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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. [FSIS-2013-0020](#)]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice is announcing that the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold public meetings of the full Committee and subcommittees on June 4-6, 2013. The Committee will discuss: 1) Control strategies for reducing foodborne Norovirus infections, 2) Study of microbiological criteria as indicators of process control or insanitary conditions, and 3) Application of NACMCF recommendations to the Agricultural Marketing Service, Federal Ground Beef Purchase Program.

DATES: The full Committee will hold an open meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Subcommittee on Control Strategies for Reducing Foodborne Norovirus Infections and the Subcommittee on Study of Microbiological Criteria as Indicators of Process Control or Insanitary Conditions will hold concurrent open meetings on

Tuesday, June 4, 1pm to 5pm, Wednesday, June 5, and Thursday, June 6, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The June 4-6, 2013, full Committee and subcommittee meetings will be held at the Patriot's Plaza 3, 1st Floor Auditorium and Conference Rooms, respectively, 355 E. Street SW, Washington, DC 20024. All documents related to the full Committee meeting will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room, USDA, 355 E. Street SW, Patriots Plaza 3, Room 8-164, Washington, DC 20250-3700, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, as soon as they become available. The NACMCF documents will also be available on the Internet at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Federal_Register/Notices/index.asp.

FSIS will finalize an agenda on or before the meeting dates and post it on the FSIS Web page at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings_&Events/. Please note that the meeting agenda is subject to change due to the time required for Committee discussions; thus, sessions could start or end earlier or later than anticipated. Please plan accordingly if you would like to attend a particular session or participate in a public comment period.

Also, the official transcript of the June 4, 2013, full Committee meeting, when it becomes available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room at the above address and will also be posted on

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About/NACMCF_Meetings/.

The mailing address for the contact person is: Karen Thomas-Sharp, USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Health Science, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Patriots Plaza 3, Mailstop 3777, Room 9-47, Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Persons interested in making a presentation, submitting technical papers, or providing comments at the June 4, plenary session should contact Karen Thomas: Phone: (202) 690-6620; Fax (202) 690-6334; E-mail: Karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov or at the mailing address above. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Thomas by May 28, 2013.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NACMCF was established in 1988, in response to a recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences for an interagency approach to microbiological criteria for foods, and in response to a recommendation of the U.S. House of

Representatives Committee on Appropriations, as expressed in the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for fiscal year 1988. The charter for the NACMCF is available for viewing on the FSIS Internet Web page at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About/NACMCF_Charter/.

The NACMCF provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on public health issues relative to the safety and wholesomeness of the U.S. food supply, including development of microbiological criteria and review and evaluation of epidemiological and risk assessment data and methodologies for assessing microbiological hazards in foods. The Committee also provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Departments of Commerce and Defense.

Dr. Elisabeth A. Hagen, Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA, is the Committee Chair; Mr. Michael Landa, Director of the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), is the Vice-Chair; and Ms. Gerri Ransom, FSIS, is the Executive Secretary.

At the subcommittee meetings the week of June 4-6, 2013, the groups will discuss:

- Control strategies for reducing foodborne Norovirus infections, and
- Study of microbiological criteria as indicators of process control or insanitary conditions.

Documents Reviewed by NACMCF

FSIS intends to make available to the public all materials that are reviewed and considered by the full committee of NACMCF regarding its deliberations. Generally, these materials will be made available as soon as possible after the full Committee meeting. Further, FSIS intends to make these materials available in electronic format on the FSIS Web page (www.fsis.usda.gov), as well as in hard copy format in the FSIS Docket Room. Often, an attempt is made to make the materials available at the start of the full Committee meeting when sufficient time is allowed in advance to do so.

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Additional Public Notification

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FSIS will also 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 constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS Web page. In addition, FSIS offers an electronic 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 & Events/Email Subscription/>.

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Done at Washington, DC on: May 08, 2013

Alfred V. Almanza

Administrator.

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