

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Food Safety and Inspection Service**

[Docket No. FSIS-2012-0023]

Availability of Microbial Risk Assessment Guideline: Pathogenic Microorganisms With Focus on Food and in Water**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are announcing the availability of a guideline for conducting microbial risk assessment (MRA). The guideline will improve transparency in the way the two Federal agencies conduct MRA and will promote consistency in approaches and methods. The guideline can apply in varied situations and will be a resource for Federal Government risk assessors, their agents, contractors, and other members of the risk assessment community.

DATES: The guideline is effective July 31, 2012.

ADDRESSES: A downloadable version of the guideline and additional related materials, including the external peer review panel's comments and associated responses, is available to view or print at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp. No hard copies of the guideline have been published.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kerry Dearfield, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Mail Stop 3766, Washington, DC 20250; email: kerry.dearfield@fsis.usda.gov; phone: (202) 690-6451; or, Michael Broder, Office of the Science Advisor, Mail Code 8105-R, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460; Email: broder.michael@epa.gov; phone: (202) 564-3393.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

Risk assessment is widely recognized as a systematic way to prepare, organize, and analyze information to help make regulatory decisions, establish programs, and prioritize research and development efforts. In 1983, *Risk Assessment in the Federal Government; Managing the Process* (NRC 1983 report), published by the National Research Council of the National Academics of Science, helped unify the

risk assessment process for chemicals in foods and the environment and provided a basic framework that Federal agencies could apply when conducting risk assessments. During the 1990s, it became apparent that the NRC 1983 report had some shortcomings with respect to conducting a MRA for microorganisms. Agencies conducting quantitative microbial risk assessments had to individually adapt and make adjustments to the method described in the NRC 1983 report to meet their specific needs. As a result, there existed no consistent approach to conducting MRA among Federal agencies.

FSIS and EPA, joined by scientists from other Federal agencies, initiated a collaborative effort to develop guidelines that would improve consistency in the way MRA is conducted. The agencies thought that clear and credible risk assessment methods would leverage limited resources, improve efficiencies, improve transparency with stakeholders, and promote joint interaction. This cross-agency activity generated the MRA Guideline.

The guideline facilitates systematic and transparent consideration of all relevant factors that impact the risk assessment and facilitates reproducible risk evaluation. Using the guidelines, agencies assessing similar media or pathogens are able to more readily compare and contrast the details and assumptions of their assessment to another Agency's assessment. The guideline can apply in varied situations and provides for the flexibility necessary for any Agency that chooses to do so to use it effectively.

EPA released a draft of the document for public comment in July 2011 (76 FR 44586). EPA received two comments—one from a member of the public and another from a foreign government authority responsible for the assessment of similar health risks in their country. All comments received by the comment period closing date were shared with an external peer review panel for their consideration. The external peer review panel's comments and associated responses are available for review at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp.

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FSIS will also 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 groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS Web page. In addition, FSIS offers an electronic 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_&_Events/Email_Subscription/.

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Done at Washington, DC, on: July 26, 2012.

Alfred V. Almanza,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2012-18752 Filed 7-27-12; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Sabine Resource Advisory Committee****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Sabine Resource Advisory Committee will meet in

Hemphill, Texas. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Pub. L. 110-343) (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the committee is to improve collaborative relationships and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with the title II of the Act. The meeting is open to the public. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss New Title II Project Proposals.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, August 23, 2012, 3:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sabine NF Office, 5050 State Hwy 21 East, Hemphill, TX 75948. Written comments may be submitted as described under Supplementary Information.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at 5050 State Hwy 21 East, Hemphill, TX 75948. Please call ahead to (409) 625-1940 to facilitate entry into the building to view comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William E. Taylor, Jr., Designated Federal Officer, Sabine National Forest, 5050 State Hwy. 21 E., Hemphill, TX 75948; Telephone: 936-639-8501 or email at: etaylor@fs.fed.us.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. Requests for reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings may be made by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following business will be conducted: The purpose of the meeting is to review progress on approved Title II Projects. Anyone who would like to bring related matters to the attention of the committee may file written statements with the committee staff before or after the meeting. The agenda will include time for people to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should request in writing by August 17, 2012 to be scheduled on the agenda. Written comments and requests for time for oral comments must be sent to 5050 State Hwy 21 East, Hemphill, TX 75948 or by email to etaylor@fs.fed.us or via facsimile to 409-625-1953.

Dated: July 20, 2012.

William E. Taylor, Jr.,
Designated Federal Officer, Sabine National Forest RAC.

[FR Doc. 2012-18408 Filed 7-30-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee will be meeting in Prather, California, on August 15 and 29, 2012 and September 12, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the August 15 and 29 meetings will be to review new project proposals. The purpose of the meeting on September 12 will be to vote and approve projects to be funded under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 110-343).

DATES: The meetings will be held on August 15 and 29 and September 12. All meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. in Prather, CA at the High Sierra District Office.

ADDRESSES: All meetings will be located at the High Sierra District Office, 29688 Auberry Rd., Prather, California. Send written comments to Darcy Brown, Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, c/o Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District, P.O. Box 559, Prather, CA 93651. Electronic comments should be sent to DLBrown02@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Darcy Brown, Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, (559) 855-5355 ext. 3374.

Ray Porter,
District Ranger, High Sierra Ranger District, Sierra National Forest.

[FR Doc. 2012-18467 Filed 7-30-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ashley Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Ashley Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Vernal, Utah. The committee is meeting as authorized under the Secure Rural

Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Pub. L. 110-343) and in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct introductions, approve meeting minutes, review available short form project proposals, set the next meeting date, time and location and receive public comment on the meeting subjects and proceedings.

DATES: The meetings will be held August 23, 2012, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Interagency Fire Dispatch Center conference room at the Ashley National Forest Supervisor's Office, 355 North Vernal Avenue in Vernal, Utah. Written comments should be sent to Ashley National Forest, 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, UT 84078. Comments may also be sent via email to ljhaynes@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 435-781-5142.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at Ashley National Forest, 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, UT.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Louis Haynes, RAC Coordinator, Ashley National Forest, (435) 781-5105; email: ljhaynes@fs.fed.us.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. The following business will be conducted: (1) Welcome and roll call; (2) Approval of meeting minutes; (3) Evaluation and voting on available short forms for project ideas; (4) review of next meeting purpose, location, and date; (5) Receive public comment. Persons who wish to bring related 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 20, 2012 will have the opportunity to address the committee at these meetings.

Dated: July 24, 2012.

John R. Erickson,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2012-18468 Filed 7-30-12; 8:45 am]

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