

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.

JOINT BOARD FOR THE ENROLLMENT OF ACTUARIES

Meeting of the Advisory Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries.

ACTION: Notice of Federal Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The Executive Director of the Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries gives notice of a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations (portions of which will be open to the public) in Washington, DC at the Office of Professional Responsibility on January 8 and January 9, 2009.

DATES: Thursday, January 8, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, January 9, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Room 7718, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick W. McDonough, Executive Director of the Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries, 202-622-8225.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations will meet in Room 7718, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC on Thursday, January 8, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, January 9, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss topics and questions that may be recommended for inclusion on future Joint Board examinations in actuarial mathematics and methodology referred to in 29 U.S.C. 1242(a)(1)(B) and to review the November 2008 Pension (EA-2A) Joint Board Examination in order to make recommendations relative thereto, including the minimum acceptable pass score. Topics for inclusion on the syllabus for the Joint Board's examination program for the

May 2009 Basic (EA-1) Examination and the May 2009 Pension (EA-2B) Examination will be discussed.

A determination has been made as required by section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., that the portions of the meeting dealing with the discussion of questions that may appear on the Joint Board's examinations and the review of the November 2008 Joint Board examination fall within the exceptions to the open meeting requirement set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B), and that the public interest requires that such portions be closed to public participation.

The portion of the meeting dealing with the discussion of the other topics will commence at 1 p.m. on January 8 and will continue for as long as necessary to complete the discussion, but not beyond 3 p.m. Time permitting, after the close of this discussion by Committee members, interested persons may make statements germane to this subject. Persons wishing to make oral statements should notify the Executive Director in writing prior to the meeting in order to aid in scheduling the time available and should submit the written text, or at a minimum, an outline of comments they propose to make orally. Such comments will be limited to 10 minutes in length. All persons planning to attend the public session should notify the Executive Director in writing to obtain building entry. Notifications of intent to make an oral statement or to attend must be faxed, no later than December 31, 2008, to 202-622-8300, Attn: Executive Director. Any interested person also may file a written statement for consideration by the Joint Board and the Committee by sending it to the; Internal Revenue Service, Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries, Attn: Executive Director, SE:OPR, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

Dated: November 17, 2008.

Patrick W. McDonough,

Executive Director, Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries.

[FR Doc. E8-28526 Filed 12-1-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS 2007-0001]

Draft Risk Assessment for the Public Health Impact of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus in Poultry, Shell Eggs, and Egg Products

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is requesting public comment on a draft quantitative food safety risk assessment for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus associated with the consumption of poultry products, shell eggs, and egg products. The purpose of this risk assessment is to: (1) Estimate the public health impact from human exposure to HPAI virus through the consumption of contaminated poultry products, shell eggs, and egg products, and (2) evaluate the relative effectiveness of strategies to reduce or prevent exposure to HPAI virus from the consumption of poultry meat, shell eggs, and egg products.

DATES: Submit written comments by February 2, 2009.

ADDRESSES: FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

* *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions.

* *Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROMs, and hand- or courier-delivered items:* Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), FSIS, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2534 South Building, Washington, DC 20250.

All submissions received must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2007-0001.

All comments submitted in response to this notice will be posted to Agency's Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2008_Notices_Index/. Individuals who do not wish FSIS to post their personal contact information—mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number—on the Internet may leave this information off of their comments. Comments will also be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed

above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Neal J. Golden, Office of Public Health Science, FSIS, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Aerospace Center, Washington, DC 20250-3700; Telephone: (202) 690-6419; Fax: (202) 690-6337; Electronic mail: neal.golden@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Avian influenza viruses are Influenza A viruses of the family Orthomyxoviridae and are endemic in birds of many countries. Avian influenza has been shown to infect mammalian species including cats, horses, pigs, seals, and whales. Avian influenza varies in its ability to cause disease in both humans and birds. Most strains are classified as low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) which causes mild disease in infected domestic poultry characterized by low morbidity and low mortality rates. LPAI virus rarely infects humans and does not pose a significant human health threat. HPAI virus, however, causes a more severe clinical disease in infected poultry, with high morbidity and mortality rates. HPAI virus can occasionally infect humans and other mammalian species. For more information on avian influenza viruses see <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome?contentonly=true&contentid=2005/11/0511.xml>.

The majority of known human cases of HPAI are epidemiologically linked to close contact with live or dead poultry, resulting in occasional infection of poultry workers, poultry cullers, and poultry farmers (<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/avian/en/>). Possible routes of infection include respiratory inhalation of infective droplets or self-inoculation (e.g., by a human handler touching mucous membranes or conjunctiva after contact with avian fecal contamination, avian respiratory secretions, or avian body fluids), rather than consumption of poultry products, shell eggs, or egg products (http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/biohaz/biohaz_documents/1412.html).

There are no reported epidemiological data linking the consumption of poultry products, eggs, or egg products to human illness from HPAI virus. Despite this lack of evidence, the possibility of consumption as an exposure route remains a concern to food safety experts. In Asia, two cases of HPAI infection may be related to food consumption of infected raw duck blood

products, although contact with live or dead HPAI-infected poultry could not be epidemiologically excluded.

In light of the recent HPAI poultry and human outbreaks in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, and of the lack of clear evidence of a risk from exposure through consumption of poultry products, shell eggs, and egg products, a draft risk assessment was developed by an Interagency Workgroup formed from representatives of each of these three agencies: FSIS, the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The purpose of this quantitative risk assessment is to: (1) Estimate the public health impact from human exposure to HPAI virus through the consumption of contaminated poultry products, shell eggs, and egg products, and (2) evaluate the relative effectiveness of strategies to reduce or prevent exposure to HPAI virus from the consumption of poultry products, shell eggs, and egg products.

Other routes of exposure such as inhalation, mucosal contact, wound exposures by food preparers, and consumer contact with contaminated raw poultry and eggs, as well as farm and processing occupational exposures, are not addressed in this risk assessment.

II. The Draft Risk Assessment

This draft risk assessment has undergone an independent external peer review consistent with the requirements in OMB's "Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review" and substantial review by various government agencies. This quantitative risk assessment provides a science-based, analytical approach to collate and incorporate available data into a mathematical model. It provides risk managers with a decision-support tool to evaluate the effectiveness of preparedness and current and future interventions to reduce or prevent foodborne illness. This risk assessment can also be used to target risk communication messages, identify and prioritize research needs, and provide a framework for coordinating efforts with stakeholders.

Potential human exposure was modeled separately for poultry products and for shell eggs. Egg products were qualitatively addressed. The draft exposure models for poultry products and for shell eggs estimated human exposure from the HPAI contamination of a single chicken, turkey, or hen flock and considered the farm-to-fork continuum including the farm,

transportation, slaughter, consumer cooking, and consumer cross-contamination during preparation.

As part of an evaluation of the draft risk assessment, FSIS is seeking comments that can be used to improve:

- (1) The assumptions made,
- (2) The modeling techniques,
- (3) The data used, and

(4) The clarity of the draft risk assessment document.

It is FSIS's intent to review and evaluate all public comments and make modifications to the assessment, as appropriate. The draft risk assessment is available electronically on the FSIS Web site (http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Risk_Assessments/index.asp).

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that the public and in particular minorities, women, and persons with disabilities, are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it on-line through the FSIS Web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2008_Notices_Index/. FSIS also will make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service consisting of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. The Update also is available on the FSIS Web page. Through Listserv and the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

In addition, FSIS offers an e-mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_and_events/email_subscription/. Options range from recalls, export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

Done at Washington, DC on November 25, 2008.

Alfred V. Almanza,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. E8-28598 Filed 12-1-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of advisory committee meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this constitutes notice of the upcoming meeting of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). The Advisory Committee meets twice annually to advise the GIPSA Administrator on the programs and services that GIPSA delivers under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. Recommendations by the Advisory Committee help GIPSA better meet the needs of its customers who operate in a dynamic and changing marketplace.

DATES: December 16, 2008, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and December 17, 2008, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Advisory Committee meeting will take place at the Hilton Kansas City Airport, 8801 NW., 112th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64153.

Requests to orally address the Advisory Committee during the meeting or written comments may be sent to: Administrator, GIPSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 3601, Washington, DC 20250-3601. Requests and comments may also be faxed to (202) 690-2173.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terri L. Henry by phone at (202) 205-8281 or by e-mail at Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the GIPSA Administrator with respect to the implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*). Information about the Advisory Committee is available on the GIPSA Web site at <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>. Under the section, "I Want To * * *," select "Learn about the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee."

The agenda will include a review of GIPSA's 2008 Operations (domestic and

export operations), an update of GIPSA's international programs, an overview of GIPSA's technical training programs, a discussion on sorghum odor line validation and future technology, an update of GIPSA-sponsored research, the use of contracts for export services (pilot summary and next steps), a discussion on GIPSA's quality management programs (managing the official system in the future), and GIPSA's financial status.

For a copy of the agenda please contact Terri L. Henry by phone at (202) 205-8281 or by e-mail at Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov.

Public participation will be limited to written statements unless permission is received from the Committee Chairperson to orally address the Advisory Committee. The meeting will be open to the public.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information or related accommodations should contact Terri L. Henry at the telephone number listed above.

Gary McBryde,

Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-28532 Filed 12-1-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-KD-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

(Docket T-5-2008)

Foreign-Trade Zone 122 – Corpus Christi, Texas

Application for Temporary/Interim Manufacturing Authority

Excalibar Minerals LLC

(Barite Milling)

Corpus Christi, Texas

An application has been submitted to the Executive Secretary of the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Port of Corpus Christi Authority, grantee of FTZ 122, requesting temporary/interim manufacturing (T/IM) authority on behalf of Excalibar Minerals LLC (Excalibar) at the company's barite milling facility within FTZ 122 in Corpus Christi, Texas. The application was filed on November 20, 2008.

The Excalibar facility (14 employees) is located at 3202 E. Navigation Boulevard in Corpus Christi, Texas (within Site 1). Under T/IM procedures, Excalibar would produce up to 175,000

tons of ground barite (HTSUS 2511.10.10) annually, primarily for the U.S. market. The foreign component that would be used in production (representing approximately 95 percent of total material inputs) is raw barite (HTSUS 2511.10.50), dutiable at \$1.25 per metric ton.

FTZ procedures could exempt Excalibar from customs duty payments on the foreign component used in export production (less than 1 percent of shipments). On domestic sales, Excalibar would be able to choose the duty rate that applies to the finished product (duty-free) for the foreign input noted above that has a higher duty rate. The company may also realize certain logistical/procedural savings as well as savings on materials that become scrap/waste during manufacturing.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address listed below. The closing period for their receipt is January 2, 2009. For further information, contact Christopher Kemp at christopher_kemp@ita.doc.gov, or (202) 482-0862.

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Foreign-Trade Zones Board's Executive Secretary at the address listed above.

Dated: November 20, 2008.

Andrew McGilvray,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-28592 Filed 12-1-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 1584]

Approval for Expanded Manufacturing Authority, Foreign-Trade Subzone 42A, Mitsubishi Power Systems Americas, Inc., Orlando, FL (Power Generation Turbine Components)

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 Foreign-Trade Zones Act provides for " * * * the establishment * * * of foreign-trade zones in ports of entry of the United States, to expedite and encourage foreign commerce, and for other purposes," and authorizes the Foreign-Trade Zones Board to grant to qualified corporations the privilege of establishing foreign-trade zones in or