

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. 97-031N]

Australia's Pilot Proposal for Its Export-Meat Inspection Program

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announces that it is making available for public comment an Australian proposal for a pilot program intended to demonstrate the equivalence of Australia's proposed system of export meat inspection with traditional meat inspection, which is performed by Government inspectors. This proposal is described in a document entitled "Summary of Australia's Project 2 Proposal," prepared by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service.

For the duration of the pilot program, the Australian Government requests that meat from the plants participating in the pilot maintain access to export markets, including the United States. FSIS seeks public comment on whether the inspection program detailed in the Australian proposal would ensure equivalence and the safety, wholesomeness, and truthful labeling of product produced under such a system.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before July 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: An electronic version of the Australian document is available online at FSIS's homepage at <http://www.usda.gov/fsis>. Hard copies of the document are available from the FSIS Docket Clerk in the FSIS Docket Room, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Send comments on the Australian proposal to FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket

#97-031N, at the above address.

Comments received will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room during the above-stated hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mark Manis, Director, International Policy Development Division, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation; (202) 720-6400, mark.manis@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

As a result of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (commonly referred to as the "SPS Agreement"), contracting parties, including the United States, are committed to harmonizing their human, animal, and plant health import requirements by basing their sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) import requirements on "equivalent" sanitary measures or standards. Among other things, the SPS Agreement obliges the United States to respond to requests by other contracting parties to establish the equivalency of specified meat and poultry processing measures with those of the United States.

The Australian Government has requested that the United States and certain other governments consider its proposal to pilot-test a revised meat inspection system. This revised system reorients inspection to focus on pathogenic microorganisms and chemical residues. The HACCP-based pilot program is called "Project 2." The proposal is described in a document entitled "Summary of Australia's Project 2 Proposal," prepared by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service.

Of particular interest to the United States is the aspect of the pilot program that replaces traditional Government meat inspection with inspection by plant employees under stringent Government oversight. For the duration of the project, the Australian Government requests that meat from the four affected plants participating in the pilot maintain access to export markets, including the United States.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, solicits public comment on Australia's "Project 2" proposal. Does the proposal provide adequate Government oversight to ensure equivalence and the safety,

wholesomeness, and truthful labeling of product produced under such a system?

FSIS will take public comment into account in evaluating the Australian proposal. The Agency's decision will be announced in a notice in the **Federal Register** at the end of the public comment period.

Done at Washington, D.C., on: May 23, 1997.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-14116 Filed 5-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-038 N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods; HACCP Subcommittee Meeting

The Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Subcommittee of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold a meeting on June 3, 1997, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Suite 3709, West Franklin Court Building, 1099 14th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20250-3700.

NACMCF provides advice and recommendations to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Human Services concerning the development of microbiological criteria by which the safety and wholesomeness of food can be addressed. This includes criteria pertaining to microorganisms that indicate whether food has been produced and transported using good manufacturing practices.

NACMCF decided at its April 2-4, 1997, meeting that the HACCP Subcommittee should meet to finalize its draft document entitled Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Application Guidelines before the full committee meets in August 1997 in Seattle, Washington. The Subcommittee meeting is open to the public on a space-available basis. Interested persons may file comments before and after the meeting takes place. Address your comments to Dr. Richard L. Ellis, Director, Scientific Research Oversight Staff, Department of

Agriculture, Suite 6709 West Franklin Court Building, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

Done at Washington, DC, on: May 21, 1997.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-14115 Filed 5-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-CM-P

ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

May 22, 1997.

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Arctic Research Commission will hold its 47th Meeting in Woods Hole, MA on June 9 and 10, 1997. On the morning of Monday, June 9, the Business Session open to the public will convene at 9:00 a.m. in the Meigs Room of the Marine Biological Laboratory's Swope Center in Woods Hole, MA. Agenda items include:

- (1) Call to order and approval of the Agenda.
- (2) Approval of the minutes of the 46th Meeting.
- (3) Reports of Congressional Liaisons.
- (4) Agency Reports.

On Tuesday, June 10, the Business Session will continue. The focus of the Business Session will be on terrestrial research in the Arctic.

The business meeting will be followed by an Executive Session followed by adjournment of the 47th Meeting.

Any person planning to attend this meeting who requires special accessibility features and/or auxiliary aids, such as sign language interpreters must inform the Commission in advance of those needs.

Contact Person for More Information: Dr. Garrett W. Brass, Executive Director, Arctic Research Commission, 703-525-0111 or TDD 703-306-0090.

Garrett W. Brass,
Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 97-14229 Filed 5-27-97; 4:32 pm]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed Additions to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: June 30, 1997.

ADDRESS: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman, (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed actions.

If the Committee approves the proposed addition, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the services to the Government.
2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the services.
3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the services to the Government.
4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the services proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.

The following services have been proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Janitorial/Custodial
U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building
Allentown, Pennsylvania
NPA: Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc.,
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Janitorial/Custodial
Wheeling USARC
Ohio County Airport Industrial Park
Wheeling, West Virginia

NPA: Russell Nesbitt Services, Inc.,
Wheeling, West Virginia.

Beverly L. Milkman,
Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 97-14178 Filed 5-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Additions to the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List commodities and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 30, 1997.

ADDRESS: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 7, 17, 21 and April 4, 1997, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (62 F.R. 10519, 12596, 13591 and 16135) of proposed additions to the Procurement List.

The following comments pertain to Janitorial/Custodial, Veterans Center, Roanoke, VA. Comments were received from the previous contractor in response to a request for sales data. The contractor declined to provide the data, and claimed that it would be severely impacted by the addition of this service to the Procurement List. The contractor indicated that two of its eight janitorial employees would be discharged as a result of the Committee's actions. The contractor questioned the capability of people who are blind or have other severe disabilities to perform the janitorial service. The contractor also claimed that veterans in the facility are easily distressed and would not react well to a new contractor.

The nonprofit agency is currently performing the service, and no problems have been experienced in dealing with the veterans at the facility, which is a small outpatient counseling center. The service is projected to require only 260 hours of direct labor a year, so its addition to the Procurement List could not be the cause for the contractor