

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Food Safety and Inspection Service****[Docket No. 00-003N]****Meeting on HACCP-Based Inspection Models Project****AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is holding a public meeting to discuss its HACCP-based Inspection Models Project (HIMP) for slaughter plants. The purpose of this meeting, the latest in a series, is to present new inspection procedures and performance standards that the Agency is developing through the project for plants that slaughter young chickens. The Agency will also describe the rulemaking process that it intends to follow to implement these new inspection procedures and performance standards for all young chicken slaughter plants under Federal inspection should the data developed in the project support such an action. The meeting will conclude with an open discussion period.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 30, 2000 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge, 1900 North Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22209, (703) 807-2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To register for the meeting, contact Mr. Ron Niemeyer, of the FSIS Planning Staff at (202) 501-7247 or FAX (202) 501-7642 or e-mail: ron.niemeyer@usda.gov. Attendees who require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should contact Mr. Niemeyer at the above numbers by March 21, 2000. For technical information, contact Michael Grasso at (202) 205-0025, fax (202) 205-0058, email: Mike.Grasso@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The HACCP-based Inspection Models Project (HIMP) is an outgrowth of the Agency's Pathogen Reduction/Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (PR/HACCP) Systems Final Rule, published on July 25, 1996. The PR/HACCP rule calls for the establishment of a HACCP-based food safety system to reduce the risk of foodborne illness from meat and poultry products. In a **Federal Register** Notice of June 10, 1997, FSIS requested public comments on the design and development of new inspection models for slaughter and processing in a HACCP environment (62 FR 31553). This notice summarized

recommendations by the National Academy of Sciences and the General Accounting Office that FSIS reduce its reliance on organoleptic (sensory) inspection and redeploy its resources by using inspection methods that are based on the risks inherent in meat and poultry slaughter operations. To accomplish these objectives, new inspection methods are being developed and tested that are consistent with the meat and poultry products inspection laws and the systems now required by the PR/HACCP rule. The HACCP-based Inspection Models Project is designed to help define the respective responsibilities of FSIS and the regulated industry in slaughter establishments operating under HACCP systems and to develop new approaches to inspection in plants slaughtering young, healthy, and uniform animals. A public meeting was held in Washington DC on July 27, 1998 (63 FR 39068, July 21, 1998) to discuss the project. Another public meeting on the project was held in Washington DC on December 2, 1998 (63 FR 63827, November 17, 1998) to discuss results from baseline testing in initial plants and projected activities.

The March 30, 2000 meeting will specifically address activities in young chicken slaughter plants and will include the final report of baseline data collection results under current inspection procedures in young chicken slaughter plants participating in the project. The Agency will present performance standards for food safety and non-food safety concerns in HIMP young chicken plants. These performance standards are drawn from the baseline data collection results and will provide the terms by which HIMP young chicken plants will be measured. New inspection procedures are being designed to provide verification that plants are meeting these performance standards. FSIS intends to institute rulemaking to adopt new inspection procedures and performance standards for all young chicken slaughter plants under Federal inspection if the data developed in HIMP support such action.

Additional Public Notification

Pursuant to Departmental Regulation 4300-4, "Civil Rights Impact Analysis," dated September 22, 1993, FSIS has considered the potential civil rights impact of this notice on minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. Therefore, to better ensure that these groups and others are made aware of this meeting, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of the **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. The Agency 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 Agency 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, the Agency is able to provide information with a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, at (202) 720-5704.

Transcripts of this meeting will be made available in the FSIS Docket Room, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street SW, Washington, D.C.

Done in Washington, DC, on: March 14, 2000.

Thomas J. Billy,*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 00-6824 Filed 3-17-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Natural Resources Conservation Service****BS-3a Caernarvon Diversion Outfall Management Project Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana****AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service.**ACTION:** Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR Part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the Caernarvon Diversion Outfall Management Project, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald W. Gohmert, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 3737 Government