to issue a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) based on the EA and authorize shipment of the above product for the initiation of field tests following the close of the comment period for this notice.

Because the issues raised by field testing and by issuance of a license are identical, APHIS has concluded that the EA that is generated for field testing would also be applicable to the proposed licensing action. Provided that the field test data support the conclusions of the original EA and the issuance of a FONSI, APHIS does not intend to issue a separate EA and FONSI to support the issuance of the product license, and would determine that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. APHIS intends to issue a veterinary biological product license for this vaccine following completion of the field test provided no adverse impacts on the human environment are identified and provided the product meets all other requirements for licensing.

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 151–159.

Done in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of June, 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03–14301 Filed 6–5–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03–060–1]

Availability of an Environmental Assessment for Field Testing Feline Leukemia Vaccine, Live Canarypox Vector

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared an environmental assessment concerning authorization to ship for the purpose of field testing, and then to field test, an unlicensed feline leukemia vaccine for use in cats. The environmental assessment, which is based on a risk analysis prepared to assess the risks associated with the field testing of this vaccine, examines the potential effects that field testing this veterinary vaccine could have on the quality of the human environment. Based on the risk analysis, we have reached a preliminary determination that field testing this veterinary vaccine will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, and that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. We intend to authorize shipment of this vaccine for field testing following the close of the comment period for this notice unless new substantial issues bearing on the effects of this action are brought to our attention. We also intend to issue a U.S. Veterinary Biological Product license for this vaccine, provided the field test data support the conclusions of the environmental assessment and the issuance of a finding of no significant impact and the product meets all other requirements for licensing.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before July 7, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 03–060–1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 03–060–1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to *regulations@aphis.usda.gov.* Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and ''Docket No. 03–060–1'' on the subject line.

You may read the environmental assessment, the risk analysis (with confidential business information removed), and any comments that we receive 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.

You may request a copy of the environmental assessment (as well as the risk analysis with confidential business information removed) by writing to Dr. Eleanor Eagly, USDA, APHIS, VS, CVB–PEL, 510 South 17th Street, Suite 104, Ames, IA 50010, or by calling (515) 232–5785. Please refer to the docket number, date, and complete title of this notice when requesting copies.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Albert P. Morgan, Chief Staff Officer, Operational Support Section, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Licensing and Policy Development, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 148, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; phone (301) 734–8245; fax (301) 734–4314. For information regarding the environmental assessment or the risk analysis, contact Dr. Eleanor Eagly, USDA, APHIS, VS, CVB–PEL, 510 South 17th Street, Suite 104, Ames, IA 50010; (515) 232–5785.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (21 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*), a veterinary biological product must be shown to be pure, safe, potent, and efficacious before a veterinary biological product license may be issued. A field test is generally necessary to satisfy prelicensing requirements for veterinary biological products. Prior to conducting a field test on an unlicensed product, an applicant must obtain approval from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), as well as obtain APHIS' authorization to ship the product for field testing.

To determine whether to authorize shipment and grant approval for the field testing of the unlicensed product referenced in this notice, APHIS conducted a risk analysis to assess the potential effects of this product on the safety of animals, public health, and the environment. Based on the risk analysis, APHIS has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) concerning the field testing of the following unlicensed veterinary biological product:

Requester: Merial Select, Inc.

Product: Feline Leukemia Vaccine, Live Canarypox Vector, Code 1555.R2.

Field Test Locations: California, Missouri, Indiana, Georgia, Florida, Virginia, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

The above-mentioned product is a canarypox vectored recombinant vaccine containing the genes of the feline leukemia virus. The vaccine is for use in cats as an aid in the prevention of disease caused by feline leukemia virus.

The EA has been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provision of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3)

USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Unless substantial issues with adverse environmental impacts are raised in response to this notice, APHIS intends to issue a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) based on the EA and authorize shipment of the above product for the initiation of field tests following the close of the comment period for this notice.

Because the issues raised by field testing and by issuance of a license are identical, APHIS has concluded that the EA that is generated for field testing would also be applicable to the proposed licensing action. Provided that the field test data support the conclusions of the original EA and the issuance of a FONSI, APHIS does not intend to issue a separate EA and FONSI to support the issuance of the product license, and would determine that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. APHIS intends to issue a veterinary biological product license for this vaccine following completion of the field test provided no adverse impacts on the human environment are identified and provided the product meets all other requirements for licensing.

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 151–159.

Done in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of June, 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03–14302 Filed 6–5–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03–019N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)

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) is sponsoring a public meeting on June 12, 2003. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the Twenty-sixth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission which will be held in Rome, Italy from June 30 to July 7, 2003. The Under Secretary recognizes the importance of providing interested parties with information about the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2003, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 107A, Whitten Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Smithsonian Metro Stop), Washington, DC 20250.

If you have comments, please send an original and two copies to: FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket 03–019N, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3700. All comments submitted in response to this notice 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 Alimentarius, Room 4861, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 205–7760.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Codex is the principal international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. 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. Codex meets biennially. The Executive Committee serves as the executive body of Codex between the biennial meetings.

The Provisional Agenda for the 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is as follows:

Part I: Introduction
1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report by the Chairperson on the 49th, 50th and 52nd Sessions of the Executive Committee
3. Reports of FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees

Part II: Procedural Matters
4. Amendments to the Procedural Manual
(a) Amendments to the Rules of Procedure
(b) Other amendments to the Procedural Manual

Part III: Codex Standards and Related Texts
5. Draft Standards and Related Texts at Step 8 of the Procedure (including those submitted at Step 5 with a recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7 and those submitted at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure)
6. Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts at Step 5
7. Withdrawal or revocation of existing Codex Standards and Related Texts
8. Proposals for the elaboration of new Standards and Related Texts

Part IV: Policy and General Matters
9. Risk Analysis Policies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
10. Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards
11. FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Participation of Developing Countries in Codex Standard-Setting
12. Other Matters arising from FAO and WHO
13. Matters arising from the reports of Codex Committees and Task Forces

Part V: Programme and Budgetary Matters
14. Financial and Budgetary Matters 2002/2003 and Proposed Budget 2004/2005
15. Proposed Schedule of Codex Meetings 2003–2005

Part VI: Elections and Appointments
16. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and Election of Members of the Executive Committee
17. Appointment of Regional Coordinators
18. Designation of Countries for Appointing the Chairpersons of Codex Committees and Task Forces

Part VII: Other Matters
19. Other Business
20. Adoption of the Report

Public Meeting

The public meeting is scheduled on Thursday, June 12th in Room 107A, Whitten Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Attendees will hear brief descriptions of the issues and will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments.

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,