DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity Meeting; Office of Biotechnology Activities, Office of Science Policy, Office of the Director; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given of the following meeting of the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB).

Under authority 42 U.S.C. 217a, Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, the Department of Health and Human Services established the NSABB to provide advice, guidance and leadership regarding federal oversight of dual use research, defined as biological research that generates information and technologies that could be misused to pose a biological threat to public health and/or national security.

The NSABB is being convened on March 29–30, 2012, to review two unpublished manuscripts on the transmissibility of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 virus and to provide recommendations about the responsible communication of such information. In addition, representatives from the Intelligence Community will present a classified briefing. The meeting would significantly frustrate the agency’s ability to determine how the sensitive information in the manuscripts should be responsibly communicated, taking into consideration potential public health and national security concerns. The classified briefing of the NSABB will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in section 552b(c)(9)(B), Title 5 U.S.C. as amended, because premature disclosure of information to be discussed during the meeting would significantly frustrate the agency’s ability to determine how the sensitive information in the manuscripts should be responsibly communicated, taking into consideration potential public health and national security concerns. The classified briefing of the NSABB will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in section 552b(c)(9)(B), Title 5 U.S.C. as amended, because classified matters sensitive to the interest of national security will be presented.

Name of Committee: National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity.

Date: March 29–30, 2012.

Time: 4 p.m.–8 p.m. on March 29 and 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. on March 30 (times approximate).

Agenda: NSABB members will review unpublished manuscripts regarding transmissibility of avian influenza H5N1 virus. In addition, representatives from the Intelligence Community will present a classified briefing. Place: National Institutes of Health, Building 31, Center Drive, 6th Floor, Conference Room 6, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, and a location to be determined for the classified briefing.

Contact Person: Ronna Hill, NSABB Program Assistant, NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 496–9838, hillro@cni.nih.gov.

This meeting is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to timing limitations imposed by administrative matters.

Dated: March 16, 2012.

Jennifer S. Spaeth,
Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of the Secretary

Published Privacy Impact Assessments on the Web

AGENCY: Privacy Office, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of Publication of Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA).

SUMMARY: The Privacy Office of DHS is making available eleven PIAs on various programs and systems in DHS. These assessments were approved and published on the Privacy Office’s Web site between December 1, 2011 and February 29, 2012.

DATES: The PIAs will be available on the DHS Web site until May 21, 2012, after which they may be obtained by contacting the DHS Privacy Office (contact information below).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Ellen Callahan, Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528, or email: pia@hq.dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Between December 1, 2011 and February 29, 2012 the Chief Privacy Officer of the DHS approved and published eleven Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) on the DHS Privacy Office Web site, www.dhs.gov/privacy, under the link for “Privacy Impact Assessments.” These PIAs cover eleven separate DHS programs. Below is a short summary of those programs, indicating the DHS component responsible for the system, and the date on which the PIA was approved. Additional information can be found on the web site or by contacting the Privacy Office.

System: DHS/USSS/PIA–007 Forensic Services Division (FSD) Polygraph System.

Component: United States Secret Service (USSS).

Date of approval: December 15, 2011.

The FSD Polygraph Branch of the USSS uses the FSD Polygraph system to track all polygraph examinations that it administers. This database contains information on applicant and civilian polygraph examinations and their results. USSS is conducting this PIA because this system contains PII of individuals who undergo an exam.

System: DHS/FEMA/PIA–019

Firehouse Database (Unclassified and Classified).


Date of approval: December 15, 2011.

The U.S. DHS FEMA Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center (MWEOC) Emergency Services Division (ESD) owns and operates two Firehouse Databases: (1) Firehouse Database (classified); and (2) Firehouse Database (unclassified). The difference between the two databases is that the classified Firehouse Database contains classified locations on which MWEOC ESD may respond at the MWEOC facility. FEMA uses the unclassified and classified Firehouse Databases to manage the collection, documentation, and reporting of information about emergency incidents, incident investigations, site inventory and inspections, staffing, scheduling, and personnel certifications and training of FEMA paramedics, emergency management technicians, firefighters, and other first responders at MWEOC ESD. FEMA is conducting this PIA because FEMA’s unclassified and classified Firehouse Databases collect, uses, maintains, retrieves, and disseminates PII of MWEOC residents, employees and contractors, visitors, as well as members of the immediate local community surrounding MWEOC. This PIA covers both the unclassified and classified Firehouse Databases.

System: DHS/ALL/PIA–028(a)

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Records Program Update.

Component: DHS.

Date of approval: December 16, 2011.

The DHS Privacy Office is publishing an update to the current PIA, DHS/ALL/PIA–028, which outlines the risks presented by the use of PII in the various FOIA and PA processes and systems employed by DHS. This update introduces the use of a FOIA software application used for tracking FOIA requests.