

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

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-037N]

Risk Assessment for *E. coli* 0157:H7 in Beef and Ground Beef

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments and public meeting notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) plans to conduct a farm-to-table risk assessment for *E. coli* 0157:H7 in beef with a focus on ground beef. Contingent on an analysis of available epidemiological data concerning outbreaks of *E. coli* 0157:H7 associated with whole cuts of beef (e.g. roast beef), the scope of the risk assessment will be confined to ground beef products. This notice also announces a public meeting to be held October 28, 1998 and solicits from the public scientific information and data that would be relevant to conducting the risk assessment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To register for the October 28 meeting, contact Ms. Traci Phebus at (202) 501-7138 or FAX (202) 501-7642. For further information about the risk assessment or to arrange for a presentation of technical materials at the public meeting, contact Mark Powell, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Public Health and Science, Epidemiology and Risk Assessment Division, Room 3718—Franklin Court, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. Telephone: (202) 501-7391, FAX (202) 501-6982, E-mail:

mark.powell@usda.gov. Persons wishing to present technical data at the public meeting are asked to bring 100 copies of their data for distribution to participants in the meeting and to submit one original and two copies of written

comments to the FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket #98-037N, Room 102, Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. Participants who require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Phebus at the above numbers by October 19, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this notice is 3-fold: (1) To give public notice of FSIS' intent to conduct the risk assessment, (2) to solicit from the public scientific information and data that would be relevant to conducting the risk assessment, and (3) to announce a public meeting to be held October 28, 1998 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22203-1860, telephone (703) 907-5500 at which the risk assessment team will present and receive comments on the scientific evidence available for input to the risk assessment model.

The goals of the assessment are as follows:

1. To quantitatively model, with attendant uncertainty, human illnesses caused by *E. coli* 0157:H7 in beef in the United States and to compare these results with national estimates of illnesses from surveillance (e.g. FoodNet).

2. To identify the occurrence and levels of the pathogen at points along the farm-to-table continuum and the contribution of these points to the number of human illnesses (sensitivity analyses).

3. To quantify the effects of various mitigation strategies on the number of human illnesses.

4. To identify future research needs.

5. To document methods and evidence for future assessments.

6. To document changes in the risk assessment model and its inputs.

7. To effectively communicate the results to all interested parties—government, consumer groups, industry, the scientific community and the general public.

The purpose of the October 28 public meeting is to solicit comment and input regarding the scope of the risk assessment, the analytical framework to be used in conducting the risk assessment, the scientific evidence acquired by the risk assessment team to

date, and the existing data gaps identified by the risk assessment team. No results from the risk assessment are expected to be available for this meeting. Major topics of discussion are expected to include the strength and limitations of the acquired data, critical gaps in the acquired data, and the availability and utility of other relevant sources of data and scientific information.

Persons unable to attend the meeting may submit comments to the above addresses. Transcripts of this meeting will be available in the FSIS Docket Room.

Done in Washington, DC on: August 11, 1998.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-22180 Filed 8-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Bull Lake Estates Access; Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Correction to Revised Notice of Intent To Prepare An Environmental Impact Statement (Revised notice of intent was published December 17, 1996, FR Doc. 96-31915; original notice of intent was published February 3, 1995, 60 FR 6692).

SUMMARY: This correction gives notice of changes to revised notice of intent published in the **Federal Register** on December 17, 1996, (FR Doc. 96-31915) for the Bull Lake Estates Access project. This document corrects the revised notice as follows: The DEIS is expected to be filed with the EPA and available for public review in October of 1998. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in January, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Natale, EIS Team Leader, or Jeanne Higgins, Acting Environmental Coordinator, Three Rivers Ranger District (406) 295-4693.

Dated: August 10, 1998.

Robert L. Schrenk,

Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest.

[FR Doc. 98-22108 Filed 8-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the New Jersey Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the New Jersey Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1:00 p.m. and adjourn at 7:00 p.m. on September 11, 1998, at the Bally's Park Place, Park Place and the Boardwalk, Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401. The purpose of the meeting is to review the Committee's report on employment opportunity for Asian Americans in New Jersey State government employment, and plan future projects. The Committee will reconvene on September 12, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn at 12:30 p.m. at yesterday's location, Bally's Park Place. The purpose of the meeting is to hold a briefing session with civil rights and advocacy groups, local government officials, and unscheduled audience comments.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, August 11, 1998.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 98-22166 Filed 8-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Virginia Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Virginia Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at 3:00 p.m. on September 28, 1998, at the Temple Rodef Shalom,

2100 Westmoreland Street, Falls Church, Virginia 22043. The purpose of the meeting is to review the Committee's report on the justice system disparities for African American males, and plan future projects.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, August 11, 1998.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 98-22165 Filed 8-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Census 2000/Puerto Rico

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before October 19, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Decennial Communications, Decennial Management Division, Bureau of the Census, Room 2002, Suitland Federal Center #2, Washington, DC 20233-0001. Their telephone number is (301) 457-3947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The United States Constitution mandates that a census of the Nation's population and housing be taken every 10 years. Title 13 of the U.S. Code specifies that in addition to the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the census also should include Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Census Bureau's goal in Census 2000 is to take the most accurate and cost-effective census possible. The importance of an accurate decennial census cannot be overstated. Puerto Rico census data are used to redraw legislative district boundaries to ensure that political representation is distributed accurately and to determine funding allocations for the distribution of Federal and Puerto Rico funds each year. Census data tell us what we know about Puerto Rico; they are the definitive benchmark for virtually all demographic information used by the Federal, Puerto Rico and local governments, policy makers, educators, journalists, and community and nonprofit organizations.

From Census 2000, the Census Bureau will produce population totals by race, Hispanic origin, and age for census blocks and higher geographic levels for legislative redistricting in Puerto Rico. The Census Bureau also will be collecting a wealth of demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics from the population. This information is required to implement programs and enforce Federal laws and, as noted above, plays an important role in the distribution of Federal and Puerto Rico funds each year and serves as a benchmark for many different purposes.

In the process of developing our data collection forms, the Census Bureau has tried to reduce respondent burden in three ways: (1) Including only those questions that are explicitly required in Federal law or whose use is strongly implied by the data requirements in the law—both the short form and the long form have fewer questions than their 1990 counterparts, (2) Working through the decade to develop forms that are easy to understand and fill out, and (3) asking most questions of only a sample of approximately 1 in 6 households in Puerto Rico.

II. Method of Collection

In Census 2000, the Census Bureau will make every effort to account for all people living in the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana