

paragraph (c) and by revising newly redesignated paragraph(e)(1) as follows:

§ 28.98 Individual charges in EEO cases.

(c) *Special rules for adverse and performance based actions.* * * *
 (d) *Special rules for RIF based actions.* An individual alleging discrimination issues in connection with a RIF-based separation may follow the procedures outlined above in paragraph (c) of this section for adverse and performance based actions, or may choose instead a third option. In accordance with the provisions of § 28.13, such an individual may appeal that action by filing directly with the PAB, thus bypassing both the Civil Rights Office and the PAB's Office of General Counsel.

(e)(1) The charging party shall file the charge with the General Counsel in accordance with § 28.11. The General Counsel shall investigate the charge in accordance with § 28.12.

(2) A charging party challenging a RIF action by filing directly with the PAB shall follow the procedures prescribed in § 28.13 and § 28.18.

PART 29—GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD; PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO CLAIMS CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT AT THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

8. The authority citation for part 29 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 31 U.S.C. 753.

9. Section 29.8, paragraph (c)(1) and the first sentence of paragraph (c)(2) are revised to read as follows:

§ 29.8 Filing a charge with the General Counsel.

(1) *Filing in person:* A charge may be filed in person at the Office of the General Counsel, Suite 580, Union Center Plaza II, 820 First St. NE., Washington, DC.

(2) *Filing by mail:* A charge may be filed by mail addressed to the General Counsel, Personnel Appeals Board, Suite 580, Union Center Plaza II, 441 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20548.

10. Section 29.10, paragraph (c)(1) and the first sentence of paragraph (c)(2) are revised to read as follows:

§ 29.10 Filing a petition for review with the Board.

(1) *Filing in person:* A petition may be filed in person at the office of the Board, Suite 560, Union Center Plaza II, 820 First Street NE., Washington, DC.

(2) *Filing by mail:* A petition may be filed by mail addressed to the Personnel Appeals Board, Suite 560, Union Center Plaza II, 441 G Street, NW., Washington DC 20548.

Nancy A. McBride,
 Chair, Personnel Appeals Board General Accounting Office.
 [FR Doc. 96-17873 Filed 7-12-96; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 1610-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket 96-016-9]

Karnal Bunt; Public Forum

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public forum.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is hosting a public forum in Washington, DC, on the Agency's program to control and eradicate Karnal bunt. The forum will provide an additional opportunity for the public to comment on the regulations established and amended by a series of interim rules published in the Federal Register since March, 1996. The regulations quarantine portions of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas because of infestations of Karnal bunt, restrict the movement of regulated articles from the quarantined areas, and provide compensation for certain individuals in order to mitigate losses and expenses incurred because of Karnal bunt. Comments will also be accepted addressing any aspect of the Karnal bunt program not included in the regulations, including control and survey activities conducted in the quarantined areas, the national Karnal bunt survey program, and the certification of wheat for export. Information gathered at the public forum will be considered by the Department in developing guidelines and procedures for conducting the Karnal bunt program for the 1996-97 wheat growing season. USDA intends to schedule additional public forums on the Karnal bunt program, to be held in Arizona, California, and Kansas over the

next 2 months. We will give notice of these additional forums in the Federal Register.

DATES: The public forum will be held in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, July 17, 1996, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before September 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The public forum will be held in room 107A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, United States Department of Agriculture, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Persons attending the forum should use the entrance to the building facing the Mall, and will be required to show picture identification at the Guard Desk. Any persons who are unable to attend the forum, but who wish to comment on any aspect of the Karnal bunt program, may send written comments.

Please send an original and three copies of written comments to Docket No. 96-016-9, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 96-106-9. Comments received, including a transcript from the public forum, may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Stephen Poe, Operations Officer, Domestic and Emergency Operations, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-8247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This public forum is being held concerning the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) program to control and eradicate Karnal bunt. Comments will be accepted on the regulations established and amended by a series of interim rules published by APHIS in the Federal Register since March, 1996. These interim rules were published on March 28, 1996 (61 FR 13649-13655, Docket No. 96-016-3), April 25, 1996 (61 FR 18233-18235, Docket No. 96-016-5), and July 5, 1996 (61 FR 35107-35109, Docket No. 96-016-6 and 61 FR 35102-35107, Docket No. 96-016-7). The public forum in Washington, DC, will be held on Wednesday, July 17, 1996, in room 107A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, United States Department of Agriculture, 14th Street

and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC.

Comments were required to be received on Docket No. 96-016-3 on or before May 28, 1996, and on Docket No. 96-016-5 on or before June 24, 1996. We are reopening and extending the comment periods for both of these interim rules until September 3, 1996, in order to receive additional public comments at this forum, and at forums in Arizona, California, and Kansas to be scheduled over the next 2 months. We will give notice of these additional forums in the Federal Register. The comment periods for Docket No. 96-016-6 and Docket No. 96-016-7 are already scheduled to close on September 3, 1996.

A representative of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will preside at the public forum. Any interested person may appear and be heard in person, or through an attorney or other representative. Persons who wish to speak at the public forum will be asked to provide their names and affiliations. Parties wishing to make oral presentations may register in advance by calling the Legislative and Public Affairs staff of APHIS, USDA, at (202) 720-2511 before close of business on July 15, 1996. Registration will also be held at the hearing site on July 17, 1996, from 8 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. Speakers will be scheduled in the order their registration is received.

The public forum will begin at 9 a.m. and is scheduled to end at 5 p.m. local time. However, the forum may be terminated at any time after it begins if all persons desiring to speak have been heard. The presiding officer may limit the time for each presentation so that all interested persons have an opportunity to participate. Attendees who wish to speak but who did not register will be provided time to speak only after all registered speakers have been heard.

The purpose of the forum is to give interested persons an opportunity for oral presentation of data, views, and information to the Department concerning APHIS' program to control and eradicate Karnal bunt. Questions about the content of the interim rules concerning Karnal bunt may be part of the commenters' oral presentations. However, neither the presiding officer nor any other representative of the Department will respond to the comments on the interim rules at the forum, except to clarify or explain provisions of the interim rules.

We ask that anyone who reads a statement provide two copies to the presiding officer at the forum. A transcript will be made of the public forum and the transcript will be placed

in the rulemaking record and will be available for public inspection.

Done in Washington, DC, this 10th day of July 1996.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-17994 Filed 7-11-96; 10:25 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. 96-016-8]

Karnal Bunt; Removal of Quarantined Areas; Technical Amendment

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim rule; technical amendment.

SUMMARY: In an interim rule effective June 27, 1996, and published in the Federal Register on July 5, 1996, we amended the Karnal bunt regulations by removing certain areas in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas from the list of areas quarantined because of infestations of Karnal bunt. We removed a portion of Mohave County, AZ, from the list of quarantined areas that should not have been removed. Therefore, we are amending the boundaries of the quarantined area in Mohave County, AZ, to add that portion of the county to the list of quarantined areas.

DATES: This amendment is effective July 9, 1996. We will consider written comments on the interim rule (Docket No. 96-016-6) published at 61 FR 35107, as corrected by this document, received on or before September 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 96-016-6, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 96-016-6. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael B. Stefan, Operations Officer, Domestic and Emergency Operations, PPD, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-8247; or e-mail: mstefan@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In an interim rule effective June 27, 1996, and published in the Federal Register on July 5, 1996 (Docket No. 96-016-6) (61 FR 35107), we amended the Karnal bunt regulations in 7 CFR 301.89-3(e) by removing areas in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas from the list of areas quarantined because of infestations of Karnal bunt. We removed a portion of Mohave County, AZ, from the list of quarantined areas that should not have been removed. Therefore, we are amending the boundaries of the quarantined area in Mohave County, AZ, to add that portion of the county to the list of quarantined areas.

Before the effective date of this document, the portion of Mohave County, AZ, that remained under quarantine for Karnal bunt was located in the western central region of the county and, therefore, was isolated from the larger, continuous area quarantined for infestations of Karnal bunt that includes counties, and portions of counties, in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. We are expanding the quarantined area in Mohave County, AZ, to include the portion of the county that connects the previously isolated quarantined area to the larger quarantined area. The portion of Mohave County, AZ, that we are adding to the list of quarantined areas does not produce wheat and has no association with Karnal bunt contaminated seed, but regulated articles from areas that are quarantined because of infestations of Karnal bunt are transported through this area. As amended by this document, the quarantined area of Mohave County, AZ, is that portion of the county bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Arizona/Nevada State line and State Route 68; then east along State Route 68 to U.S. Highway 93; then southeast along U.S. Highway 93 to Interstate 40; then east along Interstate 40 to U.S. Highway 93; then south along U.S. Highway 93 to the Mohave/Yavapai County line; then south along the Mohave County line to the Mohave/La Paz County line; then west along the Mohave County line to the Arizona/California State line; then north along the State line to the point of beginning.

This action prevents the artificial spread of Karnal bunt into noninfested areas of the United States while allowing the movement of regulated articles within the area quarantined for Karnal bunt, including counties, and portions of counties, in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 301

Agricultural commodities, Plant diseases and pests, Quarantine,