

Notices

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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

Office of the Secretary

Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC)

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of advisory committee reestablishment.

SUMMARY: In response to the continued need of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of the Interior for advice on coordination and implementation of the Record of Decision (ROD) of April 13, 1994, for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, the Departments have reestablished the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC). The purpose of the IAC is to provide intergovernmental advice on coordinating the implementation of the ROD. The IAC provides advice and recommendations to promote integration and coordination of forest management activities among Federal and non-Federal entities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan Stephens, Planning Specialist, Forest Service, USDA, (202) 205-0948.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Agriculture in consultation with the Department of the Interior has reestablished the IAC to the Regional Interagency Executive Committee (RIEC). The purpose of the RIEC is to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the ROD of April 13, 1994. The RIEC consists of representatives of the following Federal agencies: the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Forest Service Research, Environmental Protection Agency Research, and U.S. Geological Survey Biological Resources Division. The purpose of the IAC is to advise the RIEC on coordinating the implementation of the ROD. The IAC provides advice and recommendations to promote integration and coordination of forest management activities among Federal and non-Federal entities.

The IAC is considered to be in the public interest in connection with the duties and responsibilities of the managing agencies for developing an ecosystem management approach that is consistent with statutory authority for land use planning. Ecosystem management at the province level requires improved coordination among the governmental entities responsible for land management decisions and the public those agencies serve.

The chairing responsibility of the IAC will alternate annually between the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management representative. The Executive Director, Regional Ecosystem Office, will serve as the designated federal official under sections 10(e) and (f) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. APP.).

The renewal of the IAC does not require an amendment of Bureau of Land Management or Forest Service planning documents because the reestablishment does not affect the standards and guidelines or land allocations. The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service will give further notice, as needed, of additional actions or adjustments when implementing interagency coordination, public involvement, and other aspects of the ROD.

Equal opportunity practices are followed in all appointments to the advisory committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the IAC have taken into account the needs of diverse groups served by the Departments, membership includes to the extent practicable individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

Dated: January 12, 2001.

Paul W. Fiddick,

Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[FR Doc. 01-2123 Filed 1-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 00-123-1]

Draft Guidelines for Testing of Residual Formaldehyde (VICH Topic GL25) and Testing of Residual Moisture (VICH Topic GL26)

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Two draft guidelines, titled "Testing of Residual Formaldehyde" and "Testing of Residual Moisture," have been developed by the International Cooperation on Harmonization of Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH). These draft guidelines provide, respectively, general requirements for residual formaldehyde and residual moisture testing. Because the guidelines apply to final product testing for formaldehyde-containing veterinary vaccines and final product testing for residual moisture in veterinary vaccines regulated by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act, we are requesting comments on the scope of each guideline and its provisions so that we may include any relevant public input on the draft in the agency's comments to the VICH Steering Committee.

DATES: We invite you to comment on the draft guidelines. We will consider all comments that we receive by March 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 00-123-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 00-123-1.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to

help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS rules, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

You may request a copy of the draft guideline "Testing of Residual Formaldehyde" by writing to Mr. P. Frank Ross, USDA, APHIS, VS, National Veterinary Services Laboratories, 1800 Dayton Road, Ames, IA 50010, or by calling (515) 663-8397. You may request a copy of the draft guideline "Testing of Residual Moisture" by writing to Mr. Gerald G. Christianson, USDA, APHIS, VS, Center for Veterinary Biologics Laboratories, 1800 Dayton Road, Ames, IA 50010, or by calling (515) 663-7416. Both draft guidelines are also available on the internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/cvb/lpd/notices>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding VICH, contact Dr. Richard E. Hill, Director, Licensing and Policy Development, USDA, APHIS, VS, CVB-LPD, 510 South 17th Street, Suite 104, Ames, IA 50010; (515) 232-5785. For information regarding the draft guideline "Testing of Residual Formaldehyde," contact Mr. P. Frank Ross, USDA, APHIS, VS, National Veterinary Services Laboratories, 1800 Dayton Road, Ames, IA 50010, (515) 663-8397. For information regarding the draft guideline "Testing of Residual Moisture," contact Mr. Gerald G. Christianson, USDA, APHIS, VS, Center for Veterinary Biologics Laboratories, 1800 Dayton Road, Ames, IA 50010; (515) 663-7416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for the Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) is a unique project that brings together the regulatory authorities of the European Union, Japan, and the United States and representatives from the animal health industry in the three regions. The purpose of VICH is to harmonize technical requirements for veterinary products (both drugs and biologics). Regulatory authorities and industry experts from Australia and New Zealand participate in an observer capacity. The VICH initiative is conducted under the auspices of the International Office of Epizootics. The World Federation of the Animal Health Industry (COMISA, the Confederation Mondiale de L'Industrie de la Sante Animale) provides the

secretarial and administrative support for VICH activities.

The United States Government is represented in VICH by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The FDA provides expertise regarding veterinary drugs, while APHIS fills a corresponding role for veterinary biological products. As VICH members, APHIS and FDA participate in efforts to enhance harmonization and have expressed their commitment to seeking scientifically based harmonized technical requirements for the development of veterinary drugs and biological products. One of the goals of harmonization is to identify and reduce the differences in technical requirements for veterinary drugs and biologics among regulatory agencies in different countries.

The first of the draft documents that are the subject of this notice, "Testing of Residual Formaldehyde" (VICH Topic GL25), has been made available by the VICH Steering Committee for comments by interested parties. The guideline is intended to provide general requirements for residual formaldehyde testing. Because the guideline would apply to some veterinary biological products regulated by APHIS under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act—particularly with regard to final product testing for residual formaldehyde—we are requesting comments on its provisions so that we may include any relevant comments on the draft in the agency's comments to the VICH Steering Committee.

The second draft document, "Testing of Residual Moisture" (VICH Topic GL26), has also been made available by the VICH Steering Committee for comments by interested parties. The guideline is intended to provide general requirements for residual moisture testing. Again, because the guideline would apply to some veterinary biological products regulated by APHIS under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act—particularly with regard to final product testing for residual moisture—we are requesting comments on its provisions so that we may include any relevant comments on the draft in the agency's comments to the VICH Steering Committee.

The two draft documents reflect, respectively, current APHIS thinking on the testing of veterinary vaccines for formaldehyde and for residual moisture. In accordance with the VICH process, once a final draft of each document has been approved, the guideline will be recommended for adoption by the regulatory bodies of the European

Union, Japan, and the United States. As with all VICH documents, each final guideline will not create or confer any rights for or on any person and will not operate to bind APHIS or the public. Further, the VICH guidelines specifically provide for the use of alternative approaches if those approaches satisfy applicable regulatory requirements.

Ultimately, APHIS intends to consider the VICH Steering Committee's final guidance documents for use by U.S. veterinary biologics licensees, permittees, and applicants. In addition, APHIS may consider the use of each final guideline as the basis for proposed amendments to its regulations in 9 CFR chapter I, subchapter E (Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products: Organisms and Vectors). Because we anticipate that applicable provisions of the final versions of "Testing of Residual Formaldehyde" and "Testing of Residual Moisture" may be introduced into APHIS' veterinary biologics regulatory program in the future, we encourage your comments on the draft versions of those documents.

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*

Done in Washington, DC, this 18th day of January 2001.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 01-2165 Filed 1-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

TV-16 Cheniere Au Tigre Shoreline Protection Demonstration Project, Vermilion Parish, LA

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of a 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 Cheniere Au Tigre Shoreline Protection Demonstration Project, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald W. Gohmert, State