

- Proposed Draft Revised Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for the Control of Veterinary Drugs in Foods;
- Discussion Paper on Risk Analysis Principles and Methodologies, including Risk Assessment;
- Policies in the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods;
- Discussion Paper on Residue Issues;
- Review of Performance-Based Criteria for Methods of Analysis;
- Consideration of the Identification of Routine Methods of Analysis;
- Consideration of the Priority List of Veterinary Drugs Requiring Evaluation or Re-evaluation.

Public Meeting

At the February 18 public meeting, the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Comments may be sent to the FSIS Docket Room (see **ADDRESSES**). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods.

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 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. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available on line through the Internet 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 and stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information, contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service

(Listserv), go to the "Constituent Update" page on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update.htm>. Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done at Washington, DC, on January 28, 2003.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 03-2306 Filed 1-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-003N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: 4th Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are sponsoring a public meeting on February 20, 2003, to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the 4th Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology (FBT) to be held in Yokohama, Japan, on March 11-14, 2003. The Under Secretary and FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 4th Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology and to address items on the Agenda for the 4th FBT.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2003 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the Lincoln Room, White House Conference Center, 726 Jackson Place, NW., Washington, DC. To receive copies of the documents referenced in the notice contact the FSIS Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. The documents will also be accessible via the World Wide Web at http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfbt4/bt03_01e.htm. If you have comments,

please send an original and two copies to the FSIS Docket Clerk and reference Docket #03-003N. All comments submitted will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Edward Scarbrough, Ph.D., U.S. Manager for Codex, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Phone: (202) 205-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Codex is the major international organization for protecting the health and economic interests of consumers and encouraging fair international trade in food. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled. In the United States, USDA, FDA, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) manage and carry out U.S. Codex activities.

The Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology was established to develop standards, guidelines or recommendations, as appropriate, for foods derived from biotechnology or traits introduced into foods by biotechnology, on the basis of scientific evidence, risk analysis and having regard, where appropriate to other legitimate factors relevant to the health of consumers and the promotion of fair trade practices. The Task Force, which was given four years to complete its work, held its first session in 2000.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The provisional agenda items will be discussed during the public meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda (CX/FBT 03/1).
2. Matters Referred to the Task Force by Other Codex Committees (CX/FTB 03/2).
3. Matters of Interest from Other International Organizations with respect to the Evaluation of the Safety and Nutrition Aspects of Foods Derived from Biotechnology (CX/FBT 03/3).

4. Consideration of Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Produced Using Recombinant-DNA Microorganisms (CL 2002/40-FBT, ALINORM 03/34, Appendix V).

5. Open Discussion on Traceability.

Public Meeting

At the February 20th public meeting, the agenda items will be described, discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Comments may be sent to the FSIS Docket Room (see **ADDRESSES**). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 4th Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology, Docket #03-003N.

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 make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. 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 Listserv 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 the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

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F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 03-2307 Filed 1-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Madera County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of resource advisory committee meeting

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Sierra National Forest's Resource Advisory Committee for Madera County will meet on Monday, February 17, 2003. The Madera Resource Advisory Committee will meet at the U.S.D.A. Forest Service Office, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA. The purpose of the meeting is update on the RAC committee outreach and RAC Proposal presentations.

DATES: The Madera Resource Advisory Committee meeting will be held Monday, February 17, 2002. The meeting will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Madera County RAC meeting will be held at the U.S.D.A. Forest Service Office, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Martin, U.S.D.A., Sierra National Forest, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA, 93643 (559) 877-2218 ext. 3100; e-mail dmartin05@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Update on RAC committee outreach, and (2) RAC Proposal presentations. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: January 24, 2003.

David W. Martin,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 03-2274 Filed 1-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.; Notice of Intent To Hold Public Workshops and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent To hold public workshops and prepare an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) intends to hold public scoping workshops and prepare an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to the construction and operation of a new gas-fired combustion turbine generation facility. The project is proposed by Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (Brazos), of Waco, Texas. RUS may provide financing assistance for the project. RUS will hold two public scoping workshops for a proposed Gas-fired Electrical Generation Plant. The first workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2003, from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Decatur Civic Center. The Decatur Civic Center is located at 2010 W. U.S. 380, in Decatur, Texas. The second workshop will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2003, from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Twin Lakes Community Center. The Twin Lakes Community Center is located at 420 Highway 59, Jacksboro, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis E. Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-1953 or e-mail: drankin@rus.usda.gov; or Mike McClendon, Brazos at (254) 750-6326 or e-mail: mmlendon@brazoselectric.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Brazos is proposing to construct a new gas-fired combustion turbine and is evaluating potential sites located in Wise and Jack Counties, Texas. One potential site is located in the southwest corner of Wise County. It is approximately 11 miles northwest of Springtown, west of the intersection of State Highway 199 and FM 920. A second potential site is located north of the City of Bridgeport on or adjacent to the former U.S. Stone Mining company operation northwest of the intersection of State Highway 101 and FM 1658. The third potential site is located northeast of State Highway 199 and FM 1156 in Jack County and southeast of the intersection of Shepard Road/Henderson Ranch Rd. and FM 1156. Associated facilities include a gas pipeline, water pipeline and transmission facilities generation plant.

Comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted in writing at the public workshop or in writing no later than March 14, 2003, to RUS at the address provided above.

An environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared for the proposed project. Based on a review of the Environmental Assessment and other relevant information, RUS will determine if the preparation of an