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Done in Washington, DC on August 9, 2004.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 04-028N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces that the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold public meetings of the full committee and subcommittees on August 24-27, 2004. The committee will continue to discuss: (1) Performance standards for ground chicken/ground turkey, (2) the scientific basis for establishing safety-based "use by" date labeling for refrigerated ready-to-eat foods, and (3) scientific criteria for redefining pasteurization.

DATES: The full Committee and subcommittees will hold open meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 24-27, 2004, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Hotel Monaco, Athens Room, 700 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20004; telephone number 202-628-7177 or 877-205-5411.

FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROM's, or by hand delivery to Docket Clerk, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 300 12th Street, SW., Room 102 Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250. All submissions received must include the Agency name and docket number 04-028N.

Persons interested in making a presentation, submitting technical papers, or providing comments may send their requests, papers, or comments to the contact person identified herein at: Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, Office of Public Health and Science, Aerospace Center, Room 333,

1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Thomas, phone (202) 690-6620, fax (202) 690-6334, e-mail address: Karen.thomas@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NACMCF was established on April 18, 1988, in response to a recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences for an interagency approach to microbiological criteria for foods, and in response to a recommendation of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Appropriations, as expressed in the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for fiscal year 1988. The Charter for the NACMCF is available for viewing on the FSIS Internet Web page at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/ophs/nacmcf/charter.htm>.

The NACMCF provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on public health issues relative to the safety and wholesomeness of the U.S. food supply, including development of microbiological criteria and review and evaluation of epidemiological and risk assessment data and methodologies for assessing microbiological hazards in foods. The Committee also provides advice to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Departments of Commerce and Defense.

Dr. Merle Pierson, Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA, is the Committee Chair, Dr. Robert E. Brackett, Director of Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), is the Vice-Chair, and Gerri Ransom, FSIS, is the Executive Secretariat.

At the meetings the week of August 24-27, 2004, the Committee will discuss:

- Continuing work on performance standards for ground chicken/ground turkey;
- Continuing work on the scientific basis for establishing safety-based "use by" date labeling for refrigerated ready-to-eat foods; and
- Continuing work on the scientific criteria for redefining pasteurization.

Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Thomas by August 17, 2004.

Availability of Advisory Committee Materials

FSIS intends to make available to the public all materials that are reviewed

and considered by NACMCF regarding its deliberations. Generally, these materials will be made available as soon as possible after the full committee meeting. Further, FSIS intends to make these materials available in both electronic formats on the FSIS Web page, as well as in hard copy format in the Docket Room. Often, an attempt is made to make the materials available at the start of the full committee meeting when sufficient time is allowed in advance to do so.

All documents related to full committee meetings will be available for inspection in the FSIS Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, as soon as they become available. All comments submitted in response to this notice, as well as research and background information used by FSIS in developing this document, will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The comments also will be posted on the Agency's Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRDockets.htm>.

See the disclaimer section below regarding modifications that may be necessary due to the presentation of the comments. The NACMCF documents also will be available on the Internet at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRDockets.htm>.

FSIS will finalize an agenda on or before the meeting dates and post it on the FSIS Internet Web page at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRDockets.htm>.

Also, the official transcripts of the August 2004 full committee meeting, when they become available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the above address and also will be posted on <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPHS/NACMCF/transcripts>.

Disclaimer

For electronic copies, all NACMCF documents and comments are electronic conversions from a variety of source formats into HTML that may have resulted in character translation or format errors. Readers are cautioned not to rely on this HTML document. Minor changes to materials in electronic format may be necessary in order to meet the electronic and information technology accessibility standards contained in Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act in which graphs, charts, and tables must be accompanied by a text descriptor in order for the vision-impaired to be made aware of the content. FSIS will add these text descriptors along with a qualifier that the text is a simplified

interpretation of the graph, chart, or table. Portable Document Format (PDF) and/or paper documents of the official text, figures, and tables can be obtained from the FSIS Docket Room.

Copyrighted documents will not be posted on the FSIS Web site, but will be available for inspection in the FSIS docket room.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that the public and in particular minorities, women, and persons with disabilities, are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it on-line through the FSIS Web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>.

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, recalls, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The update is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service consisting of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. The update also is available on the FSIS Web page. Through Listserv and the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

Done in Washington, DC on August 9, 2004.

Barbara J. Masters,
Acting Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Juncrock Timber Sale, Mt. Hood National Forest, Wasco County, OR

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a revised environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that The USDA Forest Service, will prepare a revised environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Juncrock Timber Sale on the Barlow Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest. The Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS for the Juncrock Timber Sale was published in

the **Federal Register** (68 FR 53730) on September 12, 2003 and notice of the final EIS (69 FR 22025) was published on April 23, 2004. The Record of Decision of this project was administratively appealed to the Regional Forester per 36 CFR 215. After considering issues raised in the appeal the Forest Service decided on July 7, 2004 to withdraw the decision in order to conduct further analysis. This analysis will be included in the revised (EIS). The proposed action is unchanged from that published in the **Federal Register** on June 27, 2002 (67 FR 43274-43276). It is scheduled for implementation in fiscal years 2005 and 2006. The agency will give notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process so interested and affected people may be able to participate and contribute in the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the proposed action and scope of the analysis should be postmarked by September 30, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments concerning the proposed action to Becky Nelson, NEPA Coordinator, 780 N.E. Court Street, Dufur, Oregon (phone: 541-467-2291). Comments may also be sent by FAX (541-467-2271). Include your name and mailing address so documents pertaining to this project may be mailed to you.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action and Revised EIS should be directed to Becky Nelson (Address and phone number listed above), or to Mike Redmond, Environmental Coordination, 16400 Champion Way, Sandy, Oregon, 97055-7248 (phone: 503-668-1776).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action would promote forest health and provide commercial wood fiber by removing trees that are dead, or affected by insects, disease, overstocking, or defects on approximately 550 acres. This treatment would help reach the goals of creating multi-storied, disease resistant, stands in this area and providing a predictable sale quantity of wood fiber to local/regional economies as envisioned in the Northwest Forest Plan.

Existing roads would be extended approximately 0.5 miles where access is needed and 4 roads would be reconstructed for a total of approximately 1 mile. Approximately 21 miles of road are proposed for closure and two road segments would be decommissioned for about 1 mile.

The planning area is located about 38 miles south of Hood River, Oregon in portions of Sections 1, 12, & 13, of T.5

S., R.9 E., and portions of Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, & 18, of T.5 S., R. 10 E., Willamette Meridian, Wasco County, Oregon. The planning area does not include any wilderness, RARE II inventoried roadless, or other unroaded areas. It is outside the White River Wild and Scenic River corridor as identified in the "White River Wild and Scenic River Plan". The planning area is immediately adjacent to the White River late successional reserve (LSR) and the planning area is identified as a Key Watershed in the Northwest Forest Plan. The Juncrock Timber Sale is included in the C-1, Timber Emphasis allocation, and the B-2, Scenic Viewshed allocation, of the Mt. Hood National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

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 a draft EIS 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. NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F. 2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir., 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft revised EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft revised EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft revised EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

The draft revised EIS is planned to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public