

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

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2007-0026]

#### Public Health Based Inspection System in Poultry Slaughter

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Food Safety and Inspection Service will hold a public meeting to discuss public health based inspection in poultry slaughter to address *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella*, and other issues of public health concern. FSIS is seeking public input on the ideas, concepts, data, and analyses it will use to form the basis of a technical plan. The public meeting will afford FSIS and its stakeholders an opportunity to discuss the rationale and process for the Agency's enhanced approach, as well as the background leading up to its current thinking on the concept.

**DATES:** FSIS will hold the public meeting on Tuesday, August 7, 2007, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at George Mason University, School of Public Policy, Arlington Original Building, Room 244, 3401 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22201. Directions to the site and the agenda will be posted on the FSIS Web site at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Meetings\\_&\\_Events/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Meetings_&_Events/index.asp).

The meeting will be audio cast for those who cannot attend in person. Members of the public are encouraged to pre-register for the meeting. Online registration information and audio information will be located at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Meetings\\_&\\_Events/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Meetings_&_Events/index.asp).

FSIS welcomes comments on the topics to be discussed at the public meeting. The Agency's technical papers

relating to the topic will be posted at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Meetings\\_&\\_Events/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Meetings_&_Events/index.asp).

Comments on these papers and questions may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic mail: An electronic mail box has been established specifically for risk-based inspection (RBI) comments for the public meeting on August 7. Comments may be submitted to: [riskbasedinspection@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:riskbasedinspection@fsis.usda.gov).

Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROMs: Send to Ellyn Blumberg, RBI Public Meeting, United States Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 14th & Independence Avenue, SW., Mail Drop 405 Aerospace, Washington, DC 20250.

Hand- or courier-delivered items: Deliver to Ellyn Blumberg at 901 D Street, SW., Washington, DC. Have security guard call (202) 690-6520.

Facsimile: Fax documents to (202) 690-6519.

All submissions received must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2007-0026. The comments also will be posted on the Agency's Web site at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations\\_&\\_policies/Risk\\_Based\\_Inspection/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Risk_Based_Inspection/).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Keith Payne for technical information at (202) 690-6522 or e-mail [keith.payne@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:keith.payne@fsis.usda.gov); Sally Fernandez for meeting information at (202) 690-6524, Fax (202) 690-6519, or e-mail [sally.fernandez@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:sally.fernandez@fsis.usda.gov).

Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify the Agency contacts no later than July 26, 2007, at the numbers above or by e-mail.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is the public health regulatory agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged. FSIS is accountable for protecting the lives and well-being of 295 million U.S. citizens and millions more around the world.

To meet the realities of food safety and public health challenges, FSIS

intends to enhance its inspection system and to develop and implement new, science-based policies. FSIS is considering proposing a new inspection system in poultry slaughter establishments that will improve public health. Although rulemaking is not expected immediately, FSIS is seeking public input on the ideas, concepts, data, and analyses that it will use to form the basis for a technical plan and in the development of a future proposed rule.

The Agency's thinking has evolved and benefited from its experience with the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)-based Inspection Models Project (HIMP). The new system will be designed to provide more time and more flexibility than the current systems for FSIS personnel to conduct focused, off-line verification activities according to risk factors at each establishment and at points in slaughter and processing where food safety hazards and associated risks may be introduced. The public meeting will afford FSIS and its stakeholders an opportunity to discuss the rationale and process for the Agency's enhanced approach, as well as for the Agency to present the background that has led the Agency to its current thinking on the concept. In addition, the Agency will present the scientific foundations for future decision-making, including how to address *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* and the use of generic *E. coli* as an indicator of process control.

All interested parties are welcome to attend the meeting and to submit written comments and suggestions through September 7, 2007. The comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when they become available, will be posted on the Agency's Web site at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations\\_&\\_policies/Risk\\_Based\\_Inspection/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Risk_Based_Inspection/). All comments received in response to this notice will be considered part of the public record.

#### Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it online through the FSIS Web site located at:

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2007\\_Notices\\_Index/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2007_Notices_Index/).

FSIS also will make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is available on the FSIS Web site. Through the Listserv and Web site, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader and more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an e-mail subscription service, which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news\\_and\\_events/email\\_subscription/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_and_events/email_subscription/). Subscription service options include recalls and export information, as well as regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their account.

Done at Washington, DC, on: July 26, 2007.

**Alfred V. Almanza,**  
Administrator.

[FR Doc. E7-14805 Filed 7-30-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Black Hills National Forest, Hell Canon Ranger District, Custer, South Dakota—Norbeck Wildlife Project**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** This project proposes to implement wildlife habitat improvements on about 6,049 acres within the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve on the Hell Canyon Ranger District of the Black Hills National Forest. In addition, the project proposes to conduct prescribed burning on 7,391 acres of the Black Elk Wilderness. This project will analyze effects of these treatments within the constraints of the Black Hills National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (BHNFLRMP), as amended.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received within 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in March, 2008 and the final environmental impact statement is expected July, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Michael Lloyd, District Ranger, Hell Canyon Ranger District, 330 Mt. Rushmore Rod., Custer, South Dakota 57730. Comment may also be submitted by e-mail to: [comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-hell-canyon@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-hell-canyon@fs.fed.us) with "Norbeck" as subject. Electronic comments must be submitted in word (.doc), RichText (.rtf), or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Alice Allen, Project Coordinator, Blacks Hills National Forest, Hell Canyon Ranger District, at 330 Mt. Rushmore Rd., Custer, South Dakota 57730, phone (605) 673-4853.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Purpose and Need for Action:* The purpose for the proposed action is to benefit "game animals and birds" by improving habitat conditions in the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. In addition, there is a need to protect these habitats for game animals and birds in Norbeck from a wildfire escaping from the Black Elk Wilderness. The EIS will determine current conditions, analyze environmental consequences of habitat improvements on those conditions, and assist the decision maker in selecting management/monitoring strategies consistent with meeting desired conditions in the BHNFLRMP, including the goals for "Management Areas 5.4A—Norbeck Wildlife Preserve" and "Management Area 1.1A—Black Elk Wilderness". The Forest Service seeks to provide high quality habitat for "game animals and birds" in accordance with the Norbeck Organic Act of June 5, 1920.

*Proposed Action:* The Norbeck Wildlife Project proposes to manage vegetation to benefit game animals and birds on about 6,049 acres within the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. The project also proposes to use prescribed fire on 7,391 acres of the Black Elk Wilderness to help protect these habitats from wildfire escaping from the wilderness. The Forest Service will evaluate, analyze and determine the effects of the proposed treatments on Norbeck focus species (Griebel, Burns and Deisch 2007) including mountain goat, bighorn sheep, elk, white-tailed deer, turkey, bluebird, golden-crowned kinglet, brown creeper, ruffed grouse, song

sparrow, northern goshawk and black-backed woodpecker.

*Possible Alternatives:* The No Action alternative would not authorize habitat improvements of any type on any portion of the project area at this time. Other alternatives may be developed in response to public comments.

*Responsible Official:* The Responsible Official for this project is Michael D. Lloyd, District Ranger, Hell Canyon Ranger District, Black Hills National Forest, 330 Mt. Rushmore Rd., Custer, South Dakota.

*Nature of Decision to be Made:* The Forest Service will evaluate the proposed action and alternatives. After reviewing the proposed action, the alternatives, the environmental analysis, and considering public comment, the District Ranger will reach a decision that is in accordance with the purpose and need for this project. The decision will include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Whether or not to undertake vegetative treatments to improve habitat conditions for game animals and birds in Norbeck Wildlife Preserve,
- (2) Whether or not to undertake prescribed burning in the Black Elk Wilderness to protect these habitats from fire escaping from the wilderness,
- (3) If so, what actions are appropriate and under what conditions actions will take place.

*Public Comment:* This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. The District desires to involve interested parties in identifying issues related to habitat management for game animals and birds. Comments will help the planning team identify key issues and opportunities to develop habitat improvements, monitoring strategies, and alternatives.

*Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review:* A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v.*