components of articles intended for use in contact with food.

The potential environmental impact of this action is being reviewed. To encourage public participation consistent with regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1501.4(b)), the agency is placing the environmental assessment submitted with the petition that is the subject of this notice on public display at the Dockets Management Branch (address above) for public review and comment. Interested persons may, on or before June 8, 1998, submit to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) written comments. Two copies of any comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the office above between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. FDA will also place on public display any amendments to, or comments on, the petitioner's environmental assessment without further announcement in the **Federal Register**. If, based on its review, the agency finds that an environmental impact statement is not required and this petition results in a regulation, the notice of availability of the agency's finding of no significant impact and the evidence supporting that finding will be published with the regulation in the **Federal Register** in accordance with 21 CFR 25.40(c).

Dated: April 24, 1998.

Laura M. Tarantino,

Acting Director, Office of Premarket Approval, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

[FR Doc. 98–12169 Filed 5–6–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 98F–0288]

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.; Filing of Food Additive Petition

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that Mitsui Chemicals, Inc., has filed a petition proposing that the food additive regulations be amended to expand the safe use of propylene/butene-1 copolymers containing greater than 15 but not more than 35 weight percent of polymer units derived from butene-1 for use in contact with food.

DATES: Written comments on the petitioner's environmental assessment by June 8, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 12420 Parklawn Dr., rm. 1–23, Rockville, MD 20857.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julius Smith, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS–215), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202–418–3091.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (sec. 409(b)(5) (21 U.S.C. 348(b)(5))), notice is given that a food additive petition (FAP 8B4590) has been filed by Mitsui Chemicals, Inc., c/o Keller & Heckman, 1001 G St. NW., suite 500 West, Washington, DC 20001. The petition proposes to amend the food additive regulations in § 177.1520 *Olefin polymers* (21 CFR 177.1520) to expand the safe use of propylene/butene-1 copolymers containing greater than 15 but not more than 35 weight percent of polymer units derived from butene-1 for use in contact with food.

The potential environmental impact of this action is being reviewed. To encourage public participation consistent with regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1501.4(b)), the agency is placing the environmental assessment submitted with the petition that is the subject of this notice on public display at the Dockets Management Branch (address above) for public review and comment. Interested persons may, on or before June 8, 1998, submit to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) written comments. Two copies of any comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the office above between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. FDA will also place on public display any amendments to, or comments on, the petitioner's environmental assessment without further announcement in the **Federal Register**. If, based on its review, the agency finds that an environmental impact statement is not required and this petition results in a regulation, the notice of availability of the agency's finding of no significant impact and the evidence supporting that finding will be published with the regulation in the **Federal Register** in accordance with 21 CFR 25.40(c).

Dated: April 24, 1998.

Laura M. Tarantino,

Acting Director, Office of Premarket Approval, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

[FR Doc. 98–12168 Filed 5–6–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 81G–0035]

Dairy Crest Food, Ltd.; Withdrawal of GRAS Affirmation Petition

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the withdrawal, without prejudice to a future filing, of a petition (GRASP 1G0273) proposing that the use of immobilized lactase composite is generally recognized as safe (GRAS) for use in the production of low-lactose whey.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Valerie M. Davis, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS–206), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202–418–3181.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a notice published in the **Federal Register** of March 3, 1981 (46 FR 14970), FDA announced that a petition (GRASP 1G0273) had been filed by Corning Glass Works, Corning, NY. The petition proposed affirmation that the use of immobilized lactase composite is GRAS for producing low-lactose whey.

In a letter dated January 8, 1988, a law firm, on behalf of Corning Glass Works, informed the agency that sponsorship of the petition was transferred to Dairy Crest Food, Ltd., Dairy Crest House, Portsmouth Rd., Surbiton, Surrey KT6 5QL, England.

On May 29, 1996, the agency contacted the attorney of record for Dairy Crest Foods, Ltd., and inquired whether Dairy Crest Foods, Ltd., was still pursuing the petition, given that the last communication from the petitioner was 5 years previously. This inquiry was prompted by an agency initiative to remove those petitions that are no longer being pursued from FDA's petition inventory. No response was received.

By letter of May 29, 1997, FDA again contacted Dairy Crest Food, Ltd.'s,