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. 95–040N]

FSIS’s Top-to-Bottom Review—Notice of Availability of Report

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing the availability of a preliminary report entitled “Top-to-Bottom Review.” The report, which consists of four volumes, contains analyses and options developed by teams of Agency employees who examined the Agency’s future roles, resource allocation and organizational structure. FSIS particularly seeks comments from all interested parties concerning the regulatory roles analyses and options found in Volume II.

DATES: Comments will be accepted through October 31, 1995.

ADDRESS FOR COMMENTS: Comments should be addressed to: Top-to-Bottom Review, Room 350–E, Administration Building, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, Room 350–E Administration Building, Washington, DC, 20250; telephone (202) 720–3521 or (202) 720–2709, respectively.

ORDERS: The report may be obtained by contacting the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. Either paper or diskette copies may be purchased from NTIS.

Orders for the diskette, which contains all four volumes of the report, should reference NTIS accession number PB95–505392. Orders for paper copies should reference the accession number for the particular volume or volumes desired. They are as follows: Volume I: Report Digest, PB95–265419; Volume II: FSIS Regulatory Roles, PB95–265427; Volume III: FSIS Structure, PB95–265435; Volume IV: FSIS Resource Allocation and Other Administrative Subjects, PB95–265443.

For telephone orders or further information on placing an order, call NTIS at (703) 487–4650 for regular service or (800) 553–5115 for rush service. To access the document electronically for ordering and downloading via FedWorld, dial 703–321–3339 with a modem or Telnet fedworld.gov. For technical assistance to access FedWorld, call 703–487–4608.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeanne Axtell or John McCutcheon, Top-to-Bottom Review Coordinators, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, Room 350–E Administration Building, Washington, DC, 20250; telephone (202) 720–3521 or (202) 720–2709, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FSIS is announcing the availability of a preliminary report titled “Top-to-Bottom Review.” Volume I is a comprehensive digest of the full report. It contains an introduction, summaries of the findings of all 10 review teams, and appendices. Volume II contains the findings of three teams that examined the Agency’s regulatory roles of the future. Volume III contains the findings of three teams that examined the Agency’s organizational structure. Volume IV contains the findings of the remaining four teams that addressed resource allocation; laboratory resources; supervisory and managerial roles; and employees’ knowledge, skills, abilities and training.

The following information provides context for the preliminary report: Administrator Michael R. Taylor announced early in 1995 that FSIS would look at itself “from top to bottom” and define for the future the Agency’s regulatory roles, resource allocation, and organizational structure in a manner consistent with the goals and strategies of the proposed Pathogen Reduction/HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) regulation. The resulting Top-to-Bottom Review is part of the Agency’s overall initiative to improve the safety of meat and poultry products and better protect consumers.

The intensive self-examination was also held for Congressional staffs. Briefings were held June 9, with the Administrator and review leaders presenting status reports and answering questions about the review. Briefings were also held for Congressional staffs.

Constituents received information about the review through a notice in the Federal Register June 20 and mentions in the FSIS Update, a weekly newsletter faxed to industry groups, consumer groups, and others who follow the Agency’s activities. Briefings for industry and consumer representatives were held June 9, with the Administrator and review leaders presenting status reports and answering questions about the review. Briefings were also held for Congressional staffs.

Intent of the Report

The preliminary report is the result of creative brainstorming by a diverse array of knowledgeable FSIS employees responding to the Administrator’s call for bold options. It offers and analyzes a range of possible actions and is meant to serve as a basis for internal and external consideration and comment. The review leaders were concerned about the length of the report, which...
resources are currently allocated within plants, identify potential gaps in the current inspection program’s ability to deliver food safety assurances to the public, and suggest how the gaps might be filled. The team developed a range of options for conducting antemortem and postmortem inspection and HACCP validation and verification.

3. Separation of Industry and USDA Roles

The team was charged with determining strategies and techniques to better define the distinct roles and responsibilities of FSIS and industry in ensuring food safety. It observed that the roles are presently commingled because USDA (FSIS) has assumed many management and consultant functions in the meat and poultry plants it regulates. The team identified 13 techniques for “decoupling” FSIS from the industry and “decoupling” inspection personnel from plants.

FSIS Structure (See Volume III)

4. Organizational Structure

The team was charged with determining the optimal structure needed for headquarters and the field to carry out the goals and strategies of the proposed Pathogen Reduction/HACCP regulation, taking into account the streamlining goals of the Administration and the reinvention objectives outlined in the National Performance Review. The team developed a model for a new, highly integrated organizational structure for FSIS. It considered several ways of streamlining the supervision and management of field regulatory programs.

5. Field and Headquarters Support Services

This team was asked to determine what support activities are best performed in the field and at headquarters. It suggested numerous ways of modifying the existing structure so that streamlining goals can be met and some of the resources now used for support services can be shifted to new food safety initiatives such as HACCP. The team’s approach included looking at ways to combine the regional and area office functions to eliminate duplication of services and reduce support staffing.

6. Policy and Regulation Development

The purpose of this team was to examine how policy and regulation development activities can be better managed within the Agency, FSIS Resource Allocation and Other Administrative Subjects (See Volume IV)

7. Optimal Resource Allocation

This team’s assignment was to determine the optimal balance between resources allocated to health and safety activities and those allocated to economic adulteration, labeling, and misbranding activities. It looked at how FSIS can allocate resources flexibly, with inspectors’ assignments scheduled according to the risk presented by certain plants, products, or processes. Several options were considered for implementing a new resource allocation system.

8. Allocation of Laboratory Resources

The team was charged with determining what level of laboratory activities is necessary for regulatory oversight of industry operations and determining what testing should fall to FSIS and what should be industry’s responsibility. Options were developed for using the FSIS laboratories to support HACCP and other Agency programs.

9. Supervision and Management Roles and Responsibilities

This team was asked to determine the nature of future supervisory and managerial responsibilities and examine better methods for delivering technical information. It called for analyzing supervisory and managerial jobs to determine actual knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA’s) required to perform successfully in FSIS and designing programs to provide supervisors and managers with the necessary level of knowledge and skill in HACCP and pathogen reduction topics.

10. Knowledge, Skills, Abilities and Training

This team looked at the KSA’s and training that will be necessary to carry out the Agency’s future roles along the farm-to-table continuum. It did not, however, address the short-term HACCP training for FSIS employees. Another Agency project is addressing the short-term training needs for HACCP-based inspection.

Comments Sought

Through October 31, FSIS welcomes comments on the preliminary report. The Agency is particularly interested in receiving comments on Volume II: FSIS Regulatory Roles. The topics addressed there directly affect how the Agency deals with the public, and they relate to implementation of the proposed Pathogen Reduction/HACCP regulation.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council will meet in Baltimore, Maryland, October 19–21, 1995, with a tour of local projects scheduled for October 19, 8:00–5:00 p.m. The council is comprised of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The purpose of the meeting is to receive status reports from prior challenge cost-share grant recipients and to initiate discussion on the 1995 Annual Report for Congress. The meeting will be chaired by William Kruidenier of the International Society of Arboriculture and Genni Cross of The Trust for Public Land/California ReLeaf, the Chair-elect. The meeting is open to the public and time will be provided at the beginning of each major agenda topic for public input. However, in order to schedule public input, time to speak must be requested by October 12, 1995. Council discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Council members. Persons who wish to bring urban and community forestry matters to the attention of the Council may file written statements with the Council staff before or after the meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held October 19–21, 1995.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Latham Hotel, 612 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland.


Oscar Gutierrez,

Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.

[FR Doc. 95–22611 Filed 9–11–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 310–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Agency Form Under Review by the Office of Management and Budget

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: Bureau of the Census.

Title: 1996 Integrated Coverage Measurement (ICM) Activities.


Agency Approval Number: None.

Type of Request: New collection.

Burden: 8,541 hours.

Number of Respondents: 18,000.

Avg Hours Per Response: 11 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The Census Bureau requests OMB approval of the various activities and instruments associated with conducting ICM research in two planned tests -- the 1996 ICM Special Test and the 1996 American Indian Reservation Test. The potential ICM activities consist of an independent listing including a quality assurance advance listing, a housing unit followup interview including quality assurance and evaluation interviews, a person and group quarters interview including quality assurance and evaluation interviews, an outmover tracing interview including an evaluation interview, and a dual system estimation followup interview including an evaluation interview. Prompted by the need to improve statistical methodology for estimating population coverage during the decennial census, the Bureau of the Census developed the ICM approach. The ICM approach was first tested in the 1995 Census Test. Results of that test are still under analysis. After completing review of the 1995 ICM results, we may determine that some of these operations, quality control measures, or evaluations are not needed.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: One time only.

Respondents’ Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer: Maria Gonzalez, (202) 395–7313.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Gerald Taché, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482–3271, Department of Commerce, Room 5312, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent to Maria Gonzalez, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10201, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.


Gerald Taché,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 95–22560 Filed 9–11–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–07–F