

Tables Our Priority; Dr. Irene Leech, Virginia Citizens Consumer Council; Mr. Charles Link, Cargill Meat Solutions; Dr. Catherine Logue, North Dakota State University; and Mr. Mark Schad, Schad Meats, Inc.

The Committee has two subcommittees to deliberate on specific issues and make recommendations to the whole Committee. The Committee makes recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture.

All interested parties are welcome to attend the meetings and to submit written comments and suggestions concerning issues the Committee will review and discuss. The comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when they become available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room, 300 12th Street, SW., Room 102, Cotton Annex Building, Washington, DC 20250, and posted on the Agency's NACMPI Web site, http://www.fsis.usda.gov/about_fsis/nacmpi/index.asp.

Members of the public will be required to register before entering the meeting.

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 Page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2006_Notices_Index/. 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, recalls 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 page. Through the Listserv and Web page, 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/. Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives and notices.

Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their account.

Done in Washington, DC on: September 21, 2006.

Barbara J. Masters,

Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2006-0028]

Risk-Based Inspection System

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will hold a public meeting on October 10-11, 2006, to review and discuss the following issues: (1) Measuring product inherent risk for risk-based inspection, and (2) Measuring establishment risk control for risk-based inspection. In addition, FSIS will begin a discussion on how these two measures of risk might be used to implement a Risk-Based Inspection System (RBIS). FSIS will use Resolve, a national non-profit organization, to assist with the stakeholder input process. Resolve specializes in mediating, facilitating, and building consensus on solutions to scientifically complex public policy issues, including those in the areas of food safety, agriculture, and public health.

DATES: FSIS will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, October 10, and Wednesday, October 11, 2006, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at George Mason University, 3401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201. The specific room information for the meeting, directions to the site, and the agenda will be posted on the risk-based inspection (RBI) Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Risk_Based_Inspection/. The meeting will be broadcast electronically for viewing in selected locations in other parts of the country. Those locations and information on the telecasts will also be posted on the RBI Web site. Members of the public are required to pre-register for the meeting (see Background). Online registration information is also located on the RBI Web site above.

FSIS welcomes comments on the topics to be discussed at the public meeting. The Agency's technical papers relating to (1) Measuring product inherent risk for risk-based inspection, and (2) Measuring establishment risk control for risk-based inspection are posted at the FSIS Web site above. Comments on these papers may be submitted by any of the following methods through October 27, 2006:

Electronic mail: An e-mail box has been established specifically for RBI comments for the public meeting on October 10-11. Comments can be submitted to riskbasedinspection@fsis.usda.gov.

Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROM's: 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. To deliver these items, the security guard must first call (202) 690-6520.

Facsimile: Fax RBI comments to (202) 690-6519.

All submissions received must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2006-0028. The comments also will be posted on the Agency's Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Risk_Based_Inspection/.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Tynan for technical information at (202) 720-3884 or e-mail robert.tynan@fsis.usda.gov. Contact Ellyn Blumberg for meeting information at (202) 720-0087, Fax (202) 690-6519, or e-mail ellyn.blumberg@fsis.usda.gov. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify the agency contacts no later than September 26, 2006, at the numbers above or by e-mail.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

FSIS is the public health regulatory agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) 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 is working to make its inspection system

more risk-based and to continue to implement science-based policies. Although the Agency acknowledges that some types of meat and poultry products pose greater health risks than others, and some establishments control risks better than others, under the current system of processing inspection, a Consumer Safety Inspector visits every plant at least once every shift to perform a variety of verification procedures scheduled by the Performance Based Inspection System (PBIS). PBIS schedules inspection procedures the same way in all processing plants, regardless of the particular food safety hazard associated with the products produced and processes performed at one plant versus another.

In July 2004, the Agency outlined the basic features of a predictive model that would permit FSIS to improve resource allocation by considering the inherent risks and risk control effectiveness of the many meat and poultry establishments under Federal inspection. Since that time, FSIS has continued developing and refining these ideas. In November 2005, FSIS addressed the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) on Agency progress toward a RBIS. In May 2006, the Agency again addressed NACMPI—this time on ideas the Agency has on measuring establishment risk control effectiveness for RBI.

Reductions in the number of illnesses attributed to the consumption of adulterated meat and poultry products can be achieved by placing greater inspection and verification emphasis on establishments whose processes, owing to the nature and volume of their production, require greater control of the risks. FSIS believes that it can improve public health by dedicating fewer inspection resources to processing establishments that produce products that present low inherent risk and that exercise effective risk control, and shifting those resources towards processing establishments that produce products that present high inherent risk and that have less effective risk control.

At this meeting, FSIS will present some ideas about how the Agency can develop measures of inherent food safety risk for federally-inspected meat and poultry processing establishments and to solicit stakeholder input on the subject. The Agency will also accept stakeholder input on how to measure establishment control of risk. FSIS previously presented information on this topic at a meeting of NACMPI last May. Finally, FSIS will accept stakeholder input on some initial

concepts on how the two measures of risk might be used to implement RBIS.

FSIS is using Resolve, a national non-profit organization, to assist with the stakeholder input process. Resolve specializes in mediating, facilitating, and building consensus on solutions to scientifically complex public policy issues, including those in the areas of food safety, agriculture, and public health.

All interested parties are welcome to attend the meetings and to submit written comments and suggestions through October 27, 2006. 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/. All comments received in response to this notice will be considered part of the public record.

Members of the public are required to pre-register for the meeting. Online registration information is located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Risk_Based_Inspection/.

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Done at Washington, DC on: September 21, 2006.

Barbara J. Masters,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area (SRA) Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA Forest Service Action: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: An Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council meeting will convene in Stayton, Oregon on Wednesday, October 25, 2006. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m., and will conclude at approximately 8:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the South Room of the Stayton Community Center located on 400 West Virginia Street in Stayton, Oregon.

The Opal Creek Wilderness and Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Act of 1996 (Opal Creek Act) (Pub. L. 104-208) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is comprised of thirteen members representing state, county and city governments, and representatives of various organizations, which include mining industry, environmental organizations, inholders in Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area, economic development, Indian tribes, adjacent landowners and recreation interests. The council provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on preparation of a comprehensive Opal Creek Management Plan for the SRA, and consults on a periodic and regular basis on the management of the area. Tentative agenda items include: Trails Planning, Monitoring Plan and Pearl Creek Strategy Subcommittees reports and recommendations.

A direct public comment period is tentatively scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits of the comment period. Written comments may be submitted prior to the October 25th meeting by sending them