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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Food and Drug Administration**

[Docket No. 97N-0451]

**Microbial Safety of Produce; Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

Pub 11/10/97  
62FR 60525

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing a public meeting to discuss practices to minimize microbial food safety risks for produce as part of the President's initiative to ensure the safety of imported and domestic fruits and vegetables and other foods.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held on Monday, November 17, 1997, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Submit registration for the meeting and requests to make oral presentations by Wednesday, November 12, 1997. If you have written or published materials to be distributed at the public meeting, please bring at least 250 copies to the meeting. Written comments will be accepted until Friday, November 21, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held at the Key Bridge Marriott, Potomac Ballroom Salons A, B, and C, 1401 Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA. Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 12420 Parklawn Dr., rm. 1-23, Rockville, MD 20857. Two copies of any comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Catherine M. DeRoever, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-22), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-205-4251, FAX 202-205-4970, or e-mail "cderoeve@Bangate.fda.gov". Send registration information (including name, title, firm name, address, telephone, and fax number),

one copy of any material that you wish to distribute at the meeting, and requests to make oral presentations to the contact person.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 2, 1997, President Clinton announced an initiative to ensure the safety of imported and domestic produce and other foods. This initiative is geared to optimize the microbial safety of domestic and imported fruits and vegetables. As part of this initiative, the President directed the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in partnership with the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and in cooperation with the agricultural community, to issue guidance on good agricultural practices and good manufacturing practices for fruits and vegetables. FDA will coordinate the effort for DHHS. As part of this effort, FDA plans to publish a draft document for public comment early in 1998, and a final document later next year. To assist with these documents, FDA is particularly interested in information on how to minimize microbial contamination through the control of water, manure, worker sanitation and health, field and facility sanitation, and transportation and handling.

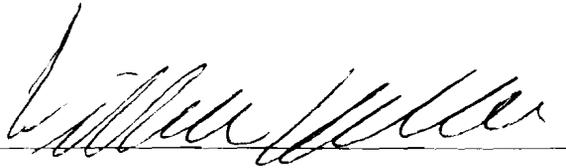
Public input is planned through several avenues, including this public meeting. Both oral and written comments from the public are encouraged. A series of grassroots meetings will also be held throughout the country to discuss the initiative. The dates, locations, and times will be published in an upcoming issue of the **Federal Register**.

Transcripts of the public meeting may be requested in writing from the Freedom of Information Office (HFI-35), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, rm. 12A-16, Rockville, MD 20857, approximately 15 working days after the meeting at a cost of 10 cents per page. The

transcript of the public meeting and all submitted comments will be available for public examination at the Dockets Management Branch (address above) between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated: November 5, 1997

November 5, 1997



William K. Hubbard  
Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination

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