

**Issue Paper: Public Release of Salmonella Testing Results****Issue**

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is providing its views on the release of *Salmonella* testing data collected by FSIS in connection with the HACCP/Pathogen Reduction final rule.

**Background**

With the publication of its HACCP/Pathogen Reduction final rule, FSIS adopted pathogen reduction performance standards for raw meat and poultry products using *Salmonella* as the target organism. To verify that this requirement is being met, FSIS will conduct *Salmonella* testing in establishments that produce raw meat and poultry products.

The goal of the *Salmonella* testing program is to verify that pathogen reduction performance standards are being met by each establishment, with an ultimate goal of reducing the incidence of that organism and other enteric pathogens on raw meat and poultry products nationwide. The pathogen reduction standard for *Salmonella* requires testing of products not to determine product disposition but as a measure of process effectiveness in limiting contamination with this pathogen. Individual test results are not meaningful under this program because the performance standards have been established to measure performance over time; thus, multiple samples are required to make an appropriate compliance determination.

FSIS is carrying out the *Salmonella* testing program in two phases: a pre-implementation phase and a compliance phase. The principal objective of the pre-implementation phase was to acquire test data to enable both FSIS and establishments to see how they were performing with respect to the performance standards. The pre-implementation phase began on June 1, 1997. The compliance phase begins on January 26, 1998. The effective dates for establishment compliance with the *Salmonella* performance standards are the same as the effective dates for HACCP implementation: January 26, 1998, for large plants; January 25, 1999, for small plants; and January 25, 2000, for very small plants. After the effective date(s), establishment failure to meet the performance standards set forth in the HACCP/Pathogen Reduction final rule will trigger enforcement action.

**Availability of Salmonella Testing Data**

- Pre-implementation *Salmonella* testing data: This refers to *Salmonella*

testing data collected between June 1, 1997 and the date when the HACCP regulations are applicable to an establishment. FSIS does not intend to use the data collected between June 1, 1997, and January 26, 1998, for any purpose because it did not collect as much data as originally intended; there are many incomplete sets of data. FSIS will collect pre-implementation testing data from small and very small plants and will determine appropriate use and disclosure of this data as data collection proceeds. Requests for pre-implementation data under the Freedom of Information Act will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

- Compliance-phase *Salmonella* testing data: This refers to *Salmonella* testing data FSIS collects in plants subject to the HACCP requirements. FSIS will send individual establishments the results of testing on their own product upon completion of the full sample sets. In addition, plant-specific testing data will be available in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. The Agency does not consider testing to be complete until there is a full sample set. In all cases, the Agency intends to provide an explanation of the purpose of the testing and the meaning of the data (in general terms) with any *Salmonella* testing data released. FSIS has no specific plans to post the *Salmonella* data on its website.

- FSIS believes that it should publish annually a report on the *Salmonella* testing program. The contents and format of the report have not yet been decided.

Done at Washington, DC, on: March 23, 1998.

**Thomas J. Billy,**

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 98-8586 Filed 4-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

[Docket No. 98-013N]

**National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection will meet to continue its consideration of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) inspection models and the roles of Federal, State, and local governments in farm-to-table food safety. The Committee will begin discussion on five

new issues: (1) voluntary and mandatory inspection, including exemptions; (2) policy and procedures for the recall of food; (3) review of Department of Agriculture research policy and budget; (4) the Agency's strategic plan; and (5) hands-off lamb inspection. The meeting is open to the public. Written comments and suggestions on issues the Committee might consider may be submitted to the FSIS Docket Clerk at the above address.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on May 12, 13, and 14, 1998. Subcommittees will meet on May 12 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. to continue work on addressing HACCP inspection models and the roles of governments at all levels in farm-to-table food safety. The full Committee will meet on May 13, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Subcommittees will meet on May 13 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. to continue work on the five new issues discussed during the full Committee session. The full Committee will meet again from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on May 14, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency On Capitol Hill Hotel, 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC; telephone (202) 737-1234. The full Committee will meet in the Capitol room; subcommittees will meet in the Grand Teton, Yosemite, and Glacier rooms.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Members of the public will be required to register at the meeting; no pre-registration is required. For further information, contact Michael N. Micchelli at (202) 720-6269, by FAX at (202) 690-1030, or e-mail Michael.Micchelli@usda.gov. A schedule of events is available on the FSIS Homepage at <http://www.usda.gov/agency/fsis/homepage.htm>. This schedule also is available by FAST FAX, FSIS' automated FAX retrieval system at (800) 238-8281 or (202) 690-3754. The reference number to access FAST FAX is 4000. Send comment on issues to be discussed at the May meeting to the FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket #98-013N, Room 102, Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Please provide three copies of the comments. All comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when it becomes available, will be available for review in the Docket Clerk's office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On February 12, 1997, the Secretary of Agriculture renewed the charter for the Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection. The Committee provides advice and recommendation to

the Secretary on Federal and State meat and poultry programs pursuant to sections 7(c), 24, 205, 301(c) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and sections 5(a)(3), 5(c), 8(b), and 11(e) of the Poultry Products Inspection Act. The FSIS Administrator is the Committee Chair. Committee membership is drawn from representatives of consumer groups, producers, processors, and marketers from the meat and poultry industry and State government officials.

The current members of the Committee are:

Dr. Deloran M. Allen, Excel Corporation  
 Dr. William L. Brown, ABC Research Corporation  
 Terry Burkhardt, Wisconsin Bureau of Meat Safety and Inspection  
 Caroline Smith-DeWaal, Center for Science in the Public Interest  
 Nancy Donley, Safe Tables Our Priority  
 Michael J. Gregory, Tyson's Foods Inc.  
 Dr. Cheryl Hall, Zacky Farms, Inc.  
 Dr. Margaret Hardin, National Pork Producers  
 Alan Janzen, Circle Give Feedyards, Inc.  
 Dr. Daniel E. LaFontaine, South Carolina Meat-Poultry Inspection Department  
 Dr. Dale Morse, New York Office of Public Health  
 Rosemary Mucklow, National Meat Association  
 William Rosser, Texas Department of Public Health  
 J. Myron Stolzhus, Stolzhus Meats  
 Dr. David M. Theno, Jr., Foodmaker Inc.

The Committee has three standing subcommittees to deliberate on specific issues and make recommendations to the whole Committee and the Secretary of Agriculture. The Committee encourages interested persons to attend and submit comments. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Done in Washington, DC, on: March 26, 1998.

**Thomas J. Billy,**  
 Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-8653 Filed 4-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### North Fork Hughes River Watershed, Ritchie County, WV

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of supplemental record of decision.

**SUMMARY:** William J. Hartman, responsible Federal official, is hereby providing notification that a Supplemental Record of Decision to

proceed with the installation of the North Fork Hughes River Watershed Project, West Virginia, is available. Single copies of this Supplemental Record of Decision may be obtained from Mr. William J. Hartman at the address shown below:

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William J. Hartman, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 75 High Street, Room 301, Morgantown, West Virginia, 26505, telephone 304-291-4153.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904—Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention—and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.)

Dated: March 25, 1998.

**William J. Hartman,**  
 State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 98-8609 Filed 4-1-98; 11:25 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

## 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:** Bureau of the Census.

**Title:** MAF and TIGER Update Activities.

**Form Number(s):** Will vary by activity.

**Agency Approval Number:** 0607-0809.

**Type of Request:** Revision of an existing collection.

**Burden:** 146,662 hours.

**Number of Respondents:** 5,357,993.

**Avg Hours Per Response:** About 1.64 minutes.

**Needs and Uses:** The Census Bureau requests approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of the generic clearance for a number of activities it plans to conduct to create and update its Master Address File (MAF) and maintain the linkage between the MAF and the Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) data base of address ranges and associated geographic information. The Census Bureau plans to use the MAF for mailing and delivering questionnaires to households for Census 2000 and as a sampling frame for the American Community Survey and our other demographic current surveys. In the

past, the Census Bureau has built a new address list for each decennial census. The MAF we are building during Census 2000 is meant to be kept current thereafter, eliminating the need to build a completely new address list for future censuses and surveys. The TIGER is a geographic system that maps the entire country in Census Blocks with applicable address range or living quarter location information. Linking MAF and TIGER allows us to assign each address to the appropriate Census Block, produce maps as needed and publish results at the appropriate level of geographic detail.

The generic clearance for the past three years has proved to be very beneficial to the Census Bureau. The generic clearance has allowed us to focus our limited resources on actual operational planning and development of procedures. This extension will be especially beneficial over the upcoming three years by allowing us to focus on the huge amount of other work involved in making Census 2000 happen.

The activities to be conducted are: Address Listing, Block Canvassing, Field Verification For Local Update of Census Addresses, Update/Leave, Urban Update/Leave, List/Enumerate, Master Address File Quality Improvement Program, and Master Address File Update for Otero County, New Mexico.

Under the terms of this extension to the generic clearance, we will not submit a separate clearance package for each updating activity. We will send a letter to OMB at least five days before the planned start of each activity that gives more exact details, examples of forms, and final estimates of respondent burden. We will also file a year-end summary with OMB after the close of each fiscal year giving results of each activity conducted.

The total respondent burden associated with this clearance is increasing considerably. This increase is an expected result of the normal decennial census cycle. The current clearance covered only some small test activities plus some early Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal activities. This request will cover the bulk of the Dress Rehearsal activities plus all of the Census 2000 MAF and TIGER update activities. Our intention when the generic clearance was established was to maintain it throughout the decennial and beyond to support the stated objective of "updat[ing] the MAF and TIGER data base on a regular basis so they will be available for use in conducting the 2000 decennial census\* \* \*"