

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 04-007-1]

Process for Foreign Animal Disease Status Evaluations; Availability of Informational Document**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has prepared an informational document that describes the process APHIS follows when conducting foreign animal disease status evaluation, regionalization, risk analysis, and related rulemaking. We are making this informational document available to the public.

ADDRESSES: You may request a copy of the informational document by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

The informational document is being posted on the Internet as a public resource. Instructions for accessing the informational document on the Internet are provided below under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Reading Room: You may also read the informational document 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.

Other Information: 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/webrepot.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Anne Goodman, Supervisory Staff Officer, Regionalization Evaluation Services, Sanitary Trade Issues Team, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-8667.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (the

Department) regulates the importation of animals and animal products to guard against the introduction of animal diseases into this country. The regulations pertaining to the importation and exportation of animals and animal products are set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), title 9, chapter I, subchapter D (9 CFR parts 91 through 99).

On October 28, 1997, APHIS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 56027-56033, Docket No. 94-106-8) in which we informed the public we were adopting a policy of recognizing regions, and levels of risk among those regions, with regard to the importation of animals and animal products. That same day, we published in the **Federal Register** a final rule (62 FR 56000-56026, Docket No 94-106-9) in which we established procedures (1) for recognizing regions, and (2) by which regions may request permission to export animals and animal products into the United States under specified conditions, based on the regions' disease status.

The procedures set forth in our October 1997 final rule are the procedures that we use today in accepting and evaluating requests for regionalization. When a chief veterinary officer (CVO) of a foreign region requests consideration for regionalization and permission to import animals and animal products into the United States, we ask that the request include information about the region's animal disease status, veterinary infrastructure, livestock demographics, and degree of physical or other separation from regions of higher disease risk. (A list of the topics for which we require information is included in the regulations in 9 CFR 92.2.) Using the information provided by the CVO of the region, along with information available to us from other sources, we use a science-based approach to evaluate whether such importations can be safely allowed, either with or without risk mitigation measures.

As part of our process of considering a request for regionalization or other disease status recognition, we make available to the public the information upon which we conducted our evaluation. This information is posted to the APHIS Veterinary Services Web site and is discussed in any rulemaking documents we publish in the **Federal Register** regarding our evaluation of the request.

However, until now we have not made available to the public a document that describes the way in which APHIS applies risk analysis to the

decisionmaking process for regionalization. We believe that, in order for our evaluation process to be transparent to both domestic entities and individuals, as well as to our trading partners, a description of that process should be made available to the public. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that such a document is available and may be accessed by several means (discussed below).

The document, titled "Process for Foreign Animal Disease Status Evaluations, Regionalization, Risk Analysis, and Rulemaking," describes the following:

- The process for initiation of an evaluation;
- The composition of the review teams that participate in various components of the evaluation;
- The role of site visits in evaluations;
- The types of risk analyses that are conducted and the situations in which different types of analyses are used;
- The assignment of responsibility for conduct of risk analysis;
- The basis for recommendations to APHIS management regarding requests;
- The regulatory process APHIS follows to seek public comment on recommendations to recognize regions and allow the requested importations; and
- Time considerations from initial request to final rulemaking.

Accessing the Informational Document on the Internet

The informational document is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/reg-request.html>. At the bottom of that Web site page, click on <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/reg-request.html>.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1622 and 8301-8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, this 20th day of July, 2004.

W. Ron DeHaven,
Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 04-16926 Filed 7-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Colville Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Colville Resource Advisory Committee will meet on

Thursday, July 29, 2004, at the Spokane Community College, Colville Campus, Monumental Room, 985 South Elm Street, Colville, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. Agenda items include: (1) Review and approve meeting notes from June 29, 2004 meeting; (2) Fiscal Year 2005 Title II projects review and recommendation to the forest designated official on Pend Oreille County applications; and (3) Public Forum.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Rick Brazell, Designated Federal Official or to Cynthia Reichelt, Public Affairs Officer, Colville National Forest, 765 S. Main, Colville, Washington 99114, (509) 684-7000.

Dated: July 13, 2004.

Donald N. Gonzalez,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 04-16488 Filed 7-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Red Bluff, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) Approval of Minutes, (3) Public Comment, (4) Chairman Report (5) Sub-Committee Break-out, (6) Update on Re-Applications, (7) Project Proposal Acceptance Date, (8) General Discussion, (9) Next Agenda.

DATES: The meeting will be held on August 12, 2004 from 9 a.m. and end at approximately 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lincoln Street School, Conference Room A, 1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Jim Giachino, DFO, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, P.O. Box 164, Elk Creek, CA 95939. (530) 968-5329; e-mail ggaddini@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to

Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by August 10, 2004 will have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.

Dated: July 19, 2004.

James F. Giachino,

Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 04-16924 Filed 7-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

[Docket No. 991215339-4192-12]

National Technical Assistance, Training, Research, and Evaluation

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The mission of EDA is to lead the Federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. Through the National Technical Assistance, Training, Research and Evaluation Program (NTA Program), EDA will work towards fulfilling its mission by funding research and technical assistance projects to promote competitiveness and innovation in urban and rural regions throughout the United States and its territories. By working in conjunction with its research partners, EDA will assist states, local governments and community based organizations to achieve their highest economic potential.

EDA is soliciting proposals to undertake research and provide technical assistance: (1) Addressing Competitiveness and Innovation in Rural U.S. Regions and Developing and Analyzing Rural Clusters of Innovation and Linking Rural and Metropolitan Regions; and (2) Information Dissemination to Practitioners Serving Distressed Areas.

This competitive solicitation request was previously published as part of a larger competitive solicitation in the **Federal Register** on April 30, 2004 (69 FR 23727), as well as on www.grants.gov and on EDA's Web site at www.eda.gov. EDA is re-soliciting proposals for the

projects listed below due to the receipt of proposals that EDA, in its discretion, determined were non-responsive to the original solicitation and thus determined to be unsuitable for funding.

DATES: Proposals for funding under this program must be received by the EDA representative listed below no later than August 25, 2004 at 4 p.m. (e.d.t.).

Proposals received after 4 p.m. (e.d.t.) on August 25, 2004, will not be considered for funding. By September 9, 2004, EDA will notify proponents whether they will be given further funding consideration and will invite successful proponents to submit a formal application. Projects should expect to receive funding by September 30, 2004; however, there is no guarantee that proponents invited by EDA to submit a formal application will receive funding. Proposals that were not recommended for funding will be retained by EDA for no longer than three years from the date of receipt.

ADDRESSES: Research and Evaluation proposals may be e-mailed to klim1@eda.doc.gov; National Technical Assistance proposals may be e-mailed to jmcnamee@eda.doc.gov. Alternatively, Research and Evaluation proposals may be hand-delivered to: W. Kent Lim, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Room 1874, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

National Technical Assistance proposals may be hand-delivered to: Dr. John J. McNamee, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Room 1874, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; or

Research and Evaluation proposals may be mailed to: W. Kent Lim, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Room 7015, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230;

National Technical Assistance proposals may be mailed to: Dr. John J. McNamee, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Room 7816, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Proponents are encouraged to submit proposals by e-mail. Proponents are advised that, due to mail security measures, EDA's receipt of mail sent via the United States Postal Service may be delayed for up to two weeks.

EDA will not accept proposals submitted by facsimile.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the full Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement for this solicitation for competitive