CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE NEW

The House and Senate remain in their Thanksgiving recess. The Senate is holding pro forma sessions during the break to prevent recess appointments by the President and will reconvene on Monday, December 3, with no recorded votes scheduled. The House will reconvene on Tuesday, December 4.

Next week’s congressional schedule is still in flux. The Senate may return to consideration of the farm bill (H.R. 2419) and also take up reauthorization of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (S. 2248). The House may consider what is now a tentative deal on an energy authorization package (H.R. 6, H.R. 3221) as well as the intelligence authorization bill (H.R. 2082). At this time, there is no floor action scheduled on FY08 appropriations.

OTHER CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES

SENATE HEA REPORT NOW AVAILABLE


OTHER

TEMPLATE FOR REQUESTING EXTENSION ON CHEMICAL SCREENING IS UPDATED, CORRECTED NEW
As reported previously (*CFR Weekly Wrap-up, 11-21-07*), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on November 20 published in the *Federal Register* the final list of chemicals and screening thresholds that institutions must inventory and report on to the Department.

The deadline for completing a top-screen is 60 days from the publication of the list, known as Appendix A, which means 60 days from November 20. DHS, recognizing that colleges and universities might need additional time to complete their top-screens, is allowing institutions to submit a request for a 60-day extension—providing a total of 120 days to comply.

The template letter provided last week for universities to use in requesting a top-screen extension did not include a full street address for the recipient. The full address did not seem necessary at the time because it was assumed that most universities would send in their letters electronically. However, DHS has been overwhelmed by requests for extensions, so universities now are encouraged to send in their extension requests in hard copy, and to use a method that includes a tracking mechanism, such as Federal Express, registered mail, or return receipt requested.

The updated template, which includes the full mailing address as well as a correction in the name of the recipient, is available on the AAU Web site at: [http://www.aau.edu/homeland/DHS_CFATS_Extension_Template.doc](http://www.aau.edu/homeland/DHS_CFATS_Extension_Template.doc).

The *Federal Register* notice is available at: [http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-5585.pdf](http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-5585.pdf).


**NRC REPORT ON DOCTORAL PROGRAMS DELAYED UNTIL LATE SPRING**

The National Research Council has announced that it will delay publication of its latest assessment of research doctoral programs from the previously announced date of February 15 to late spring 2008.

A notice from the study committee explains the publication delay:

“This is a large undertaking with over 5000 doctoral programs included in the analysis, with input from over 80,000 faculty and 10,000 students,” said Jeremiah Ostriker, the chairman of the study committee. “At our meeting on November 27, we took a close look at many data elements and it was clear that further data validation was needed. That will involve getting back to the universities that provided the data for certain further checks. We regret the delay, but it is crucial to the study that the data we release to the public be as accurate as possible.”

Like the two previous studies in 1983 and 1995, the assessment is designed to help universities improve the quality of their research doctorate programs through benchmarking; provide potential students and the public with accessible, readily available
information on doctoral programs nationwide; and enhance the nation's overall research capacity.

Additional information about the project is available on the NRC Web site at: http://www7.nationalacademies.org/resdoc/Whats_new.html.

**DEADLINE FOR AAAS SCIENCE POLICY FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS IS DECEMBER 20**

The deadline for individuals to apply for the 2008-2009 science and technology fellowships offered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is Thursday, December 20.

The one-year fellowships for scientists and engineers to participate in public policy activities in congressional offices and federal agencies are offered in six program areas: congressional; diplomacy; national defense and global security; health, education and human services; energy, environment, agriculture and natural resources; and global stewardship.

Additional information about the fellows program is available at: http://fellowships.aaas.org.

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