Notices

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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. 96–026N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods; Renewal

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Reestablishment of Committee.

This notice announces the renewal of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods. The Committee is being renewed in cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and was recommended by a 1985 report of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Food Protection, Subcommittee on Microbiological Criteria, ''An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria for Foods.''

USDA is charged with the enforcement of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA), and the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA). Under these Acts, USDA is responsible for the wholesomeness and safety of meat, poultry, egg products and products thereof intended for human consumption. Similarly, the Secretary of HHS is charged with the enforcement of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). Under this Act, HHS is responsible for ensuring the safety of human foods and animal feeds.

In order to continue to meet the responsibilities of the FMIA, PPIA, EPIA and the FFDCA, the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods is being renewed. The Committee will be tasked with advising and providing recommendations to the Secretaries on the development of microbiological criteria by which the safety and wholesomeness of food can be assessed, including criteria for microorganisms that indicate whether foods have been processed using good manufacturing practices.

Renewal of this Committee is necessary and in the public interest because the development of a sound public policy in this area can best be accomplished by a free and open exchange of information and ideas among Federal, State, and local agencies, the industry, the scientific community, consumer organizations, and other interested parties. The complexity of the issues to be addressed assures that more than one meeting will be required to accomplish the Committee's tasks.

Members will be appointed by the Secretary of USDA after consultation with the Secretary of HHS. Because of their interest in the matters to be addressed by this Committee, advice on membership appointments will be requested from the Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Services and the Department of Defense's Veterinary Service Activity.

For additional information, please contact: Mr. Craig Fedchock, Advisory Committee Specialist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 311, 1255 22nd Street, NW., Washington, DC 20250–3700. Background materials are available for inspection by contacting Mr. Fedchock on (202)254–2517.

Done at Washington, DC, on: May 23, 1996.

Wardell Townsend, Jr.,

Assistant Secretary for Administration.

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Forest Service

Appalachian Power Company Transmission Line Construction-Cloverdale, Virginia, to Oceana, West Virginia. George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the New River, and R.D. Bailey Lake Flowage Land. Virginia Counties of Botetourt, Roanoke, Craig, Montgomery, Pulaski, Bland, and Giles and the West Virginia Counties of Monroe, Summers, Mercer, and Wyoming

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised Notice—Revises the publication date for the Draft Environmental Impact Statements; and identifies the dates and locations for seven public information meetings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare a draft and final environmental impact statement on a proposed action to authorize the Appalachian Power Company (name recently changed to American Electric Power) to construct a 765,000-volt transmission line across approximately twelve miles of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, as well as portions of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the New River (at Bluestone Lake) and R.D. Bailey Lake Flowage Easement Land (at Buyandotte River).

The federal agencies identified a study area in which alternatives to the proposed action were developed. The study area includes land located in the Virginia counties of Botetourt, Roanoke, Craig, Montgomery, Pulaski, Bland and Giles and the West Virginia counties of Monroe, Summers, Mercer and Wyoming.

The Applachian Power Company (APCo) proposal involves federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the USDA Forest Service (George Washington and Jefferson National Forests), the USDI National Park Service (Appalachian National Scenic Trail) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (New River and R.D. Bailey Lake Flowage Easement Land).

The Forest Service is the lead agency and is responsible for the preparation of the environmental impact statement. The National Park Service and the US Army Corps of Engineers are cooperating agencies in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6.

In initiating and conducting the analysis the federal agencies are responding to the requirements of their respective permitting processes and the need for the APCo to cross federal lands with the proposed transmission line.

The Forest Service additionally will assess how the proposed transmission line conforms to the direction contained in the Jefferson National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). Changes in the LRMP could be required if the transmission line is authorized across the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.