

expand the pH range for acidified sodium chlorite solutions as an antimicrobial agent in water and ice intended for use on seafood (fresh or saltwater).

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments on the petitioner's environmental assessment by May 12, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit electronic comments to <http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mical E. Honigfort, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-265), Food and Drug Administration, 5100 Paint Branch Pkwy., College Park, MD 20740, 202-418-0714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (sec. 409(b)(5) (21 U.S.C. 348(b)(5))), notice is given that a food additive petition (FAP 3A4743) has been filed by Alcide Corp., 8561 154th Ave. NE., Redmond, WA 98052-3557. The petition proposes to amend the food additive regulations in § 173.325 *Acidified sodium chlorite solutions* (21 CFR 173.325) to expand the permitted use concentration and to expand the pH range for acidified sodium chlorite solutions as an antimicrobial agent in water and ice intended for use on seafood (fresh or saltwater).

The potential environmental impact of this petition is being reviewed. To encourage public participation consistent with regulations issued under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1501.4(b)), the agency is placing the environmental assessment submitted with the petition that is the subject of this notice on public display at the Dockets Management Branch (address above) for public review and comment. Interested persons may, on or before, May 12, 2003, submit to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) written or electronic comments. Submit a single copy of electronic comments to <http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments> or two hard copies of any written comments, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. FDA will also place on public display any amendments to, or comments on, the petitioner's environmental assessment without

further announcement in the **Federal Register**. If, based on its review, the agency finds that an environmental impact statement is not required, and this petition results in a regulation, the notice of availability of the agency's Finding of No Significant impact and the evidence supporting that finding will be published with the regulation in the **Federal Register** in accordance with 21 CFR 25.40(c).

Dated: March 14, 2003.

Alan M. Rulis,

*Director, Office of Food Additive Safety,
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.*
[FR Doc. 03-8694 Filed 4-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

9th Annual FDA Science Forum—"FDA Science: Protecting America's Health"

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Office of Science is announcing the following meeting entitled "9th Annual FDA Science Forum—FDA Science: Protecting America's Health." The Science Forum is FDA's key scientific meeting that seeks to communicate and promote scientific issues relating to scientific development and associated regulatory concerns. Open to the public, the 2003 Forum is designed to bring FDA scientists together with representatives from industry, academia, government agencies, consumer and patient advocacy groups, and international constituents to explore emerging public health issues and to learn and share knowledge and ideas of the science-based mission of the agency.

Date and Time: The Science Forum will be held on Thursday and Friday, April 24 and 25, 2003. On April 24, 2003, registration will be from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. On April 25, 2003, registration will be from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the meeting from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Location: New Washington Convention Center, Mount Vernon Square, Washington, DC 20001.

Contact: Susan Bond, FDA, Office of Science (HF-33), 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-6687, e-mail: sbond@oc.fda.gov.

Registration: Complete detailed program, and exhibitor information are available at www.dcscienceforum.org. (FDA has verified the Web site address, but is not responsible for subsequent

changes to the Web site after this document publishes in the **Federal Register**.) Due to limited seating, interested parties are encouraged to register early. If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact dmentch@oc.fda.gov or 301-827-3038.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Science Forum will focus on three plenary tracks with corresponding break-out sessions in the areas of:

- Risk management & risk assessment
- Novel science initiatives at FDA
- FDA's mission post- 9/11/01 and beyond

A poster session featuring all areas of FDA regulatory science will be presented to provide an opportunity for interested scientists to engage in information exchange with FDA scientists.

An exhibition of scientific products, services, and professional societies sponsored by Williamsburg BioProcessing Foundation will be held during the entire event. Interested exhibitors should contact:

clsokker@wilbio.com. (FDA has verified the Web site address but is not responsible for subsequent changes to the Web site after this document publishes in the **Federal Register**.) An FDA Job Fair will be held as part of this exhibition.

This event is co-sponsored by the FDA Office of Science & Health Coordination, Williamsburg BioProcessing Foundation, AOAC International, California Separation Science Society, and the FDA Chapter of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society.

Dated: April 4, 2003.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy and Planning.

[FR Doc. 03-8759 Filed 4-9-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Office of the Director; Office of Dietary Supplements: Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment and Public Meeting

Background

The Office Dietary Supplements (ODS) was established in the Office of the Director, NIH, in 1995 as a major provision of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). A key early activity was the

development of a Strategic Plan to define the mission of ODS and to set out goals for its programs. It was prepared with considerable input from NIH Institutes and Centers, other Federal agencies, consumers, and other interested parties.

The Strategic Plan was intended to guide ODS activities and programs for 5 years and it has served this purpose. Since its publication in 1998, there have been increases in the ODS budget each year, and this meant both considerable progress and expanded programs beyond those contemplated in the original Plan. Therefore it is appropriate to re-visit the original Plan this year and to develop an updated ODS Strategic Plan for 2004–2009.

The Office of Dietary Supplements is re-examining its 1998 Strategic Plan and desires public comment on the progress of its programs and on future needs and opportunities for research activities. As a part of this effort, we are holding a meeting for interested parties. The major focus of the meeting is to solicit views and suggestions on the future directions and programs of the ODS.

We have prepared a background paper that summarizes progress in key areas of ODS activity identified in the 1998 Strategic Plan and solicits comments and suggestions on future ODS activities. The background paper and related information are available on the ODS Web site at <http://ods.od.nih.gov>. In addition, the background paper is available from the Office of the address listed below. We are disseminating the background paper for comment by all interested parties. Comments, suggestions, and views should be forwarded to the address listed below or sent to <ODSplan.od.nih.gov>

In addition, the ODS will hold an open public meeting on May 8 and 9, 2003 at the time and address listed below to hear additional comments and suggestions on needs and opportunities for possible inclusion in the 2004–2009 ODS Strategic Plan. Information about the meeting, including the tentative agenda, is available on ODS Web site <http://ods.nih.gov>. There is no registration fee.

We may use all written comments received by 5 p.m. EST, on June 27, 2003 from this request as well as those received at the meeting in the preparation of a revised Strategic Plan for 2004–2009. We will complete the strategic planning process the end of calendar year 2003. We will publish and disseminate the revised ODS Strategic Plan as the “roadmap” for programs of the Office of Dietary Supplements in 2004–2009.

The overall purpose of this strategic planning effort is to identify both new opportunities and emerging needs for possible incorporation in the programmatic efforts of the Office. To address this purpose, guidance is being requested from all interested parties on these important issues:

- Is there a need or opportunity for additional overarching goals for ODS? As a corollary, are there reasons or justification for modifying the priorities for allocation of resources to the five original goals?

- Is there a need or opportunity to re-examine the original 33 objectives individually in order to address the following issues:

- (a) Are there objectives where current knowledge, opportunities, or needs that suggest expanded efforts or changes in priority for study are appropriate? If so, documentation and justification should be provided.

- (b) Are there additional aspects of specific topics that should be added? If so, documentation and justification should be provided.

- (c) Beyond the original 33 objectives, are there newly identified needs and opportunities that suggest additional objectives for increased emphasis in ODS programs in the future? If so, documentation and justification should be provided.

- An additional purpose of this current strategic planning effort is to seek comments and suggestions about the various approaches that ODS has utilized in addressing the goals of its 1998 Strategic Plan?

- (a) Among the approaches used by ODS, should there be greater emphasis on certain ones in regard to research support, communication and information dissemination, database development, and training and career development?

- (c) Are there other methods and techniques that ODS should consider in implementing its goals and objectives in the future?

Meeting Title: Office of Dietary Supplements Public Meeting.

Date: May 8 and 9, 2003.

Time: May 8—8 a.m.–5 p.m.; May 9—8 a.m.–12 noon.

Place: Bethesda Marriott Hotel, 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Contact Person: Kenneth D. Fisher, Ph.D., Office of Dietary Supplements, 6100 Executive Boulevard, Room 3B01, Bethesda, MD 20892–7517, Phone: (301) 435–2920, Fax: (301) 480–1845, E-mail: ODSplan@od.nih.gov.

Public Participation

The meeting is open to the public with attendance limited by the

availability of space on a first come, first serve basis. Members of the public who wish to present oral comment should indicate this when registering on the ODS Web site at <http://ods.nih.gov> no later than April 25, 2003.

Oral comments will be limited to three minutes. Individuals who register to speak will be assigned in the order in which they registered. Due to time constraints, only one representative from each organization will be allotted time for oral presentation. We may limit the number of speakers and the time allotted depending on the number of registrants. All requests to register should include the name, address, telephone number, and business or professional affiliation of the interested party. If time permits, we will allow any person attending the meeting who has not registered to speak in advance of the meeting to make a brief oral statement during the time set aside for public comment, and at the chairperson's discretion.

We encourage individuals unable to attend the meeting and all interested parties to send written comments to the Office of Dietary Supplements by mail, fax, or electronically. When mailing or faxing written comments provide, if possible, an electronic version on diskette.

Persons needing special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other special accommodations at the meeting should indicate this when registering or contact the Office of Dietary Supplements at the address or telephone number listed no later than April 25, 2003.

Dated: April 2, 2003.

Paul M. Coates,

*Director, Office of Dietary Supplements,
Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health.*

[FR Doc. 03–8720 Filed 4–9–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, NHLBI.

The meeting will be closed to the public as indicated below in accordance with the provisions set forth in section 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended for the review, discussion, and