

scoping hearings relating to environmental impact statements.

(4) Serving as liaison with the Department's Office of the General Counsel on matters pertaining to NEPA-related documents and other environmental laws.

§371.14 Delegations of authority.

(a) *Associate Administrator.* The Associate Administrator is delegated the authority to perform all the duties and to exercise all the functions and powers that are now, or that may become, vested in the Administrator, including the power of redelegation except where prohibited, and including authority reserved to the Administrator in §371.16 of this part. The Associate Administrator is also authorized to act for the Administrator in the absence of the Administrator.

(b) *Deputy Administrators and Directors.* The Deputy Administrators of PPQ, VS, ADC, M&B, REAC, and IS, and the Directors of PPD, R&D, LPA, S&T, and BBEP, and the officers they designate to act for them—with prior specific approval of the Administrator—are delegated the authority, severally, to perform all duties and to exercise all the functions and powers that are now, or that may become vested in the Administrator (including the power of redelegation, except where prohibited) except authority that is reserved to the Administrator. Each Deputy Administrator or Director shall be responsible for the programs and activities in APHIS assigned to that Deputy Administrator or Director.

(c) *PPQ, VS, ADC, REAC, M&B, S&T, REAC, and IS.* The Directors of Operational Support for PPQ, VS, ADC, and IS; the Regional Directors for PPQ, VS, ADC, and IS; the Directors of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, the Denver Wildlife Research Center, the Plant Methods Development Centers, and the National Monitoring and Residue Analysis Laboratory; and the Assistant Deputy Administrator for REAC are delegated authority in connection with the respective functions assigned to each of them in this part. They are authorized to perform all the duties and exercise all the functions or powers that are now or that may become vested in the Admin-

istrator except the authorities reserved to the Administrator or a Deputy Administrator. The Directors of the Budget and Accounting, Human Resources, Administrative Services, and Information Systems and Communications Divisions, Resource Management Systems and Evaluation Staff, the Field Servicing Office, Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and Equal Opportunity Counseling are delegated authority in connection with the respective functions assigned to each of them in this part to perform all the duties and exercise all the functions and powers that are now or that may become vested in the Administrator except the authorities reserved to the Administrator or Deputy Administrator.

(d) *Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS.* Area Veterinarians in Charge of VS programs are delegated authority to:

(1) Issue exemptions to facilities or premises from the requirements of section 4 of the Swine Health protection Act pursuant to section 4(b) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 3803), and

(2) Issue permits to operate facilities to treat garbage pursuant to section (5)(a) of the Swine Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 3804).

§371.15 Concurrent authority and responsibility to the Administrator.

(a) No delegation or authorization in this part shall preclude the Administrator or each Deputy Administrator or Director from exercising any of the powers or functions or from performing any of the duties conferred upon each, respectively. Any delegation or authorization is subject at all times to withdrawal or amendment by the Administrator, and in their respective fields, by each Deputy Administrator or Director. The Officers to whom authority is delegated in this part shall:

(1) Maintain close working relationships with the officers to whom they report,

(2) Keep them advised with respect to major problems and developments, and

(3) Discuss with them proposed actions involving major policy questions or other important considerations or questions including matters involving relationships with other federal agencies, other agencies of the Department, other divisions and staffs or offices of