

Notices

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Monday, October 30, 2006

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

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of the Scientific Review Panel at the National Animal Disease Center, Ames, IA

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics, Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Scientific Review Panel at the National Animal Disease Center, Ames, Iowa.

DATES: November 16–17, 2006, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time. Written requests to make oral comments at the meeting must be received by the contact person identified herein at least three business days before the meeting.

ADDRESSES: City Council Chambers, City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Shafer, Midwest Area Director, USDA–ARS, 1815 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604; Telephone (309) 681–6602; Fax (309) 681–6684; E-mail sshafer@mwa.ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 4, 2006, the City of Ames, Iowa, received allegations that wastes from areas at the National Animal Disease Center (NADC) with animals challenged with prions were not properly treated prior to discharge to the City wastewater plant. USDA, in cooperation with the City of Ames, has convened an expert panel to review scientific information about deactivation of prions and assess practices used at NADC to treat liquid wastes from areas where animals with prions are housed and handled that enter the Ames wastewater treatment system. (Note: For the purposes of this panel and its review, prions are defined as specific proteins that are abnormally

shaped and can cause transmissible diseases associated with the allegations). The panel had its first meeting on August 23, 2006, at the Ames City Hall; preparatory work on August 23, August 24, and September 20; a conference call meeting on October 18, 2006; and (pending at the time of this writing) a conference call on November 3. A meeting of the panel on November 16–17, 2006, in Ames will complete implementation of the panel's charge to evaluate four main issues related to the handling and disposal of potentially prion-contaminated materials in wastewater from the NADC: (1) Identify scientifically accepted methods for effectively destroying prions; (2) Assess the concerns raised regarding NADC's current and past methods for the destruction of prions; (3) Determine the risk posed to humans and the environment from the current, as well as previous, methods for the destruction of prions utilized at NADC; and (4) If remediation is needed, provide scientifically sound approaches for corrective action(s) that may be taken. Final conclusions of the review will be announced on November 17, when the panel will present to the City of Ames and USDA a written report that documents the panel's findings for the four main issues being evaluated. On November 17, 2006, after the panel concludes business, reasonable provision (up to 30 minutes total) will be made for verbal comments of no more than three minutes each in duration. The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited. If you want to be assured of a seat at this meeting, you must register by contacting the contact person named above at least 5 days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, and telephone and fax numbers when you register. If you require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation due to disability, please indicate those needs at the time of registration. Pre-registrations will be limited to 80 people; others may be able to attend on a space-available basis.

Dated: October 24, 2006.

Caird E. Rexroad, Jr.,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Research Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of the Scientific Review Panel at the National Animal Disease Center, Ames, IA

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics, Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture announces a conference call meeting of the Scientific Review Panel at the National Animal Disease Center, Ames, Iowa.

DATES: November 3, 2006, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Central Time.

ADDRESSES: City Council Chambers, City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010 (access to a monitor of the conference call).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Shafer, Midwest Area Director, USDA–ARS, 1815 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604; Telephone (309) 681–6602; Fax (309) 681–6684; E-mail sshafer@mwa.ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 4, 2006, the City of Ames, Iowa, received allegations that wastes from areas at the National Animal Disease Center (NADC) with animals challenged with prions were not properly treated prior to discharge to the City wastewater plant. USDA, in cooperation with the City of Ames, has convened an expert panel to review scientific information about deactivation of prions and assess practices used at NADC to treat liquid wastes from areas where animals with prions are housed and handled that enter the Ames wastewater treatment system. (Note: For the purposes of this panel and its review, prions are defined as specific proteins that are abnormally shaped and can cause transmissible diseases associated with the allegations). The panel had its first meeting on August 23, 2006, at the Ames City Hall; preparatory work on August 23, August 24, and September 20; and a conference call meeting on October 18, 2006. A conference call meeting on November 3, 2006, will continue implementation of the panel's charge to evaluate four main issues related to the handling and disposal of potentially prion-contaminated materials in wastewater from the NADC: