

# Proposed Rules

Federal Register

Vol. 60, No. 155

Friday, August 11, 1995

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

9 CFR Parts 308, 310, 318, 320, 325, 326, 327, and 381

[Docket No. 95-034N]

#### Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems—Public Scoping Session for Issue-Focused Public Meetings on Proposed Regulation

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Meeting notice; reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture is holding a public scoping session for a series of issue-focused public meetings to be held in September 1995 on the FSIS proposed rule, "Pathogen Reduction, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems." The purpose of the scoping session is to discuss with all interested parties the agenda and format for the September meetings.

**DATES:** The scoping session will be held on August 23, 1995 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The scoping session will be convened by the Secretary.

The comment period for the proposed rule, "Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems" (60 FR 6674, February 3, 1995) will be reopened as of August 11, 1995, and will extend until 30 days following the last September meeting. FSIS will publish notice of the comment period closing date.

**ADDRESSES:** The scoping session will be held at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, Back of the South Building Cafeteria (between the 2nd and 3rd Wings).

Send an original and two copies of written comments to: FSIS Docket Clerk, DOCKET 93-016P, Docket Room 4352,

South Agriculture Building, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Charles Danner, Director, Planning Office, Policy Evaluation and Planning Staff, FSIS, USDA, Room 6904, Franklin Court, Washington, DC 20250, (202) 501-7138. If you plan to attend, please contact Ms. Lisa Parks at (202) 501-7138.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** USDA will hold a public scoping session on August 23, 1995 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, Back of the South Building Cafeteria (between the 2nd and 3rd Wings) from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM to discuss the agenda and format for a series of issue-focused public meetings to be held in September 1995 on the proposed rule, "Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems" (60 FR 6674, February 3, 1995).

#### August Public Scoping Session

The August 23, 1995 scoping session announced in this notice will be convened by Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman and will begin with a discussion of the topics to be included on the agenda for the September meetings, both those tentatively identified by FSIS, and those suggested for inclusion by interested parties. The meeting participants will then consider what format would best ensure that these issues will be fairly, frankly, and fully explored in September. After the August 23 scoping session, FSIS will issue a notice announcing the schedule, agenda and format for the September meetings.

Those wishing to attend the August session should contact Ms. Lisa Parks at (202) 501-7138. Also contact Ms. Parks if you require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations. Those unable to attend the scoping session may submit comments or suggestions for planning the September meetings to FSIS no later than August 18, 1995.

#### Purpose and Nature of the September Meeting

The September meetings will provide an opportunity for interested persons to directly discuss the key concerns that were raised during the comment period on the proposed rule with USDA

officials and with one another. To comply with the Administrative Procedure Act, these issue-focused meetings will be open to the public and announced in advance in the **Federal Register**. The proceedings will be transcribed, and the transcripts will be made a part of the rulemaking record.

These meetings will be plenary meetings, so that all interested parties can attend and participate in all the discussions. Interested parties with common concerns and positions on a particular issue are encouraged to designate a representative to speak for them on that issue. This will help foster focused, substantive dialogue on the key issues.

Tentatively identified agenda items for consideration at the September meetings include: (1) The relationship between the proposed HACCP system and existing regulatory requirements (the layering issue); (2) options to reduce the expected economic impact of the proposed rule on small businesses, while still achieving desired food safety goals; (3) the proposed interim targets for pathogen reduction and the use of microbial testing to verify achievement of the targets; (4) the role of antimicrobial treatments and other technological interventions to improve food safety; (5) temperature/time requirements for chilling red meat; and (6) FSIS oversight of HACCP.

#### Reopening of Comment Period

FSIS is reopening the comment period for the proposed regulation, effective August 11, 1995, and extending until 30 days following the last September meeting, in order to include in the administrative record the transcript of the scoping session and the public meetings, written comments submitted by persons unable to attend the meetings, and other written comments submitted by interested parties on the matters addressed at the public meetings.

Done at Washington, DC, on August 8, 1995.

**Michael R. Taylor,**

*Acting Under Secretary for Food Safety.*

[FR Doc. 95-19930 Filed 8-9-95; 9:23 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P