

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy or regulations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Handling Subcommittee (HS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, January 5, 2016 1:00 pm ET**

Present: Harold Austin, Chair (HA); Lisa de Lima (LD); Ashley Swaffar (AS); Zea Sonnabend (ZS); Tracy Favre (TF); Jean Richardson (JR); Tom Chapman (TC)

Absent: none

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Emily Brown Rosen (EBR)

Work Agenda

Petitioned Substances						
Substance	National List §	Contact	TR rqst?	Notes*	Discussion / Vote	Meeting
Sodium Lactate	205.605	HA	2015	Request to add to workplan sent to HS 06 24 14. TR (combined with lactic acid) due Feb. TR sent to HS 02 18 15. Suff due 03 06 15. TR found suff 03 17 15. Referred back to HS at fall 2015 NOSB mtg.	Discuss Jan 19	Spr 2016
Potassium Lactate	205.605	HA	2015	Request to add to workplan sent to HS 06 24 14. TR (combined with lactic acid) due Feb. TR sent to HS 02 18 15. Suff due 03 06 15. TR found suff 03 17 15	Discuss Jan 19	Spr 2016
Oat Beta-Glucan Pet addendum1: Source/mfg Process Pet addendum 2: process flow diagram	205.606	LD	N	Petition sent to HS 05 28 15. Response/request for TR due 07 28 15. No new TR. HS rejected petition 07 21 15 for CBI. Petitioner response sent to HS 08 06 15. Petition found sufficient 09 15 15. No TR will be requested.	Discuss Jan 19	Spr 2016
Hypochlorous Acid	205.605 and 205.601	AS	2015	NOP Policy Memo 14-3: Electrolyzed Water (PDF) Petition sent to HS 06 03 15. Response/request for TR due 08 03 15. TR request sent to NOP 07 21 15. TR sent to HS 08 13 15. TR suff due 10 13 15. TR found suff 12 01 15.	Discuss Jan 5/Vote Jan 19	TBD
Sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate (SDBS)	205.605(b)	HA	N	Petition sent to HS on 11 02 15. Response/request for TR due 01 04 16. Petition found suff 12 01 15. No new TR will be requested	Discuss Jan 19	TBD

Petitioned Substances

Substance	National List §	Contact	TR rqst?	Notes*	Discussion / Vote	Meeting
Chlorine Dioxide Dry Gas	205.605	JR/new NOSB mubr		Petition sent to HS on 12 02 15. Response/request for TR due 02 02 16.		

2018 Sunsets §205.605(a), §205.605(b) and 205.606

Summary: Spr 2016 Complete Review: Fall 2016

Name	National List §	Contact	TAP/TR	Notes	Discussion scheduled: Reviewed	Summary Meeting
Agar-agar	205.605(a)	LD	No new TR	Sunset date: 11/3/2018	Jan 5	Spr 2016
Animal enzymes	205.605(a)	LD	No new TR	Sunset date: 11/3/2018	Dec 15	"
Calcium sulfate-mined	205.605(a)	TC	No new TR	Sunset date: 11/3/2018	Dec 15	"
Carrageenan	205.605(a)	ZS	Y	Sunset date: 11/3/2018. TR request sent 07 06 15. TR in development	Feb 2	"
Glucono delta-lactone	205.605(a)	TC	Y	Sunset date: 11/3/2018. TR request sent 07 06 15. TR in development	Feb 2	"
Tartaric acid	205.605(a)	AS	N	Sunset date: 11/3/2018	Dec 15	"
Cellulose	205.605(b)	HA	Y	Sunset date: 11/3/2018. TR request sent 07 06 15. TR in development	Jan 19	"
Potassium hydroxide	205.605(b)	AS	Y	Sunset date: 05/29/18. TR request sent 07 06 15. TR in development	Jan 19	"
Silicon dioxide	205.605(b)	LD	No new TR	Sunset date: 11/3/2018	Dec 15	"
Colors: Beta-carotene extract	205.606	JR	No new TR	Sunset date: 05/29/18	Jan 5	"

Other projects

Name	Contact	Notes*	Meeting
Ancillary substances for Microorganisms	ZS	Vote: 08 04 15. Referred back to HS at fall 2015 meeting	Spr 2016

Packging substances used in organic food handling - including BPA	ZS	Submitted briefing paper to NOP 01 12 14. Response memo from NOP sent to HS 11 19 14. TR in development.	Disc Doc Spr 2016
Xanthan Gum Reclassification	ZS	TR in development.	Spr 2016
Tocopherols Reclassification	TF/New NOSB mibr	Will re-discuss in light of NOSB meeting.	Spr 2016
Nutrient Vitamins and Minerals - annotation change	ZS	Pending NOP Approval. Discussion Document. Awaiting NOP clarification	Spr 2016
Ancillary substances - Pectin	ZS	Voted 08 18 15. Referred back to HS at fall 2015 meeting.	Spr 2016
Ancillary substances - Yeast	ZS	Voted 08 18 15. Referred back to HS at fall 2015 meeting.	Spr 2016
Phosphates annotation change	HA/JR	Request to add to work agenda discussed on October 9 on ES call. TR request sent to NOP 07 28 15. Formal request for addition to agenda sent 11 24 15. Awaiting NOP approval. TR in development - estimated January 2016	Fall 2016
Marine materials (marine plants and extracts)	JR	Pending NOP approval.	
Research Priorities	ALL	RP's due to MS Aug 2016 - Celery Powder alternatives	Fall 2016
Reclassification of Magnesium chloride	JR	HS requested addition of this. Awaiting NOP approval.	

*Highlight indicates committee action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote

Agenda

- Approve notes from the December 15 call
- Tocopherols Reclassification (TF/new NOSB mibr)
- Ancillary substances - pectin and yeast (ZS) - discuss proposals
- Hypochlorous Acid (AS) - Discuss proposal
- Sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate (SDBS) (HA) - Discuss proposal
- Sunset 2018 Agar-agar (LD) - questions for posting?
- Sunset 2018 Beta Carotene (JR) - questions for posting?
- Other business
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **Notes from December 15** were approved with corrections to some unclear language under silicon dioxide.
- **Tocopherols Reclassification.** The lead suggested that based on a re-review of public comment and a subsequent discussion with another Subcommittee member, the HS consider adding tocopherols

to 205.605(a), maintain the listing at 205.605(b), and perhaps add an annotation about availability. The lead reached out to several stakeholders to seek more info and clarification, and the HS will discuss the proposal on a later call. One of the new NOSB members may take the lead on this review once their term starts. The group discussed the mention of rosemary extract in the listing, and feels this needs to be updated.

- **Ancillary substances.** . The lead developed a revised draft based on public input from the last meeting, with some suggestions from NOP. The revised draft includes a definition for ancillary substances and criteria for reviewing ancillary materials that are not mentioned in the original review of a generic substance. The HS will seek additional information before voting on the proposal. Additionally, the HS will forward the draft document to the new HS members whose term begins January 24. Discussion and vote was scheduled for February 2.
- **Hypochlorous Acid.** The group discussed the draft proposal and its format, and the lead reviewer will revise the document accordingly. The group discussed this material as an alternative to chlorine and a member noted that there is broad support in community for hypochlorous acid. The HS scheduled the vote for this material January 19.
- As a corollary to the above discussion, the NOP will modify a new review template and forward it to the NOSB for use with material reviews. This template is a modification of the current checklist but in narrative form. It continues to be based on the OFPA criteria and regulation. The Executive Committee will discuss this new format on January 8.
- **Sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate (SDBS).** Deferred to next call
- **Agar-agar - Sunset 2018 (LD).** The lead summarized the use of the material and noted that it is a marine-plant based material harvested from two different species. Agar agar was reviewed during the 2013 sunset review and was left on the list while waiting for the draft materials guidance. The HS will add questions for public comment regarding new developments and/or unique characteristics of agar agar. The members suggested adding language to indicate that the NOSB is also reviewing marine plants as a group and may hold a panel during the fall 2016 meeting.
- **Beta Carotene - Sunset 2018 (JR).** Beta Carotene was added to the National List in 2007, and annotated in 2009 to allow sources derived from algae. The group discussed various components of the draft proposal, including questions for public comment. The lead mentioned that Beta Carotene is a derivative of algae but the TR was not entirely clear about species. A member added that Beta Carotene is on 205.606, agricultural substances. The lead will modify the draft proposal based on this discussion and recirculate it to the group.
- **Other business** - none
- **The meeting was adjourned**

[Previous HS Notes](#)

Future Call Schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1:00 ET)

December 15, 2015

Sunset 2018 Calcium sulfate - mined - questions for posting?

Sunset 2018 - Tartaric acid - questions for posting?

Sunset 2018 - Animal Enzymes - questions for posting?

Sunset 2018 - Silicon dioxide - questions for posting?

January 5, 2016

Tocopherols Reclassification (TF/new NOSB mbr)

Ancillary substances - pectin and yeast (ZS) - discuss proposals

Hypochlorous Acid (AS) - Discuss proposal

Sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate (SDBS) (HA) – Deferred to next call

Sunset 2018 Agar-agar (LD) - questions for posting
 Sunset 2018 Beta Carotene (JR) - questions for posting
 January 19, 2016 - ZS will miss call due to hydroponic task force field trip. JR and EBR will also miss call.
 Sunset 2018 Cellulose (HA) - Discuss TR if available
 Sunset 2018 Potassium hydroxide (AS) - Discuss TR if available
 Sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate (SDBS) (HA) - Discuss proposal
 Sodium Lactate/Potassium Lactate (HA) - Discuss proposal
 Oat Beta-Glucan (LD) - Discuss proposal
 Tocopherols Reclassification (TF/new NOSB mabr)
 Hypochlorous Acid (AS) - Discuss proposal and vote
 February 2, 2016
 Ancillary substances – discuss and vote on proposal
 Packaging substances (ZS) - discussion doc
 Xanthan Gum Reclassification (ZS) - Discuss proposal/TR if available
 Sunset 2018 Carrageenan (ZS) - Discuss TR if available
 Sunset 2018 Glucono delta-lactone (TC) - Discuss TR if available
 February 16, 2016
 March 1, 2016
 March 15, 2016
 April 5, 2016
 April 19, 2016
 May 3, 2016
 May 17, 2016
 June 7, 2016
 June 21, 2016
 July 5, 2016
 July 19, 2016
 August 2, 2016
 August 16, 2016
 September 6, 2016
 September 20, 2016
 October 4, 2016
 October 18, 2016
 November 1, 2016
 November 15, 2016
 December 6, 2016
 December 20, 2016

Spring 2016 Milestones	Target date
New NOSB member orientation	Feb 4, 2016
NOP - Complete Spring 2016 NOSB meeting tentative agenda	Feb 10, 2016
NOSB - Spring 2016 proposals due to NOP	Feb 26, 2016
NOP - Post proposals, Publish FRN, Open public comment	Mar 8, 2016
Discuss work agendas on ES call	Mar 11, 2016

Public comment webinars	??
Public comment closes	Apr 6, 2016
Work agendas finalized on ES call (last call before fall meeting)	Apr 8, 2016
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	Apr 11, 2016
Spring 2016 NOSB meeting – Washington, DC	Apr 25 - 27, 2016