Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 00–023N]

Availability of and Request for Comment on FSIS Draft Risk Assessment for *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Ground Beef

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing the availability of, and requesting public comment on, its draft risk assessment for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) O157:H7 in ground beef. Meanwhile, the Agency is seeking scientific peer review of the draft risk assessment from the National Academies of Science. The document will be revised with comments from that review. FSIS conducted this assessment to assist in reviewing and refining its integrated risk reduction strategy for *E. coli* O157:H7 in beef.

DATES: Comments are due January 4, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit one original and two copies of written comments to: FSIS Docket Room, Docket #00–023N, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3700. All comments received in response to this notice will be considered part of the public record and will be available for viewing in the FSIS Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. As discussed below, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) submitted comments on the risk assessment in response to an earlier review of the document. These and other comments will also be available in the FSIS Docket Room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the draft risk assessment contact: Annette Reid at 202–690–6409. The report is also available on the FSIS homepage at *www.fsis.usda.gov.* For technical questions and for a copy of the model contact Dr. Eric Ebel at 970–490–7954.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 18, 1998, FSIS announced plans to conduct a farm-to-table risk assessment for *E. coli* O157:H7 in beef with a focus on ground beef (63 FR 44232). A team comprised of Federal scientists, visiting scientists, and consultants contributed to the assessment. The overall goals of the assessment were to:

- Quantitatively model, with attendant uncertainty, human illnesses caused by *E. coli* O157:H7 in ground beef in the United States
- Identify the occurrence and levels of the pathogen at points along the farm-to-table continuum
- Identify future research needs
- Document risk assessment methods and evidence for future assessments
- Effectively communicate the results to all interested parties—government, consumer groups, industry, the scientific community, and the general public.

FSIS held a public meeting on October 28, 1998, to solicit comment and input at an early stage of the project regarding the scope of the risk assessment, the analytical framework to be used in conducting the risk assessment, the scientific evidence acquired by the risk assessment team, and the existing data gaps identified. At that meeting, the Agency released a draft report ''Preliminary Pathways and Data for Risk Assessment of *E. coli* O157:H7 in Beef.''

The risk assessment team then evaluated comments and additional data received at the public meeting and in response to the comment period announced in the August 18, 1998 **Federal Register** notice. The risk assessment team also received peer input during the development phase of the risk assessment through presentations at the 1998 Annual Meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) and at the 1999 Annual Meeting of the International Association of Milk Food and Environmental Sanitarians (now renamed the International Association for Food Protection). While developing the assessment, the team convened a week-long interagency workshop on microbial pathogens in food and water in April 1999 that involved microbial risk assessment practitioners from FSIS, the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. In December 1999, additional peer input was received from presentations made to the SRA and the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Food.

FSIS presented a summary of some of the team's draft findings at a public meeting on February 29, 2000. The purpose of the public meeting was to discuss FSIS policy regarding *E. coli* O157:H7 and new information concerning the pathogen and its relation to human health.

FSIS also circulated the draft risk assessment for comment within the Federal Government, including a CDC and a select group of individuals.

The team has completed a draft of the risk assessment. FSIS is making this draft available to the public and is requesting comments. The Agency also is making the assessment available for scientific peer review from the National Academies of Science and the document will be revised with comments from that review. All comments received in response to this notice will be reviewed and considered when finalizing the risk assessment.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of this **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300 organizations and individuals. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS web page located at *http://www.fsis.usda.gov.* The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent fax list consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific

professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through these various channels, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720–5704.

Done at Washington, DC on: October 30, 2001.

Margaret O'K. Glavin,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 01–27541 Filed 11–2–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–DM–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Telephone Bank

Amendment to Bylaws

AGENCY: Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; correction.

Correction

In notice document 01–23502, beginning on page 48416 in the issue of Thursday, September 20, 2001, make the following correction: On page 48417, in the second column, the date the notice was approved should read ''Dated: September 13, 2001''.

Dated: October 30, 2001.

Blaine D. Stockton,

Acting Governor, Rural Telephone Bank.

[FR Doc. 01–27715 Filed 11–2–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Georgia Transmission Corporation; Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with respect to a request from Georgia Transmission Corporation for assistance from the RUS to finance the construction of a 230/115 kV electric substation in Gwinnett County, Georgia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Environmental Protection Specialist, Engineering and Environmental Staff, RUS, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–1571, telephone (202) 720–0468, e-mail at *bquigel@rus.usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The substation is to be named the Bay Creek Substation. It is to be located just northeast of the intersection of Athatown Road and the Gwinnett County/Walton County line in Gwinnett County, Georgia. The project will require approximately 11 acres of clearing for the substation and transmission line access. The actual fenced area of the substation will be approximately 3.5 acres.

Copies of the FONSI are available for review at, or can be obtained from, RUS at the address provided herein or from Mr. John Lasseter, Georgia Transmission Corporation, 2100 East Exchange Place, Tucker, Georgia 30085–2088, telephone (770) 270–7710. Mr. Lasseter's e-mail address is *john.lasseter@gatrans.com.*

Dated: October 18, 2001.

Blaine D. Stockton,

Assistant Administrator, Electric Program.

[FR Doc. 01–27714 Filed 11–2–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments

Pursuant to section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89–651; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be filed within 20 days with the Statutory Import Programs Staff, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in Suite 4100W, Franklin Court Building, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1099 14th Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Docket Number: 01–017.

Applicant: University of Connecticut, Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering, 97 North Eaglesville Road, Storrs, CT 06269–3136.

Instrument: Electron Microscope, Model JEM–2010.

Manufacturer: JEOL Ltd., Japan.

Intended Use: The instrument is intended to be used to study the microstructure of a wide range of materials including metals, alloys, ceramics, composites, rocks, ferroelectrics, semiconductors, high-temperature superconductors, mesoporous materials and catalysts. Experiments to be conducted are as follows:

(1) Interfacial Structure and Processes in Engineering Alloys.

(2) Mineral Reactions and Textural Evolution in Silicate Rocks.

(3) Microstructural Evolution in Tough Ceramics.

(4) EELS/ESI as a Probe of Magnetic Structure in Alloys.

(5) Synthesis and Characterization of Inorganic Helices.

In addition, the instrument will be used in the courses MMAT322 Materials Characterization and MMAT323 Transmission Electron Microscopy.

Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: September 5, 2001.

Docket Number: 01–018.

Applicant: Federal Highway Administration, Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center. HRDI–10, 6300 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101–2296.

Instrument: Automated Ultrasonic Inspection System, Model P-scan 4 Lite.

Manufacturer: Force Institute, Denmark.

Intended Use: The instrument is intended to be used to detect cracks, slag inclusions, porosity, and other defects in butt-welded steel girders. Field testing of the instrument on under-construction bridge girders will be conducted to determine the effect of environment and human factors on system performance.

Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: September 5, 2001.

Docket Number: 01–019.

Applicant: University of California, Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, One Cyclotron Road, Mail Stop 937–200, Berkeley, CA 94720.

Instrument: Electron Microscope (used), Model CM200 FEG.

Manufacturer: FEI Company, The Netherlands.

Intended Use: The instrument is intended to be used to understand the structural architecture of biological complexes that makes them cellular units of function, and the structural bases for the regulation of such complexes. Also, application of cryo-electron microscopy and image analysis to the structural characterization of microtubules, a highly dynamic self-assembly system regulated by the nucleotide state of its structural unit, the ab-tubulin heterodimer, and their interaction with cellular factors and