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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Food Stamp Program: Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Disaster Food Stamp Assistance

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on proposed information collections. This information collection is based on the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, which provide the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to develop an emergency food stamp program to address the needs of families temporarily in need of food assistance after a disaster. The information collection under this notice is required for the establishment and operation of emergency food stamp assistance programs.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before November 15, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who respond, including

through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Patrick Waldron, Branch Chief, Certification Policy Branch, Program Development Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be faxed to the attention of Mr. Waldron at (703) 305-2486. The Internet address is:

patrick.waldron@FNS.USDA.GOV. All written comments will be open for public inspection at the office of the Food and Nutrition Service during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) at 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia, 22302, Room 812.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Mr. Waldron at (703) 305-2495.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Emergency Food Stamp Assistance for Victims of Disasters.

OMB Number: 0584-0336.

Expiration Date: 1/31/2000.

Type of Request: Reinstatement with a change of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Abstract: Pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, the Secretary of Agriculture has the authority to develop an emergency food stamp program to address the temporary food needs of families following a disaster. The information collection under this notice is required to be provided by State agencies in order to receive approval from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to operate an emergency food stamp program as the result of a disaster.

The number of disasters that occur annually and the average number of households affected by disasters cannot be accurately predicted. In reviewing the number of disasters for the last three fiscal years, we found that although the number of disasters remained relatively constant, most disasters covered small

geographic areas and affected small populations resulting in a decreased reporting burden. In 1999, there were eight disasters with the number of disaster-affected households ranging from 93 to 147,189. In 2000, there were four disasters with the number of disaster-affected households ranging from 12 to 40,149. In 2001, there were four disasters and the number of disaster-affected households ranging from 410 to 56,060. The information collection under this reporting burden is limited to burden encountered by State agencies in preparing their requests to operate disaster food stamp programs. We estimate that approximately 10 hours of State agency personnel time would be required to prepare such requests. Previously, we had included in this information collection the burden associated with the application process experienced by disaster victims applying for assistance under State disaster food stamp programs as well as the burden experienced by State and local food stamp personnel in processing such applications. Upon review we have determined that the reporting burden associated with the process of applying for food stamp benefits under disaster food stamp programs has been included in approved information collection under the overall food stamp application-processing burden (approved under OMB no. 0584-0064) and that including the application-processing burden under this information collection would be redundant.

Based on an estimate of six State agency requests per year to operate disaster food stamp programs and 10 hours of State agency personnel time to prepare each application, we have calculated an estimated burden of 60 hours per year in an average year. We note that in most years the number of disasters (six) necessitating the operation of disaster food stamp programs falls below the minimum threshold for which OMB approval of the reporting burden associated with this information collection is required. Since an above average number of disasters may occur in any given year we have elected to submit this information collection to OMB for their approval, and consequently, are requesting public comments associated with the collection.

Affected Public: Food Stamp recipients; State and local governments.
Estimated Number of Responses: 6.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 6.
Estimated Number of Responses per Recipient: 1.

Estimated Time per Response: 10 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 60 hours.

Dated: September 5, 2002.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 02-23488 Filed 9-13-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02-031N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, United States Department of Agriculture, is sponsoring a public meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2002, to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific (CCNASWP). The Under Secretary recognizes the importance of providing interested parties with information about the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) and to address items on the Agenda for the 7th CCNASWP.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1, 2002 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 0161 South Building, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC. To receive copies of the documents referenced in the notice contact the FSIS Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. The documents will also be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp>. If you have comments,

please send an original and two copies to the FSIS Docket Clerk and reference Docket #02-031N. All comments submitted will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. William James, Acting Director, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Phone: (202) 205-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Dr. James at the above number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Codex is the major international organization for protecting the health and economic interests of consumers and for encouraging fair international trade in food. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled. In the United States, USDA, FDA, and EPA manage and carry out U.S. Codex activities.

The Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific defines the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control. It provides within the committee contacts for the mutual exchange of information on proposed regulatory initiatives and problems arising from food control and stimulates the strengthening of food control infrastructures. It recommends to the Commission the development of worldwide standards for products of interest to the region, including products considered by the committee to have an international market potential in the future. It exercises a general coordinating role for the region and such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Commission. It draws the attention of the Commission to any aspects of the Commission's work of particular significance to the region. The Government of Canada is hosting this activity.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The provisional agenda items will be discussed during the public meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Matters Referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees
3. Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and Other FAO and WHO work on Food Standards
4. Other Matters of Interest from FAO and WHO
5. Consideration of the Draft Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007
6. Consideration of "Traceability/Product Tracing"
7. Capacity Building for Food Standards and Regulations
8. Information and Reports on Food Control and Food Safety Issues including Codex Standards
9. Consumer Participation in Food Standards Setting at the Codex and National Level
10. Strategic Plan for NASWP
11. Nomination of the Coordinator from among the Members of the Commission
12. Other Business and Future Work

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Canadian Secretariat to the Meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents (*see ADDRESSES*).

Public Meeting

At the October 1st public meeting, the agenda items will be described, discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Comments may also be sent to the FSIS Docket Room (*see ADDRESSES*). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 7th CCNASWP (Docket #02-031N).

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS Web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of