periodic and regular basis on the management of the area. The tentative agenda will focus on describing the desired future condition of the area. The tentative agenda will focus on describing the desired future condition of the SRA.

The public comment period is tentatively scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits of the comment period. Written comments may be submitted prior to the May 5 meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Stephanie Phillips at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Stephanie Phillips; Willamette National Forest, Detroit Ranger District, HC 73 Box 320, Mill City, OR 97360; (503) 854-3366.

Dated: April 13, 2001.

Darrel L. Kenops,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-9564 Filed 4-17-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Export Administration

[Docket No. 010412092-1092-01]

Initiation of National Security Investigation of Imports of Iron Ore and Semi-Finished Steel, Re-Opening of Public Comment Period

AGENCY: Bureau of Export Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of initiation of National Security Investigation, re-opening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to public request, the Bureau of Export Administration (BXA) is re-opening its public comment period until May 2, 2001, for the Notice

of initiation of National Security Investigation and Request for Public Comments, published on February 6, 2001.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send three copies of written comments to Brad Botwin, Director, Strategic Analysis Division, Bureau of Export Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 3876, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brad Botwin, Director, Strategic Analysis Division, Bureau of Export Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4060, bbotwin@bxa.doc.gov or Michael Vaccaro, Trade and Industry Analyst, Bureau of Export Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-8232, mvaccaro@bxa.doc.gov. For more information about the section 232 program, including the applicable Commerce Department regulations and the text of previous investigations, see www.doc-bxa.bmpcoe.org under "Programs."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 6, 2001, BXA published a Notice of Initiation of National Security Investigation and Request for Public Comments (66 FR 9067) announcing the initiation of an investigation under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1862), to determine the effects on the national security of imports of iron ore and semi-finished steel. The notice also requested public comments on the investigation; the closing day for the comment period was April 9, 2001. In response to requests received from interested parties, BXA is re-opening the original 60 day public comment period until May 2, 2001. As a result, comments on the investigation must now be received by May 2, 2001. Comments received after April 9, 2001 and before the date of this notice will be accepted and considered by BXA.

Dated: April 12, 2001.

Matthew Borman,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration.

[FR Doc. 01-9611 Filed 4-17-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 1155]

Approval for Expansion of Subzone 104A, Merck & Company, Inc., Plant (Pharmaceuticals), Dougherty County, GA

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, the Savannah Airport Commission, grantee of FTZ 104, has requested authority on behalf of Merck & Company, Inc. (Merck), to add capacity and to expand the scope of authority under zone procedures within Subzone 104A at the Merck plant in Dougherty County, Georgia (FTZ Docket 62-2000, filed 11/17/2000);

Whereas, notice inviting public comment has been given in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 71296, 11/30/00);

Whereas, pursuant to Section 400.32(b)(1) of the FTZ Board regulations (15 CFR 400), the Secretary of Commerce's delegate on the FTZ Board has the authority to act for the Board in making decisions regarding manufacturing activity within existing zones when the proposed activity is the same, in terms of products involved, to activity recently approved by the Board and similar in circumstances (15 CFR 400.32(b)(1)(i)); and,

Whereas, the Board adopts the findings and recommendations of the examiner's report, and finds that the requirements of the FTZ Act and Board's regulations are satisfied, and that the proposal is in the public interest;

Now, therefore, the Board hereby orders:

The application to add capacity and to expand the scope of authority under zone procedures within Subzone 104A on behalf of Merck & Company, Inc., is approved, subject to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations, including Section 400.28.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 5th day of April, 2001.

Timothy J. Hauser,

Acting Under Secretary for International Trade, Alternate Chairman, Foreign-Trade Zones Board.

[FR Doc. 01-9640 Filed 4-17-01; 8:45 am]

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