

or your authorized representative. Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; Fax: (202) 690-7442; Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Done at Washington, DC, on January 13, 2025.

**Julie A. Chao,**

*Deputy U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.*

[FR Doc. 2025-01035 Filed 1-15-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3420-3F-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### The U.S. Codex Office

#### Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Additives

**AGENCY:** U.S. Codex Office, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on February 18, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. eastern time (ET). The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 55th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which is scheduled to be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from March 24-28, 2025. The U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius and the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 55th Session of the CCFA and to address items on the agenda.

**DATES:** The public meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will take place in a hybrid format. The on-site location is Meeting Room 1A-001 and 1A-002 at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Harvey Wiley Federal Building, 5001 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740-3835. Documents related to the 55th Session of the CCFA will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/detail/it/meeting=CCFA&session=55>.

Dr. Daniel Folmer, U.S. Delegate to the 55th Session of the CCFA, invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address:

[Daniel.Folmer@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Daniel.Folmer@fda.hhs.gov).

**Registration:** In-person attendees may register to attend the public meeting at the following email address: [ccfa@cfsan.fda.gov](mailto:ccfa@cfsan.fda.gov). Virtual attendees may register to attend the public meeting at the following link: <https://fda.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltcOmgpj4iHgEoL7A3kCqQesR5F9ClcMQ>. Both in-person and virtual attendees should register by February 14, 2025. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. For further information about the public meeting, contact Dr.

LaShonda Cureton, U.S. Alternate Delegate to the 55th Session of the CCFA, by phone at: +1 (240) 402-1351 or by email at: [Lashonda.Cureton@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Lashonda.Cureton@fda.hhs.gov).

For further information about the 55th session of the CCFA, contact U.S. Delegate, Dr. Daniel Folmer, by phone at: +1 (240) 402-1274 or by email at: [Daniel.Folmer@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Daniel.Folmer@fda.hhs.gov), or U.S. Alternate Delegate, Dr. LaShonda Cureton, by phone at: +1 (240) 402-1351 or by email at: [Lashonda.Cureton@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Lashonda.Cureton@fda.hhs.gov). For additional information regarding the public meeting, contact the U.S. Codex Office by email at: [uscodex@usda.gov](mailto:uscodex@usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Through the adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

The Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) are:

(a) to establish or endorse permitted maximum levels for individual food additives;

(b) to prepare priority lists of food additives for risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives;

(c) to assign functional classes to individual food additives;

(d) to recommend specifications of identity and purity for food additives for adoption by the Commission;

(e) to consider methods of analysis for the determination of additives in food; and

(f) to consider and elaborate standards or codes for related subjects such as the labelling of food additives when sold as such.

The CCFA is hosted by China. The United States attends the CCFA as a member country of the Codex Alimentarius. The 55th session of the CCFA will be co-hosted by the Republic of Korea.

#### Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items from the Provisional Agenda for the 55th Session of the CCFA will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters Referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other subsidiary bodies;
- Matters of Interest arising from FAO/WHO and from the 99th Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA);
- Proposed draft specifications for identity and purity of food additives arising from the 99th JECFA meeting;
- Endorsement and/or revision of maximum levels for food additives and processing aids in Codex standards;
- Alignment of the food additive provisions of commodity standards: Report of the Electronic Working Group (EWG) on Alignment;
- *General Standard for Food Additives* (GFSA): Report of the EWG on the GSFA;
- *General Standard for Food Additives* (GFSA): Proposals for new and/or revision of food additive provisions (replies to circular letter (CL) 2024/58-FA);
- Proposed draft revision to the *Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989);
- Proposals for additions and changes to the Priority List of Substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA (replies to CL 2024/59-FA);
- Standard for baker's yeast (Step 4);
- Discussion paper on the working practices and the engagement plan to avoid divergence between the GSFA, commodity standards and other related Codex texts;
- Other business and future work.

#### Public Meeting

At the public meeting on February 18, 2025, the draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to Dr.

Daniel Folmer, U.S. Delegate to the 55th Session of the CCFA, at [Daniel.Folmer@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Daniel.Folmer@fda.hhs.gov). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 55th Session of the CCFA.

#### Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, the U.S. Codex Office will announce this **Federal Register** publication on-line through the USDA Codex web page located at: <https://www.usda.gov/codex>, a link that also offers an email subscription service providing access to information related to Codex. Customers can add or delete their subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their accounts.

#### USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

No agency, officer, or employee of the USDA shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, or political beliefs, exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination any person in the United States under any program or activity conducted by the USDA.

#### How To File a Complaint of Discrimination

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which may be accessed online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer>, or write a letter signed by you or your authorized representative. Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; Fax: (202) 690-7442; Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Done at Washington, DC, on January 13, 2025.

**Julie A. Chao,**

*Deputy U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.*

[FR Doc. 2025-01036 Filed 1-15-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3420-3F-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket No. NRCS-2024-0021]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Owyhee Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project, Malheur County, OR

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**SUMMARY:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Oregon State Office, in coordination with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, announces its intent to prepare an EIS for the Owyhee Irrigation District (OID) Infrastructure Modernization Project (Modernization Project). The project area is located along the Owyhee and Snake rivers in Eastern Oregon 50 miles west of Boise, Idaho in proximity to the town of Nyssa, Oregon. The proposed EIS will examine alternative solutions to improve the OID agricultural water management. OID is the sponsoring local organization for the project. NRCS is requesting comments to identify significant issues, potential alternatives, information, and analyses relevant to the proposed action from all interested individuals, Federal and State agencies, and Tribes.

**DATES:** We will consider comments that we receive by February 18, 2025. We will consider comments received after close of the comment period to the extent possible.

**ADDRESSES:** We invite you to submit comments in response to this notice. You may submit your comments through the method below:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for docket ID NRCS-2024-0021. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

All comments received will be posted without change and made publicly available on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Individuals who require alternative means for communication should contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and text telephone (TTY)) or dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### Purpose and Need

The purpose of the OID Modernization Project is to improve agricultural water management by making the delivery of irrigation water for agricultural lands within OID more reliable and efficient. Watershed planning is authorized under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (Pub. L. 83-566), as amended, and the Flood Control Act of 1944 (Pub. L. 78-534).

This action is needed to alleviate inefficient and unreliable access to irrigation water which causes agricultural damages for farmers in OID. Agriculture is an essential part of the Malheur County economy which only receives 10.1 inches of precipitation a year, with only 1.5 inches falling during the months of June, July, and August. The insignificant amounts of precipitation limit the ability of agricultural production. OID was formed with the primary purpose of providing the delivery of Owyhee River and Snake River water within Malheur County. Access to this irrigation water has allowed development of the agricultural community within the area. The OID area has been reliant on irrigation water delivery for over 100 years. The OID supplies water to approximately 312,000 acres during a normal water year.

OID operates and maintains more than 400 miles of canals, laterals, and siphons through the Bureau of Reclamation's Owyhee Project. OID delivers water to 1,012 patrons and 1,364 parcels from three primary diversions: the Owyhee River via the Owyhee Reservoir and two pumping stations located along the Snake River. The OID conveyance system irrigates approximately 67,000 total acres of onions, sugar beets, corn, alfalfa, and other crops.

Due to rising temperatures and decreasing snowpack, supply shortages are expected to worsen in the coming decades. Between 2013 and 2023, the State issued drought declarations six times in Malheur County. The ability to deliver water efficiently and effectively, especially during drought years, is essential. The majority of the OID infrastructure is approximately 90 years old, which has reduced the water delivery reliability for agricultural use and is at risk of failure. Catastrophic failure of the OID infrastructure would stop water deliveries while the conveyance system is fixed, which would have large impacts to crops and users that rely on water supplied by OID.