

obtained through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/Genetic Engineering will be described, discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. At the April 11th public meeting, the agenda items pertaining to Labelling of Foods obtained through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/Genetic Engineering will be described, discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 29th CCFL.

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 February 6, 2001.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01-004N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: 2nd 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), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), are sponsoring two public meetings, on Tuesday, February 13, and on Wednesday, March 7, 2001. The purpose of these meetings is to provide information and receive public comments on draft United States' positions and agenda items that will be discussed at the 2nd Session of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology, which will be held in Chiba, Japan, March 25-29, 2001. The Under Secretary and FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 2nd Session, Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology, and address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2001, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and on Wednesday, March 7, 2001, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Conference Room 1409, Federal Office Building 8, Food and Drug Administration, 200 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20204. Reference documents will be available for review in 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.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/ECONOMIC/esn/codex/ccfbt2/bt01_01e.htm. Submit one original and two copies of written comments to the FSIS Docket Room at the address above and reference docket number 01-004N. 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. 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

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (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. Codex, 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 Meetings

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda, Document CX/FBT 01/1
2. Matters Referred to the Task Force by Other Codex Committees, Document CX/FBT 01/2
3. 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 01/3
4. Consideration of Proposed Draft General Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology at Step 4, Document CX/FBT 01/4, and

- Comments submitted at Step 3, Document CX/FBT 01/4 Add.1
5. Consideration of Proposed Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants at Step 4, Document CX/FBT 01/5, and Comments submitted at Step 3, Document CX/FBT 01/5 Add.1
 6. Discussion Paper on Traceability, Document CX/FBT 01/6
 7. Information Paper on Familiarity, Document CX/FBT 01/7
 8. Consideration of Analytical Methods, Document CX/FBT 01/8
 9. 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 these meetings 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 Meetings

At the February 13th public meeting, the issues will be described, discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. At the March 7th 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. Please state that your comments relate to Task Force activities and specify which issues your comments address.

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Done at Washington, DC on February 6, 2001.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Announcement of Funding To Develop Essential Community Facilities in Rural Communities for Eligible Public Entities, Nonprofit Corporations, and Tribal Governments With Extreme High Unemployment and Severe Economic Depression

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) announces the availability of \$47.5 million in National competitive grant funds to be administered in accordance with this Notice, 7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(20), and the Community Facilities grant program (7 CFR part 3570, subpart B) to develop essential community facilities in rural communities with extreme high unemployment and severe economic depression. An additional \$2.5 million is available for community planning and implementation related to these essential community facilities.

DATES: Applications may be submitted at any time until funds are exhausted.

ADDRESSES: Entities wishing to apply for assistance are encouraged to contact their local USDA Rural Development office for guidance on the intake and processing of preapplications.

A listing of Rural Development State offices, their addresses, telephone numbers, and a person to contact follows:

Note: Telephone numbers listed are not toll-free.

Alabama State Office, Suite 601, Sterling Centre, 4121 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106-3683, 334-279-3400, Chris Harmon

Alaska State Office, 600 W. Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer, AK 99645-6539, 907-761-7705, Merlaine Kruse

Arizona State Office, Phoenix Corporate Center, 3003 North Central Avenue, Suite 900, Phoenix, AZ 85012-2906, 602-280-8700, Leonard Gradillas

Arkansas State Office, 700 W. Capitol Avenue, Room 3416, Little Rock, AR 72201-3225, 501-301-3200, Jesse G. Sharp

California State Office, 430 G Street, #4169, Davis, CA 95616-4169, 530-792-5800, Robert Longman

Colorado State Office, 655 Parfet Street, Room E100, Lakewood, CO 80215, 303-236-2801, Leroy Cruz

Delaware State Office,* 4607 S. DuPont Highway, P.O. Box 400, Camden, DE 19934-9998, 302-697-4300, Arthur Greenwood

*The Delaware State Office also administers the Maryland program.

Florida State Office,* 4440 N.W. 25th Place, P.O. Box 147010, Gainesville, FL 32614-7010, 352-338-3400, Glenn W. Walden

*The Florida State Office also administers the Virgin Islands program.

Georgia State Office, Stephens Federal Building, 355 E. Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601-2768, 706-546-2162, Jerry Thomas

Hawaii State Office, Room 311, Federal Building, 154 Waiannuenu Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720, 808-933-8380, Thao Khamoui

Idaho State Office, 9173 W. Barnes Drive, Suite A1, Boise, ID 83709, 208-378-5600, Dan Fraser

Illinois, Illini Plaza, Suite 103, 1817 South Neil Street, Champaign, IL 61820, 217-398-5235, Gerald Townsend

Indiana State Office, 5975 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46278, 317-290-3100, Gregg Delp

Iowa State Office, 873 Federal Building, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309, 515-284-4663, Dorman A. Otte

Kansas State Office, 1200 SW Executive Drive, P.O. Box 4653, Topeka, KS 66604, 785-271-2700, Gary Smith

Kentucky, Suite 200, 771 Corporate Drive, Lexington, KY 40503, 859-224-7300, Vernon C. Brown

Louisiana State Office, 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71302, 318-473-7920, Danny Magee

Maine State Office, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, P.O. Box 405, Bangor, ME 04402-0405, 207-990-9106, Alan Daigle

Massachusetts State Office,* 967 Illinois Ave., Suite 4, 451 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002, 413-253-4300, Daniel Beaudette

*The Massachusetts State Office, also administers the Rhode Island and Connecticut programs.

Michigan State Office, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200, East Lansing, MI 48823, 517-324-5100, Philip H. Wolak

Minnesota State Office, 410 AgriBank Building, 375 Jackson Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-1853, 651-602-7800, James Maras

Mississippi State Office, Federal Building, Suite 831, 100 W. Capitol, Jackson, MS 39269, 601-965-4316, Darnella Smith-Murray

Missouri State Office, 601 Business Loop, 70 West, Parkade Center, Suite 235, Columbia, MO 65203, 573-876-0976, Randall L. Griffith