

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

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture; Meeting

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. II, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21).

DATES: December 4–5, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Written request to make oral presentations at the meeting must be received by the contact person identified herein at least three business days before the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Vista C Room at the Wyndham Washington Hotel, 1400 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005. Requests to make oral presentations at the meeting may be sent to the contact person at USDA, Office of the Deputy Secretary, 202 B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th and Independence Avenues, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Schechtman, Designated Federal Official, Office of the Deputy Secretary, USDA, 202B Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 720-3817; Fax (202) 690-4265; E-mail mschechtman@ars.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The third meeting of the AC21 has been scheduled for December 4–5, 2003. The AC21 consists of 18 members representing the biotechnology industry, the seed industry, international plant genetics research, farmers, food manufacturers,

commodity processors and shippers, environmental and consumer groups, along with academic researchers including a bioethicist. In addition, representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, and State, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of the United States Trade Representative serve as “ex officio” members. The Committee meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on each day. Items on the AC21’s agenda include: Continuing work to develop a report examining the impacts of agricultural biotechnology on American agriculture and USDA over the next 5 to 10 years in two sub-areas, namely (1) discussion of issues and concerns related to impacts of plant biotechnology products that may be developed over the next 5 to 10 years, as identified by AC21 work groups, and (2) preliminary presentations and introductory discussions related to animal biotechnology products that may be developed over the same time frame; and preliminary presentations and introductory discussions on the issue of the proliferation of traceability and mandatory labeling regimes for biotechnology-derived products in other countries, the implications of those regimes, and what industry is doing to attempt to address those requirements for products shipped to those countries.

Background information regarding the work of the AC21 will be available on the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/agencies/biotech/ac21.html>. On December 4, 2003, if time permits, reasonable provision will be made for oral presentations of no more than five minutes each in duration.

The meeting will be open to the public, but space is limited. If you would like to attend the meetings, you must register by contacting Ms. Dianne Harmon at (202) 720-4074, by fax at (202) 720-3191 or by E-mail at dharmon@ars.usda.gov at least 5 days prior to the meeting. Please provide your name, title, business affiliation, address, telephone, and fax number when you register. If you require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation due to disability, please

indicate those needs at the time of registration.

Edward B. Knipling,

Acting Administrator, ARS.

[FR Doc. 03-29230 Filed 11-20-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Gray Mountain Coal Lease Proposal

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA; Cooperating Agencies: Bureau of Land Management, (BLM) and the Office of Surface Mining (OSM).

ACTION: Public hearing on the Gray Mountain Coal Lease Proposal.

SUMMARY: As the lead federal agency, in cooperation with the BLM, the Daniel Boone National Forest hereby announces that the BLM will conduct a public hearing to accept comments on the Gray Mountain Coal Lease Land Use Analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LUA and DEIS). This hearing is being held in accordance with regulations found at 43 CFR 3425.4. This hearing is being conducted to receive public input on a proposal to offer federal coal in a competitive lease sale as addressed in the LUA and DEIS. The 1,210.44 acres proposed for leasing are located within the Daniel Boone National Forest in Leslie County, Kentucky.

DATE COMMENTS ARE DUE: The public hearing is being held on November 24, 2003 at 2 p.m. The comment period closes on November 24, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information related to this hearing, contact Sid Vogelpohl, Assistant Field Manager, Mineral Resources, BLM, Eastern States, Jackson Field Office. He can be reached at (601) 977-5402, or by mail at 411 Briarwood Dr., Suite 404, Jackson, MS 39206.

For information related to the LUA and DEIS, please contact Corey Miller, the interdisciplinary team leader for this proposed action, at the Daniel Boone National Forest, 1700 Bypass Road, Winchester, KY 40391, or by telephone at (859) 745-3149.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This public hearing is scheduled for November 24, 2003. The hearing will be held at 2 p.m. at the Leslie County