

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 67, No. 149

Friday, August 2, 2002

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV02-996-2-Notice]

Peanut Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Request for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) requires that the Secretary of Agriculture establish a Peanut Standards Board for the purpose of advising the Secretary regarding the establishment of quality and handling standards for domestically produced and imported peanuts. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) seeks nominations of individuals to be considered for selection as Board members. The Board consists of 18 members representing producers and industry representatives who would serve staggered three-year terms of office.

DATES: Written nominations must be received on or before September 3, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Mr. Ronald L. Cioffi, Chief, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Phone: (202) 720-2491; Fax: 202-720-8938.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1308 of the Farm Bill (Public Law 107-171) requires that the Secretary of Agriculture establish a Peanut Standards Board (Board) for the purpose of advising the Secretary regarding the establishment of quality and handling standards for domestically produced and imported peanuts. The Farm Bill requires the Secretary to consult with the Board in advance whenever the Secretary considers establishing or

changing quality and handling standards for peanuts.

The Farm Bill provides that the Board consist of 18 members, with three producers and three industry representatives from the States specified in each of the following producing regions: (a) Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and Florida); (b) Southwest (Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico); and (c) Virginia/Carolina (Virginia and North Carolina.) The Farm Bill also provides that during the transition period, the Secretary may designate persons serving as members of the Peanut Administrative Committee (Committee) to serve as members of the Board for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the Board. Members of the Committee have been designated to serve as interim members of the Board. The transition period is the period beginning with the date of enactment of the Farm Bill (May 13, 2002) and ending with the earlier of the date the Secretary appoints the members of the Board or 180 days after enactment of the Farm Bill.

For the initial appointments, the Farm Bill requires that the Secretary shall stagger the terms of the members so that: (a) One producer member and peanut industry member from each peanut producing region serves a one-year term; (b) one producer member and peanut industry member from each peanut producing region serves a two-year term; and (c) one producer member and peanut industry member from each peanut producing region serves a three-year term. The appointees will serve staggered terms of office ending June 30, 2003, June 30, 2004, and June 30, 2005, respectively. For the purposes of this request for nominations, the term "peanut industry representatives" includes representatives of the manufacturers, sellers, buying points, marketing associations, marketing cooperatives, and other like entities. The Farm Bill exempts the Board from the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

USDA invites those individuals, organizations, and group affiliated with the categories listed above to nominate individuals for membership on the Board for both producer and industry members. Nomination documents should include: the nominee's name, address and phone number; the nominee's qualifications for

membership to the Board (e.g., number of years in industry, current position, membership and offices held in industry organizations); and a statement signed by the nominee indicating his/her willingness to serve on the Board. Also, nominees should complete a qualification form which may be obtained from: Jim Wendland or Kenneth G. Johnson, DC Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 4700 River Road, suite 2A04, Unit 155, Riverdale, Maryland 20737; telephone (301) 734-5243, Fax: (301) 734-5275.

Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the Board in accordance with USDA policies. To ensure that the Board takes into the needs of the diverse groups within the peanut industry, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and limited resource agriculture producers.

Authority: Section 1308 of Public Law 107-171.

Dated: July 29, 2002.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 02-19507 Filed 8-1-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02-027N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold a public meeting on August 28, 2002. The committee will continue to discuss (1) *Salmonella* performance standards in meat and poultry products, (2) the scientific basis for establishing safety-based "use by" date labeling for refrigerated, ready-to-eat foods, (3) undertake a new topic of assessing the analytical utility of *Campylobacter*

identification and quantification methodologies, and (4) introduce a new topic discussing redefining the meaning of the term "pasteurization."

Subcommittees will also meet on August 26th (performance standards), and the 27th and 29th (safety-based "use by" date labeling for refrigerated, ready-to-eat foods) to continue working on issues in-progress that will be discussed during the full committee session. In addition, a subcommittee will convene on August 6–8, 2002, to continue its discussion of performance standards and discuss the new charge to the committee regarding the FSIS *Campylobacter* baseline studies.

DATES: The full Committee will hold an open meeting beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, August 28, 2002. During the week of the plenary session, subcommittee meetings will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, August 26, 27 and 29, 2002. Also, a subcommittee will meet Tuesday through Thursday, August 6–8, 2002. Subcommittee meetings are open to the public.

ADDRESSES: The August 27–29 subcommittee and full committee meetings will be held at the Jurys Washington Hotel, 1500 New Hampshire Ave., NW., Washington, DC, 20036. The subcommittee meetings schedule for August 6–8, and 26, 2002, will be held at the Aerospace Building, 901 "D" St., SW., Washington, DC. The comments and all NACMCF documents related to this meeting will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The comments and NACMCF documents will also be available on the Internet at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/Publications.htm>. FSIS will finalize an agenda on or before the meeting date and post it to its Internet Web page. Send an original and two copies of comments to the Food Safety and Inspection Service Docket Room: Docket #02–027N, Room 102 Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Comments may also be sent by facsimile (202) 690–0486. The comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when they become 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 Karen Thomas (202) 690–6620, Fax (202) 690–6334, e-mail address: Karen.Thomas@fsis.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 August 16, 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NACMCF was established on April 18, 1988, in response to a recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences for an interagency approach to microbiological criteria for food, and in response to a recommendation of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, as expressed in the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for fiscal 1988. 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. Merle Pierson, Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA, is the Committee Chair, Dr. Robert E. Brackett, Director for Food Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration, is the Co-Chair, and Brenda Halbrook, FSIS, is the Director of the Executive Secretariat office.

At the August 28, 2002, meeting, the Committee will

- Discuss *Salmonella* performance standards in meat and poultry products;
 - Discuss the scientific basis for establishing safety-based "use by" date labeling for refrigerated, ready-to-eat foods; and
 - Undertake a new topic of assessing the analytical utility of *Campylobacter* identification and quantification methodologies.
- Introduce a new topic discussing redefining the meaning of the term "pasteurization."

Documents Reviewed by NACMCF

FSIS intends to make available to the public all materials that are reviewed and considered by NACMCF regarding

its deliberations. Generally, these materials will be made available as soon as possible after the full committee meeting. Further, FSIS intends to make these materials available in both electronic format on the FSIS web page, as well as hard copy format in the docket room. Often, an attempt is made to make the materials available at the start of the full committee meeting when sufficient time is allowed in advance to do so.

FSIS also intends to post all comments associated with this docket on its web page in the near future. FSIS reserves the right to redact any offensive language that may have been included in these public comments. The uncensored text will be made available in the FSIS Docket Room.

For electronic copies, all NACMCF documents and comments are electronic conversions from a variety of source formats into HTML that may have resulted in character translation or format errors. Readers are cautioned not to rely on this HTML document. Minor changes to materials in electronic format may be necessary in order to meet the Web Accessibility Act requirement in which graphs, charts, and tables must be accompanied by a text descriptor in order for the vision impaired to be made aware of the content. FSIS will add these text descriptors along with a qualifier that the text is a simplified interpretation of the graph, chart, or table. Portable Document Format (PDF) and/or paper documents of the official text, figures, and tables can be obtained from the FSIS Docket Room.

Copyrighted documents will not be posted on the FSIS web site, but are available for inspection in the FSIS docket room.

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 make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. 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 Listserv

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 the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv) go to the "Constituent Update" page on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update/update.htm>. Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done at Washington, DC, on July 30, 2002.

William J. Hudnall,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-19529 Filed 8-1-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Sugar Run Project, McKean County, PA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service, Allegheny National Forest, Bradford Ranger District, will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement to disclose the environmental consequences of the proposed Sugar Run Project. The Forest Service is proposing actions that would move the Sugar Run Project Area from the existing condition towards the Desired Future Condition (DFC) and would maintain the DFC in situations where it has been attained. The DFC is described in the Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

Proposed activities to meet the Desired Future Condition fall into three main categories. (1) Timber harvest and reforestation treatments consist of: Shelterwood seedcut/removal cuts, removal cuts, commercial thinning, group selection, single tree selection, improvement cutting, manual site preparation and release, herbicide application, fertilization, fencing, and tree planting. (2) Wildlife habitat improvement treatments consist of: noncommercial thinning, oak/hickory/shrub underplanting, pruning and release of apple trees, hawthorn release, constructing new openings, planting/

fencing shrubs in openings, mowing, topdressing, seeding with wildflowers and grass, constructing bat boxes, bluebird boxes and vernal ponds. (3) Recreation treatments consist of: trail relocation, trail drainage improvement and footbridge construction. (4) Transportation treatments consist of: road decommissioning, road repair, road construction, road resurfacing, obtaining a right of way from an adjacent property owner, expanding stone pits, and changing road access.

DATES: Comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be submitted (postmarked) by September 3, 2002 to ensure timely consideration.

ADDRESSES: Submit written, oral, or e-mail comments by: (1) Mail "Sugar Run Project," ID Team Leader, HC 1 Box 88, Bradford, PA 16701; (2) phone—814-362-4613; (3) e-mail—anf/r9_allegheeny@fs.fed.us (**please note:** when commenting by e-mail be sure to list *Sugar Run EIS* in the subject line and include a US Postal Service address so we may add you to our mailing list). For further information contact Chris Losi, project team leader, Bradford Ranger District, at 814-362-4613 or mail/e-mail correspondence to addresses listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) sets site-specific goals for the management of forest resources. The Sugar Run Project includes portions of Management Area (MA) 3.0, which emphasizes timber harvesting as a means to make desired changes to forest vegetation and satisfy the public demand for wood products. The project area also includes portions of MA 6.1, which emphasizes providing habitat for wildlife, attractive scenery, and opportunities for non-motorized recreation.

Preliminary Issues were identified based on past projects in the area (environmental assessments), issues developed for similar projects, and site-specific concerns raised by the resource specialists. These issues, listed below, will provide a framework that the Forest Service will use to analyze a range of alternatives, including No Action for the Project Area.

1. *Road Management*—The Sugar Run Project Area contains an array of Forest Service, state, and private roads. Although roads provide important access for management and recreation, they are also capable of causing resource damage. The activities that have been proposed are the result of a detailed roads analysis. As alternatives are

developed, the Forest Service will continue to analyze the risks and benefits of changes to the road system.

2. *Even-Aged/Uneven-Aged Management*—Even-aged management has been identified by the Forest Plan as the primary silvicultural system to be used in MA 3.0. Uneven-aged management is an option for MA 6.1 as well as inclusions within MA 3.0 such as riparian areas, wet soils, or visually sensitive areas. Previous environmental analyses have shown that many members of the public have a strong interest in the silvicultural system used on Forest Service lands.

3. *Threatened and Endangered Species*—Although no endangered, threatened, or sensitive species were found within the project area, an endangered Indiana bat was documented near the project area. Potential effects to the Indiana bat and its habitat will be evaluated for all of the alternatives considered in detail.

4. *OHV trail expansion*—A project to expand an existing trail for Off-Highway-Vehicles (OHVs) into the Sugar Run Project Area is in the preliminary planning stage. Although analysis of this trail expansion will occur in a separate environmental document, the Sugar Run EIS will need to consider the cumulative effects anticipated over the next ten years associated with the OHV trail expansion.

5. *Location of North Country National Scenic Trail*—Some concerns were raised about the proximity of timber treatments and proposed road construction to the North Country National Scenic Trail. Since the trail is currently near MA 6.1, there may be an opportunity to permanently relocate the trail. On the other hand, a permanent relocation may best be considered on a larger scale than the current project.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Your comments will help the Forest Service refine and enhance the list of issues that are considered when analyzing alternatives to the proposed action. When this analysis is nearly complete, the Draft EIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and become available for public review (expected by April 2003). At that time the Environmental Protection Agency will publish a Notice of Availability of the document in the **Federal Register** (this will begin the 45-day comment period on the Draft EIS). After the comment period ends on the Draft EIS, the comments will be