









FDA Tobacco Project

## FDA Seeking Input on Menthol in Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products

On July 23, 2013, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) seeking additional information on menthol in cigarettes. The FDA also released its preliminary scientific evaluation of public health issues related to the use of menthol in cigarettes. You can submit comments on this new docket, including scientific data, local survey data, and evidence of the public health impact of menthol. To make the most of this opportunity, and to press the FDA to take meaningful action, we encourage public health professionals and advocates to share information about menthol in your community with the FDA. The FDA has extended its deadline and will accept public comments until November 22, 2013.

The ANPRM includes questions that provide an opportunity to press the agency to take the boldest, broadest possible action on menthol. Even if you submitted a comment on the Menthol Citizen Petition, please consider reviewing the questions and submitting additional responsive information to the FDA. To ensure that your prior comment on the petition is also considered, we encourage you to reference and attach your prior comment to your new comment on the ANPRM docket.

If you need some help getting started, take a look at our suggested talking points. For more information about the devastating health impact of menthol cigarettes, take a look at the full Citizen Petition that we filed on behalf of nineteen leading public health organizations on April 12, 2013, calling on the FDA to prohibit menthol as a characterizing flavor in cigarettes. For the shorter version, view the Citizen Petition Highlights.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the commenting process, please do not hesitate to contact our staff attorneys:

- Joelle Lester: joelle.lester@wmitchell.edu or (651) 695-7603
- Desmond Jenson: <u>desmond.jenson@wmitchell.edu</u> or (651) 695-7612