

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 68, No. 175

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

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

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of the Availability of the Draft National Animal Agriculture Conservation Framework (NAACF) for Public Review and Comment

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: NRCS is seeking public comments on the draft National Animal Agriculture Conservation Framework (NAACF). NRCS is asking for comments from individuals; the livestock and poultry industries; private consultants; Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments or subgroups thereof; universities and colleges; environmental groups; conservation organizations; and other entities. These comments will assist NRCS in the development of the final NAACF. This National Framework presents an approach for assisting livestock and poultry producers with voluntary, proactive efforts to foster environmentally sound and economically viable production.

DATES: Comments must be received by October 27, 2003.

Location of the Document: The full text of the NAACF and related documents can be found on the NRCS Homepage at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/af0>, or can be obtained by hard copy from the contact address below.

ADDRESSES: Address all requests and comments to: Angel L. Figueroa, Natural Resources Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Stop Code 5473, Beltsville, Maryland 20705; phone: 301-504-2225; fax: 301-504-2264, e-mail: angel.figueroa@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Addressing the conservation needs of America's livestock and poultry producers is a public policy priority. The natural resource conservation provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-171, made clear that producers should receive assistance to improve their operations' environmental performance, address Federal, Tribal, State, and local environmental regulatory requirements, and maintain economically viable operations.

In January 2003, Bruce I. Knight, Chief, NRCS, called for NRCS State Conservationists to work with their State Technical Committees to develop State Frameworks with the objective of meeting the conservation challenges facing animal production agriculture over the next 10 to 15 years. These State Frameworks provided the foundation for the development of the draft NAACF. More importantly, this National Framework recognizes that meaningful action will take place on farms and ranches across the Nation, and that programmatic objectives and concrete goals will be appropriately established at the local level in a manner consistent with the authorized and required purposes and objectives of the underlying conservation programs. This National Framework also envisions that these locally established goals, consistent with the underlying national guidance, will become NRCS objectives through established agency planning processes that build State and national priorities from local input.

The NAACF presents a vision for voluntary, proactive efforts to foster environmentally sound and economically viable livestock and poultry production. It envisions collaboration among Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments; producers; the public; and the private sector to bring the initiative, resources, and commitment to support environmental stewardship in animal agriculture. Four objectives guide this vision:

- Helping producers to meet environmental regulatory requirements;
- Helping producers reduce the need for further regulation through flexible, results-based multi-media solutions;
- Promoting innovation and market-based opportunities; and

—Sharing knowledge and increasing accountability.

The draft NAACF identifies six guiding principles that lay the groundwork for approaching environmental stewardship:

- *Local Decision-making and Action*—Defining the locally important issues, opportunities, and needs as the basis for developing workable objectives and actions. It is based on the principle that local stakeholders are best suited to deal with local resource challenges and opportunities.

- *Building and Enhancing Partnerships*—A broad cross section of partners with interests and concerns related to animal agriculture, and new partners not traditionally engaged in agriculture will be needed.

- *Flexible and Practical*—To be workable, approaches must be practical and adaptive in order to respond to changes in animal agriculture and its environmental, social, and economic conditions. Animal production is dynamic, and approaches must be flexible to respond to the demands of changing conditions.

- *Progressive Implementation*—The progression toward complete resource management systems must be based on the implementation of individual decisions over a reasonable period of time. Progressive conservation implementation ensures steady and logical advancements in achieving environmental objectives. Incremental achievement of environmental benefits enables livestock and poultry operations to remain economically viable while progressing toward the attainment of environmental objectives.

- *Forward Looking and Innovative*—Innovative approaches and technologies will be needed to bring new solutions to current resource concerns, as well as providing solutions for emerging concerns.

- *Science-based*—Sound science must form the basis for solutions to ensure that they deliver what is expected by producers and the public. Through advancements in science, new innovations that are more effective and practical will be discovered, proven, and justified.

NRCS is committed to working effectively with its current partners in the agricultural and environmental communities, and bringing new partners to the table, to develop and implement

approaches to help the Nation's livestock and poultry producers achieve environmental and economic objectives. The NAACF is intended to be a representation of NRCS' commitment to this critical conservation opportunity.

Signed at Washington, DC, on August 29, 2003.

Bruce I. Knight,

Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

[FR Doc. 03-22979 Filed 9-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting

In connection with its investigation into a building fire explosion at Kaltech Industries Group, Inc., which injured 31 people, including 14 persons who were not employed by Kaltech on April 25, 2002, the United States Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board announces that it will convene a Public Meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. local time on September 30, at the Hilton New York, 1335 Avenue of Americas, New York, New York 10018.

The incident originated in space leased by Kaltech Industries Group Inc. in a mixed occupancy building in a densely populated area of the Chelsea district of New York City. Kaltech manufactures architectural quality signs and letters. Kaltech generates hazardous waste during the course of normal operations and is designated as a Large Quantity Waste Generator under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976. On the day of the incident Kaltech employees had just finished consolidating hazardous waste from smaller containers into two large drums. The waste was incompatible with each other and an explosion occurred. Key issues involved in this investigation concern hazard communication, hazardous waste handling and municipal oversight.

At the meeting CSB staff will present to the Board the results of their investigation into this incident, including an analysis of the incident together with a discussion of the key findings, root and contributing causes, and draft recommendations.

Recommendations are issued by a vote of the Board and address an identified safety deficiency uncovered during the investigation, and specify how to correct the situation. Safety recommendations are the primary tool used by the Board to motivate implementation of safety improvements

and prevent future incidents. The CSB uses its unique independent accident investigation perspective to identify trends or issues that might otherwise be overlooked. CSB recommendations may be directed to corporations, trade associations, government entities, safety organizations, labor unions and others.

After the staff presentation, the Board will allow a time for public comment. Following the conclusion of the public comment period, the Board will consider whether to vote to approve the final report and recommendations. When a report and its recommendations are approved, this will begin CSB's process for disseminating the findings and recommendations of the report not only to the recipients of recommendations but also to other public and industry sectors. The CSB believes that this process will ultimately lead to the adoption of recommendations and the growing body of safety knowledge in the industry, which, in turn, should save future lives and property.

All staff presentations are preliminary and are intended solely to allow the Board to consider in a public forum the issues and factors involved in this case. No factual analyses, conclusions or findings should be considered final. Only after the Board has considered the staff presentation and approved the staff report will there be an approved final record of this incident.

The incident originated in space leased by Kaltech Industries Group Inc. in a mixed occupancy building in a densely populated area of the Chelsea district of New York City. Kaltech manufactures architectural quality signs and letters. Kaltech generates hazardous waste during the course of normal operations and is designated as a Large Quantity Waste Generator under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976. On the day of the incident Kaltech employees had just finished consolidating hazardous waste from smaller containers into two large drums. The waste was incompatible with each other and an explosion occurred. Key issues involved in this investigation concern hazard communication, hazardous waste handling and municipal oversight.

The meeting will be open to the public. Please notify CSB if a translator or interpreter is needed, at least 5 business days prior to the public meeting. For more information, please contact the Chemical Safety and Hazard

Investigation Board at (202)-261-7600, or visit our Web site at: www.csb.gov.

Christopher W. Warner,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 03-23174 Filed 9-8-03; 12:55 pm]

BILLING CODE 6350-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 1282]

Approval for Expansion of Manufacturing Authority Within Subzone 193A; Cardinal Health 409, Inc., Plant (Pharmaceutical Gelatin Capsules), Pinellas County, FL

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, grantee of FTZ 193A, has requested authority to expand the scope of manufacturing activity under zone procedures within Subzone 193A at the Cardinal Health 409, Inc. (formerly RP Scherer Corporation) plant in Pinellas County, Florida (FTZ Docket 17-2003, filed 3/27/2003);

Whereas, notice inviting public comment has been given in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 18196, April 15, 2003);

Whereas, pursuant to section 400.32(b)(1) of the FTZ Board regulations (15 CFR 400), the Secretary of Commerce's delegate on the FTZ Board has the authority to act for the Board in making decisions regarding manufacturing activity within existing zones when the proposed activity is the same, in terms of products involved, to activity recently approved by the Board and similar in circumstances (15 CFR 400.32(b)(1)(i)); and,

Whereas, the Board adopts the findings and recommendations of the examiner's report, and finds that the requirements of the FTZ Act and Board's regulations are satisfied, and that the proposal is in the public interest;

Now, Therefore, the Board hereby orders:

The application to expand the scope of authority under zone procedures within Subzone 193A on behalf of Cardinal Health 409, Inc., is approved, subject to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations, including section 400.28.