

Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 12th day of April 2001.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 01-9626 Filed 4-17-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01-013N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will meet on May 7, 2001. The meeting is open to the public. The Committee will review scientific issues related to the Agency's *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 policy. The committee will also begin discussion of the charge contained in the conference report accompanying Public Law 106-387, which states that NACMCF should undertake to consider issues regarding microbiological performance standards, including the role of such standards in ensuring meat and poultry product safety. FSIS will finalize an agenda describing the specific charges to the Committee on or before the meeting date and post it to its internet web page.

Additionally, on May 8, 9, and 10, 2001, FSIS invites Committee members to attend a technical conference and a public meeting regarding the Agency's recently proposed regulatory requirements for ready-to-eat meat and poultry products, "Performance Standards for the Production of Processed Meat and Poultry Products."

DATES: The full Committee will hold a meeting on Monday, May 7, 2001, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Washington Plaza Hotel, Federal Ballroom, #10 Thomas Circle, NW, at Massachusetts Avenue & 14th Street, Washington, DC 20005, telephone (202) 842-1300. Send an original and two copies of comments to the Food Safety and Inspection Service Docket Room: Docket #01-013N, Room 102 Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Comments may also be sent by facsimile (202) 205-0381. The comments and the official

transcript of the meeting, when it becomes 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 Ms. Karen Thomas (202) 690-6620, Fax (202) 690-6634, e-mail address:

karen.thomas@dcqexs1.hqnet.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 April 25, 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NACMCF was established in April 1988, in response to a recommendation in a 1985 report of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Food Protection, Subcommittee on Microbiological Criteria, "An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria for Foods." 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. I. Kaye Wachsmuth, Deputy Administrator, Office of Public Health and Science, FSIS, is the Committee Chair.

At the May 7, 2001, meeting announced in this document, the Committee will review scientific issues related to the Agency's policy with respect to the following issues:

- Research on *E. coli* O157:H7 in blade tenderized beef steaks, including a preliminary study by scientists at Kansas State University.
- Technical issues related to scientifically determined criteria, including microbiological performance standards, and how such criteria and standards best function to provide scientific support for approaches to

ensure the safety of meat and poultry products.

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 provide copies of this **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS 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 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 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, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-5704.

Done at Washington, DC on: April 12, 2001.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 01-9622 Filed 4-17-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area (SRA) Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: An Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council meeting will convene in Salem, Oregon on Saturday, May 5, 2001. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., and will conclude at approximately 2 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Salem City Library, Anderson Room B, located at 585 Liberty Street SE in Salem, Oregon.

The Opal Creek Wilderness and Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Act of 1996 (Opal Creek Act) (Public Law 104-208) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory