

# 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. 01–045N]

#### Codex Alimentarius Commission: 3rd Session, Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology

**AGENCY:** Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are sponsoring two public meetings on Wednesday, January 9, 2002, and on Tuesday, February 12, 2002, to present and receive comment on draft United States positions on all issues coming before the 3rd Session of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology, which will be held in Yokohama, Japan, March 4–8, 2002. The Under Secretary for Food Safety and FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 3rd Session, Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology.

**DATES:** The public meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2002 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursday, February 12, 2002 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meetings will be held in Conference Room 1409, Federal Office Building 8, 200 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20204. To review copies of the documents referenced in this notice, contact the FSIS Docket Room, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250–

3700. The documents will also be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfbt3/bt0201e.htm> Send comments, in triplicate, to the FSIS Docket Room and reference Docket #01–045N. Commenters should reference the document relevant to their comments. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick J. Clerkin, Associate U.S. Manager for Codex, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–3700, Telephone (202) 205–7760, Fax (202) 720–3157. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Mr. Clerkin at the above number.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Codex was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Codex is the major international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled. The Commission, at its 23rd Session, established the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology to develop standards, guidelines, or recommendations, as appropriate, for foods derived from biotechnology or traits introduced into foods by biotechnology, on the basis of scientific evidence, risk analysis and having regard, where appropriate, to other legitimate factors relevant to the health of consumers and the promotion of fair trade practices. The Task Force is chaired by the government of Japan.

#### Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The provisional agenda items and the relevant documents to be discussed during the public meeting are:

1. Matters Referred to the Task Force by Other Codex Committees; Document CX/FBT 02/2

2. Matters of Interest from Other International Organizations with respect to the Evaluation of the Safety and Nutrition Aspects of Foods Derived from Biotechnology; Document CX/FBT 02/3

3. Consideration of Draft Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology, at Step 7; Document ALINORM 01/34A Appendix II; Government Comments at Step 6; Document CX/FBT 02/4

4. Draft Guidelines and Annex (a) Consideration of Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants at Step 7; Document ALINORM 01/34A Appendix III;

—Government Comments at Step 6; Document CX/FBT 02/5;

—Proposed Revised Text on the Section Entitled “Assessment of Possible Toxicity” from the Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants; Document CL 2001/38–FBT, Annex II;

—Response to Questions from the Chair of the Task Force put forward for consideration by the Working Group; Document CL 2001/38–FBT, Annex II;

—Government Comments on the above two documents (CL 2001/38–FBT Annex II and Annex III) at Step 6; Document CX/FBT 02/5 Add.1;

(b) Consideration of Proposed Draft Annex on the Assessment of Possible Allergenicity of the Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants at Step 4; Document CL 2001/38–FBT, Annex I

—Government Comments at Step 3; Document CX/FBT 02/6

5. Consideration of Proposed Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Recombinant-DNA Microorganisms in Food at Step 4; Document CX/FBT 02/7;

—Government Comments at Step 3; Document CX/FBT 02/7 Add.1

6. Discussion Papers on Traceability; Document CL 2001/27–FBT;

—Government Comments; Document CX/FBT 02/8

7. Consideration of Analytical Methods; Document CX/FBT 02/9

8. Other Business, Future Work and Date and Place of Next Session

In advance of these meetings, the U.S. Delegate to the Task Force will have assigned responsibility for development of U.S. positions on these issues to members of government. The individuals assigned responsibility will be named at this meeting and will take comment on and develop draft U.S. positions. All interested parties are invited to provide information and comments on the above issues, or on any other issues that may be brought before the Task Force.

#### Public Meeting

At the January 9th public meeting, the issues will be described, discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. At the February 12th public meeting, draft United States' positions on the issues will be described, discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Comments may also be sent to the FSIS Docket Room (see **ADDRESSES**). Please state that your comments relate to Task Force activities and specify which issues your comments address.

#### 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 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 effect 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: January 8, 2002.

**F. Edward Scarbrough,**

*U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.*

[FR Doc. 02-739 Filed 1-8-02; 1:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Moose Post Fire Project, Flathead National Forest, Flathead County, Montana**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; Intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a proposal to manage forest resources within and adjacent to the Moose Fire affected area, which burned 70,000 acres in August–September of 2001 (approximately 35,000 acres burned on lands administrated by the Forest Service). The project area is on the Glacier View Ranger District, Flathead National Forest, and is bordered on the east by Glacier National Park and the North Fork of the Flathead River, on the north by the Coal Creek State Forest, and on the west by the Whitefish Divide. The city of Columbia Falls, Montana is located about 10 air miles to the southeast.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing on or before 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and made available for public review in May 2002. No date has yet been determined for filing the final EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Jimmy DeHerrera, District Ranger, P.O. Box 190340, Hungry Horse, Montana 59919 or call (406) 387-3800.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michele Draggoo, Planning Team Leader, (406) 387-3827.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Moose Fire created a situation that is very favorable for the development of spruce beetle and Douglas-fir beetle epidemic conditions. The fire severely weakened or killed large numbers of spruce and Douglas-fir, and the beetles are well adapted to capitalize on such events. Spruce bark beetles were found in endemic levels prior to the fire and Douglas-fir bark beetles were building in several areas across the Flathead

National Forest including in the vicinity of the Moose Fire area.

Beetle numbers can rapidly build when they are suddenly presented with abundant food and breeding habitat such as provided by the many acres of dead and stressed trees within the Moose Fire area. Once the adult beetles emerge from the fire stressed trees, they will search for the next nearest source of food. They are capable of flying about five miles in search of habitat, thus posing a very real threat to mature, larger diameter spruce and Douglas-fir trees outside the fire area.

Fire killed trees in the Moose Fire area have already started falling and will continue to come down over the next 15-20 years. This will result in extremely heavy fuel loads adjacent to private property and the administrative sites. If a fire does occur in these areas, the fuel accumulations, fuel continuity and profile would make the fire difficult to contain and control. A large high intensity fire would likely again threaten or burn private property, administrative sites and valuable forest resources.

Fire-killed trees also do not typically maintain their merchantability as wood products for more than 1 to 3 years, depending on their species and size. Sapwood staining, checking, woodborer damage, and decay will deleteriously affect volume after that time. Smaller diameter trees typically will not be merchantable within a year while larger diameter trees can retain their merchantability longer but will lose their value as wood products as time goes on. Removing an appropriate amount of fire-affected trees while considering ecological needs, before they lose their timber value and starting the reforestation process helps facilitate meeting desired conditions within the Moose Fire Project area.

The proposed action includes the following resource management activities: salvage trees that were burned on approximately 4300 to 5300 acres; use a combination of pheromone baiting, trap trees, and funnel trees to help address existing and future spruce bark beetle and Douglas-fir bark beetle concerns; and the reduce fuels in urban/interface and administrative site areas. Approximately 1000 acres are proposed for salvage in inventoried roadless lands. Planting conifer seedlings and making sure that best management practices would be maintained on roads used for the salvage would also be included in this project. Additionally, road access would be changed in two grizzly bear subunits to meet the Flathead Forest Plan's Amendment 19 ten-year goals and objectives, relative to