reduce *L. monocytogenes* illnesses from ready-to-eat foods. The plan focuses on those food categories identified in the draft risk assessment as either warranting additional measures to reduce *L. monocytogenes* contamination or warranting collection of additional data. Within HHS, FDA and CDC have the primary responsibility for implementation of this action plan. Within USDA, FSIS has the primary responsibility for implementation of this plan, working in concert with other USDA agencies through the Office of Food Safety.

The action plan contains the following eight action areas:

(1) Enhance consumer and health care provider information and education efforts;

(2) Develop and revise guidance for processors, retailers, and food service/institutional establishments that manufacture or prepare ready-to-eat foods;

(3) Develop and deliver training/technical assistance to the regulated industry and food safety regulatory employees;

(4) Review and redirect enforcement and regulatory strategies including microbial product sampling;

(5) Propose new regulations and revisions to existing regulations as needed;

(6) Enhance disease surveillance and outbreak response;

(7) Initiate projects with retail operations such as delicatessens and salad bars to pilot new *L. monocytogenes* control measures including employee practices; and

(8) Coordinate research activities to refine the risk assessment, enhance preventive controls, and support regulatory, enforcement, and educational activities.

As noted, the draft risk assessment will be available, along with other information, to assist HHS and USDA as they consider the specific means to implement the elements of the action plan.

III. Electronic Access

The draft risk assessment document and the risk management plan are available electronically as follows:

Draft Risk Assessment Document	www.cfsan.fda.gov www.fsis.usda.gov www.foodsafety.gov www.foodriskclearinghouse.umd.edu
The Risk Management Action Plan	www.cfsan.fda.gov www.foodsafety.gov www.fsis.usda.gov

Dated: January 11, 2001.

William K. Hubbard,

Senior Associate Commissioner for Policy, Planning, and Legislation, Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator, Food Safety Inspection Service, USDA.

[FR Doc. 01–1439 Filed 1–18–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 99N–1075]

Public Health Impact of Vibrio Parahaemolyticus in Raw Molluscan Shellfish; Draft Risk Assessment Document; Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of a draft risk assessment on the relationship between *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in raw molluscan shellfish, specifically oysters, and human health. FDA began this quantitative microbial risk assessment (QMRA) in 1999, and the agency has held three public meetings on the framework of the assessment, the assumptions, and the modeling procedures. As part of the review process, the agency is making this draft risk assessment available and is seeking comments on the technical aspects of the draft risk assessment. A public meeting to discuss the draft risk assessment will be announced in a future issue of the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Submit written comments on the draft risk assessment by March 20, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The draft risk assessment is available electronically on the FDA Internet at www.foodsafety.gov/dms/fs-toc.html. Hard copies of the draft risk assessment will be available upon request; fax requests to 1–877–366–3322. The draft risk assessment may also be reviewed at the Dockets Management Branch (address below) between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Two copies of comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments must be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: *For specific technical information contact:* Marianne Miliotis, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* Risk Assessment

Team Leader, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS–327), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202–205–4824, FAX 202–205–4939, or e-mail: mmilioti@cfsan.fda.gov.

For general information contact: Sherri B. Dennis, Risk Assessment Coordinator, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS–032), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202–260–3984, FAX 202–260–9653, or e-mail: sdennis@cfsan.fda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

In the **Federal Register** of May 7, 1999 (64 FR 24664), FDA announced plans to conduct a risk assessment to determine the extent of exposure of consumers to *V. parahaemolyticus* in raw molluscan shellfish. On August 13, 1999 (64 FR 44226), FDA announced public meetings to discuss issues related to the risk models under development. You may refer to these notices for background.

II. The V. Parahaemolyticus QMRA

The goal of this QMRA is to provide FDA with information that will assist the agency with the review of current programs relating to the regulation of *V. parahaemolyticus* in raw molluscan shellfish to ensure that such programs protect the public health. QMRA is a structured and systematic process of collecting and evaluating data and information to determine the risks to human health from consumption of pathogenic microorganisms. This draft risk assessment evaluates factors that most influence the prevalence of *V. parahaemolyticus* in shellfish at harvest and after harvest handling practices. The draft risk assessment also evaluates preventive and intervention strategies, as well as the FDA and Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference guideline of up to 10,000 viable *V. parahaemolyticus* cells per gram of seafood. The draft risk assessment follows the framework recommended by both the National Academy of Sciences and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. This structured framework involves the following steps:

- *Hazard identification.* The collection and critical review of data and information on *V. parahaemolyticus*.
- *Exposure assessment.* The determination of the likelihood of ingesting pathogenic *V. parahaemolyticus* by eating raw molluscan shellfish harboring the organism and the amount of pathogenic *V. parahaemolyticus* present when consumed.
- *Hazard characterization/dose-response.* The relationship of the levels of *V. parahaemolyticus* ingested with the frequency and magnitude of illness using epidemiological investigations and clinical trials.
- *Risk characterization.* The integration of dose-response and exposure assessments into a complex model to estimate risk of illness and range of uncertainty associated with this estimate. The risk assessment process also involves the identification of data gaps and the development of reasonable assumptions if data are unavailable.

FDA began this QMRA in 1999. Recognizing the public health importance of this pathogen, the scientific knowledge and data currently available were rigorously evaluated to assure that this assessment will serve to facilitate several processes, including the formulation of effective guidance for the industry, regulators, and consumers and the evaluations of risk mitigation strategies.

As part of a peer evaluation of the draft risk assessment, FDA is seeking comments in the following areas: (1) The assumptions, (2) the modeling technique, (3) the data sets used, and (4) transparency of the document. FDA intends to review and evaluate all public comments and make modifications to the assessment, as appropriate.

As noted previously, the draft risk assessment is available electronically on FDA's website and may be reviewed in the agency's Dockets Management Branch.

Dated: December 18, 2000.

Margaret M. Dotzel,

Associate Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 01–1440 Filed 1–18–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–F

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–4644–N–03]

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice identifies unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus Federal property reviewed by HUD for suitability for possible use to assist the homeless.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 19, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Clifford Taffet, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 7262, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708–1234; TTY number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 708–2565, (these telephone numbers are not toll-free), or call the toll-free Title V information line at 1–800–927–7588.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the December 12, 1988 court order in *National Coalition for the Homeless* v. *Veterans Administration*, No. 88–2503–OG (D.D.C.), HUD publishes a Notice, on a weekly basis, identifying unutilized, underutilized, excess and surplus Federal buildings and real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. Today's Notice is for the purpose of announcing that no additional properties have been determined suitable or unsuitable this week.

Dated: January 11, 2001.

John D. Garrity,

Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs.

[FR Doc. 01–1398 Filed 1–18–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–29–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary; Notice of Deadline for Submitting Completed Applications To Begin Participation in the Tribal Self-Governance Program in Fiscal Year 2002 or Calendar Year 2002

AGENCY: Office of Self-Governance, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of application deadline.

SUMMARY: In this notice, the Office of Self-Governance (OSG) establishes a March 1, 2001, deadline for tribes/consortia to submit completed applications to begin participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2002 or calendar year 2002.

DATES: Completed application packages must be received by the Director, Office of Self-Governance by March 1, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Application packages for inclusion in the applicant pool should be sent to the Director, Office of Self-Governance, U.S. Department of the Interior, Mail Stop 2548, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Kenneth D. Reinfeld, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Self-Governance, 1849 C Street NW., Mail Stop 2548, Washington DC 20240; Telephone 202–208–5734.