expand the pH range for acidified sodium chlorite solutions as an antimicrobial agent in water and ice intended for use on seafood (fresh or saltwater).

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments on the petitioner's environmental assessment by May 12, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit electronic comments to *http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mical E. Honigfort, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS–265), Food and Drug Administration, 5100 Paint Branch Pkwy., College Park, MD 20740, 202–418–0714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (sec. 409(b)(5) (21 U.S.C. 348(b)(5))), notice is given that a food additive petition (FAP 3A4743) has been filed by Alcide Corp., 8561 154th Ave. NE., Redmond, WA 98052–3557. The petition proposes to amend the food additive regulations in § 173.325 *Acidified sodium chlorite solutions* (21 CFR 173.325) to expand the permitted use concentration and to expand the pH range for acidified sodium chlorite solutions as an antimicrobial agent in water and ice intended for use on seafood (fresh or saltwater).

The potential environmental impact of this petition is being reviewed. To encourage public participation consistent with regulations issued under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1501.4(b)), the agency is placing the environmental assessment submitted with the petition that is the subject of this notice on public display at the Dockets Management Branch (address above) for public review and comment. Interested persons may, on or before, May 12, 2003, submit to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) written or electronic comments. Submit a single copy of electronic comments to *http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments* or two hard copies of any written comments, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. FDA will also place on public display any amendments to, or comments on, the petitioner's environmental assessment without further announcement in the **Federal Register**. If, based on its review, the agency finds that an environmental impact statement is not required, and this petition results in a regulation, the notice of availability of the agency's Finding of No Significant impact and the evidence supporting that finding will be published with the regulation in the **Federal Register** in accordance with 21 CFR 25.40(c).

Dated: March 14, 2003.

Alan M. Rulis,

Director, Office of Food Additive Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

[FR Doc. 03–8694 Filed 4–9–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

9th Annual FDA Science Forum—''FDA Science: Protecting America's Health''

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Office of Science is announcing the following meeting entitled ''9th Annual FDA Science Forum—FDA Science: Protecting America's Health.'' The Science Forum is FDA's key scientific meeting that seeks to communicate and promote scientific issues relating to scientific development and associated regulatory concerns. Open to the public, the 2003 Forum is designed to bring FDA scientists together with representatives from industry, academia, government agencies, consumer and patient advocacy groups, and international constituents to explore emerging public health issues and to learn and share knowledge and ideas of the science-based mission of the agency.

Date and Time: The Science Forum will be held on Thursday and Friday, April 24 and 25, 2003. On April 24, 2003, registration will be from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. On April 25, 2003, registration will be from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the meeting from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Location: New Washington Convention Center, Mount Vernon Square, Washington, DC 20001.

Contact: Susan Bond, FDA, Office of Science (HF–33), 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301–827–6687, e-mail: *sbond@oc.fda.gov*.

Registration: Complete detailed program, and exhibitor information are available at *www.dcscienceforum.org*. (FDA has verified the Web site address, but is not responsible for subsequest changes to the Web site after this document publishes in the **Federal Register**.) Due to limited seating, interested parties are encouraged to register early. If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact *dmentch@oc.fda.gov* or 301–827–3038.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Science Forum will focus on three plenary tracks with corresponding break-out sessions in the areas of:

- Risk management & risk assessment
- Novel science initiatives at FDA
- FDA's mission post- 9/11/01 and beyond

A poster session featuring all areas of FDA regulatory science will be presented to provide an opportunity for interested scientists to engage in information exchange with FDA scientists.

An exhibition of scientific products, services, and professional societies sponsored by Williamsburg BioProcessing Foundation will be held during the entire event. Interested exhibitors should contact: *clsokker@wilbio.com*. (FDA has verified the Web site address but is not responsible for subsequent changes to the Web site after this document publishes in the **Federal Register**.) An FDA Job Fair will be held as part of this exhibition.

This event is co-sponsored by the FDA Office of Science & Health Coordination, Williamsburg BioProcessing Foundation, AOAC International, California Separation Science Society, and the FDA Chapter of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society.

Dated: April 4, 2003.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy and Planning.

[FR Doc. 03–8759 Filed 4–9–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Office of the Director; Office of Dietary Supplements: Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment and Public Meeting

Background

The Office Dietary Supplements (ODS) was established in the Office of the Director, NIH, in 1995 as a major provision of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). A key early activity was the