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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-TM-07-0118; TM-07-09]

Notice of Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing a forthcoming meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

DATES: The meeting dates are Wednesday, November 28, 2007, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, November 29, 2007, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Friday, November 30, 2007, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Requests from individuals and organizations wishing to make oral presentations at the meeting are due by the close of business on November 12, 2007.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at The Holiday Inn National Airport Hotel, 2650 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202.

- Requests for copies of the NOSB meeting agenda, may be sent to Ms. Valerie Frances, Executive Director, NOSB, USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 4008-So., Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250-0268. The NOSB meeting agenda and proposed recommendations may also be viewed at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

- Comments on proposed NOSB recommendations may be submitted in writing to Ms. Frances at either the postal address above or via the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> only. The comments should identify Docket No. AMS-TM-07-0118. It is our intention to have all comments to this notice whether they are submitted by mail or

the internet available for viewing on the <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site.

- Requests to make an oral presentation at the meeting may also be sent to Ms. Valerie Frances at the postal address above, by e-mail at valerie.frances@usda.gov, via facsimile at (202) 205-7808, or phone at (202) 720-3252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Valerie Frances, Executive Director, NOSB, National Organic Program (NOP), (202) 720-3252, or visit the NOP Web site at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*) requires the establishment of the NOSB. The purpose of the NOSB is to make recommendations about whether a substance should be allowed or prohibited in organic production or handling, to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production, and to advise the Secretary on other aspects of the implementation of the OFPA. The NOSB met for the first time in Washington, DC, in March 1992, and currently has six subcommittees working on various aspects of the organic program. The committees are: Compliance, Accreditation, and Certification; Crops; Handling; Livestock; Materials; and Policy Development.

In August of 1994, the NOSB provided its initial recommendations for the NOP to the Secretary of Agriculture. Since that time, the NOSB has submitted 148 addenda to its recommendations and reviewed more than 324 substances for inclusion on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) published its final National Organic Program regulation in the **Federal Register** on December 21, 2000, (65 FR 80548). The rule became effective April 21, 2001.

In addition, the OFPA authorizes the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances and provides that no allowed or prohibited substance would remain on the National List for a period exceeding 5 years unless the exemption or prohibition is reviewed and recommended for renewal by the NOSB and adopted by the Secretary of Agriculture. This expiration is

commonly referred to as sunset of the National List. The National List appears at 7 CFR part 205, subpart G.

The principal purposes of the NOSB meeting are to provide an opportunity for the NOSB to receive an update from the USDA/NOP and hear progress reports from NOSB committees regarding work plan items and proposed action items. The last meeting of the NOSB was held on March 27-29, 2007, in Washington, DC.

At its last meeting, the Board recommended the addition of 35 materials to the National List 205.606 for use in handling and began the sunset review process of 11 materials. At this meeting, the Board will continue the sunset review process of these 11 materials. There are 7 substances for use in crops and handling which were placed on the National List on November 3, 2003, and are scheduled to expire on November 3, 2008. There are 4 substances for use in handling which were placed on the National List on November 4, 2003, and are scheduled to expire on November 4, 2008. The sunset review process must be concluded no later than November 3 and 4, 2008, respectively. If renewal is not concluded by those dates, the use or prohibition of these 11 materials will no longer be in compliance with the National Organic Program.

The Policy Development Committee will present recommendations regarding revisions to the NOSB Policy and Procedures Manual and the Guide for new NOSB members as well as discuss their on-going collaboration with the NOP to review the NOP responses to prior NOSB recommendations. The Policy Development, Crops and Livestock Committees will jointly present their two recommendations: Guidance on the Certification of Operations Involved in Crops Research and Guidance on Temporary Research Variances.

The Materials and Handling Committees will jointly present their recommendation to clarify the definitions of materials on the National List in §§ 205.605(a), (b) and § 205.606.

The Handling Committee will present their recommendations on materials petitioned for consideration for inclusion on either § 205.605 or § 205.606 for use in organic products: Gellan Gum and Grape Seed Extract. The Committee will present their

recommendations on the continued use or prohibition of the material exemptions on § 205.605(a) which is Agar-agar and due to expire on November 3, 2008, and Animal enzymes, Calcium sulfate, and Glucono delta-lactone, with their respective annotations and limitations, due to expire on November 4, 2008. The Committee will also present their recommendations on the continued use or prohibition of the material exemption on § 205.605(b) which is Cellulose with its respective annotations and limitations, due to expire on November 4, 2008. Additionally, the Committee will present their recommendation on the development of standards for organic pet food.

The Crops Committee will present recommendations on the materials Potassium Silicate, Sodium Carbonate Peroxyhydrate, and Sodium Ferric Hydroxy EDTA petitioned for use on § 205.601. The Committee will present their recommendations on the continued use or prohibition of Copper sulfate, Ozone gas, Peracetic acid, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) List 3—Inerts of unknown toxicity, with their respective annotations and limitations. These National List material exemptions are due to expire on November 3, 2008, from § 205.601. The Committee will also present their recommendation on the continued use or prohibition of Calcium chloride for use as a brine-sourced foliar spray. Calcium chloride is otherwise considered a prohibited natural substance on § 205.602 and is also due to expire on November 3, 2008.

The Livestock Committee will receive the Aquaculture Working Group: Supplement to Interim Final Report on Bivalve molluscs as well as discuss the outstanding issues related to fish feed and open net pens in regards to the aquaculture standards for finfish.

The Compliance, Accreditation, and Certification Committee will present their recommendation on the standardization of certificates, and their recommendations offering guidance for accredited certifying agents regarding annual commercial availability determinations for ingredients listed on § 205.606 and organic seed sourcing by farmers under § 205.204, and on the certification of multi-site operations, including community grower groups.

The Meeting is Open to the Public. The NOSB has scheduled time for public input for Wednesday, November 28, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday, November 29, 2007, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday, November 30, 2007, from 8 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Individuals and organizations wishing to make oral presentations at the meeting may forward their requests by mail, facsimile, e-mail, or phone to Valerie Frances as listed in **ADDRESSES** above. Individuals or organizations will be given approximately 5 minutes to present their views. All persons making oral presentations are requested to provide their comments in writing. Written submissions may contain information other than that presented at the oral presentation. Anyone may submit written comments at the meeting. Persons submitting written comments are asked to provide 30 copies.

Interested persons may visit the NOSB portion of the NOP Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop> to view available meeting documents prior to the meeting, or visit <http://www.regulations.gov> to submit and view comments as provided for in **ADDRESSES** above. Documents presented at the meeting will be posted for review on the NOP Web site approximately 6 weeks following the meeting.

Dated: October 9, 2007.

Lloyd C. Day,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2007-0128]

Notice of Availability of a Pest Risk Analysis for the Importation of Sweet Cherries From Australia Into the Continental United States and Hawaii

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we have prepared a pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with the importation into the continental United States and Hawaii of sweet cherries from Australia. Based on that analysis, we believe that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of sweet cherries from Australia. We are making the pest risk analysis, as well as an environmental assessment we have prepared in connection with this action, available for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments we receive on or before December 11, 2007.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, select “Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service” from the agency drop-down menu, then click “Submit.” In the Docket ID column, select Docket No. APHIS-2007-0128 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site’s “User Tips” link.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. APHIS-2007-0128, 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. APHIS-2007-0128.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on this docket 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: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Donna L. West, Senior Import Specialist, Commodity Import Analysis and Operations, Plant Health Programs, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-8758.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the regulations in “Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56 through 319.56-47, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into and spread within the United States.

Section 319.56-4 of the regulations contains a performance-based process