

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 67, No. 220

Thursday, November 14, 2002

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

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02-041N]

#### Summit on *Listeria monocytogenes*

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing that it will hold a one day summit on *Listeria monocytogenes* on November 18, 2002. The summit will provide a forum for experts from government, academia, industry and consumer organizations to discuss current government thinking and activities regarding *L. monocytogenes*.

**DATES:** The public meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2002. The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 550 C Street, SW., Washington, DC. A tentative agenda is available in the FSIS Docket Room and on the Internet at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. FSIS welcomes comments on the topics to be discussed at the public meeting. Please send an original to the FSIS Docket Room, Reference Docket #02-041N, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. All comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when they become available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the address provided above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen Hulebak at (202) 720-2644. Registration for the meeting will be onsite. FSIS encourages attendees to pre-register as soon as possible by contacting Ms. Mary Harris of the FSIS Planning Staff at (202) 690-6497 or by

e-mail to [mary.harris@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:mary.harris@fsis.usda.gov). If a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations are necessary, contact Ms. Harris at the above numbers no later than November 15, 2002.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On February 27, 2001, FSIS published a proposed rule "Performance Standards for the Production of Processed Meat and Poultry Products" (66 FR 12590). In that document, the Agency proposed testing requirements intended to reduce the incidence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat (RTE) meat and poultry products, as well as food safety performance standards applicable to all RTE and partially heat-treated meat and poultry products. The Agency received numerous comments on several aspects of the proposed rule.

##### Public Meeting

The Agency is providing a forum for experts from government, industry, academia, and consumer organizations to discuss current research and information on the best methods to identify and control *L. monocytogenes* in the processing environment and reduce the incidence in all RTE meat and poultry products.

The meeting will consist of sessions on *Listeria* risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication. The FSIS moderators for the sessions on risk assessment, management, and communication will provide an overview of current Agency activities. Representatives from industry, government, and academia will discuss various issues related to assessing, managing, and communicating the risks associated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. Following these three sessions, stakeholders from industry, consumer groups, and academia will provide their perspectives on the current and proposed regulatory and industry practices and research needs. The Agency will invite comment and discussion at each of the sessions.

##### FSIS has developed a list of questions for which it seeks input.

Regarding risk assessment:

- How can risk assessment be used to improve HACCP (e.g., the use of food safety objectives) as it relates to *L. monocytogenes*?
- What approaches might be employed to collect data on the

presence or level of *L. monocytogenes* on a RTE product, or on possible correlations between *L. monocytogenes* in the environment and *L. monocytogenes* in product produced in that environment. Such data are critical for risk assessments in order to inform decision makers and other stakeholders in the development of effective controls.

- What is the nature and level of peer-review that is necessary to obtain a scientifically sound assessment upon which to base regulatory decisions? When in the process should FSIS seek such input?

Regarding risk management:

- What is the relative role of environmental and product testing in detecting and preventing *L. monocytogenes* contamination? What are elements of an effective testing program?

- For processing interventions, what are the different types, the level of pathogen reduction achieved by each, and the interventions best suited for small and very small establishments?

Regarding risk communication:

- Through what channels and tools can FSIS most effectively disseminate food safety advice to those at particular risk of developing listeriosis? Are people listening to the messages out there now?

- What role does the food industry see itself playing in communicating risks associated with RTE foods to the public?

- When should FSIS issue a public health alert in an outbreak situation? Should it do so even if the cause of the outbreak has not yet been determined so that consumers—particularly those at high risk—can take precautions?

##### Additional Public Notification

Public involvement in 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 and informed about the mechanism for providing their comments, FSIS will announce it and make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available on line through the Internet 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 information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information, contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv), go to the "Constituent Update" page on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update.htm>. Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done in Washington, DC, on November 8, 2002.

**Dr. Garry L. McKee,**

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 02-28915 Filed 11-13-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

*Agency:* U.S. Census Bureau.

*Title:* Annual Capital Expenditures Survey.

*Form Number(s):* ACE-1(S), ACE-1(M), ACE-1(Long), ACE-2.

*Agency Approval Number:* 0607-0782.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Burden:* 145,000 hours.

*Number of Respondents:* 61,000.

*Avg. Hours Per Response:* 2 hours and 23 minutes.

*Needs and Uses:* Data on the amount of business expenditures for new plant and equipment and measures of the stock of existing facilities are critical to evaluate productivity growth, the ability of U.S. business to compete with foreign business, changes in industrial capacity, and measures of overall economic performance. The ACES is the current source of comprehensive statistics on business investment in buildings and

other structures, machinery, and equipment for private non-farm businesses in the United States.

The plan for the continued survey is a basic annual survey that collects fixed assets and depreciation, sales and receipts, and total capital expenditures for new and used structures and equipment separately, from employer enterprises. This collection is intended to represent the capital expenditure activity of all employer firms and provide comprehensive control estimates of total capital expenditures for structures and equipment by industry. A mail out/mail back survey form will be used to collect data. Employer companies will be mailed one of three forms based on their diversity of operations and number of industries with payroll. Major planned revisions from the previously approved collection are the elimination of the separate question on the amount of capitalized interest incurred during the year to produce or construct assets reported as capital expenditures; and, the addition of a request for data on capitalized costs of computer software developed or obtained for internal use.

The ACES is an integral part of the Federal Government statistical program to improve and supplement ongoing statistical programs. Federal Government agencies, including the Census Bureau, use the data to improve and supplement ongoing statistical programs.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

*Legal Authority:* Title 13 U.S.C.,

Sections 182, 224, and 225.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Susan Schechter, (202) 395-5103.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dhynek@doc.gov](mailto:dhynek@doc.gov)).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Susan Schechter, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202) 395-7245 or e-mail ([susan\\_schechter@omb.eop.gov](mailto:susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov)).

Dated: November 8, 2002.

**Madeleine Clayton,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 02-28912 Filed 11-13-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-7-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

*Agency:* U.S. Census Bureau.

*Title:* Quarterly Survey of Residential Alterations and Repairs.

*Form Number(s):* SORAR-705.

*Agency Approval Number:* 0607-0130.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Burden:* 2,400 hours.

*Number of Respondents:* 2,400.

*Avg Hours Per Response:* 15 minutes.

*Needs and Uses:* The U.S. Census Bureau is requesting an extension of the current approved collection for the Quarterly Survey of Residential Alterations and Repairs. The Census Bureau is responsible for preparing estimates of the expenditures for residential improvement and repairs. This segment of the construction industry amounted to over \$150 billion in 2000. While the majority of the data are gathered from the Consumer Expenditure Survey (OMB number 1220-0050), a portion of the data (nearly \$50 billion in 2000) are collected in this survey. The survey form is mailed quarterly to a sample of owners of rental or vacant residential properties. Since residential improvement and repairs are a large growing economic sector, any measure of the construction industry would be incomplete without the inclusion of these data.

The Census Bureau uses the information collected to publish improvement and repair expenditures for rental and vacant residential properties. Data on improvements and repairs to owner-occupied properties are collected in the Consumer Expenditures Survey. Combined published estimates are used by a variety of private businesses and trade associations for marketing studies, economic forecasts and assessments of the construction industry. They also provide all levels of Government with a tool to evaluate economic policy and measure progress towards established goals. For example, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) uses improvement statistics to develop the residential structures component of the gross private domestic investment in the national income and product accounts.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households, business or other for-profit, State, local or tribal governments.