

[Federal Register: September 2, 1997 (Volume 62, Number 169)]

[Notices]

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[DOCID:fr02se97-34]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration**

Opportunity to Comment on the Applicants for the Minnesota Area

AGENCY: **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).**

ACTION: Notice.

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SUMMARY: GIPSA requests comments on the applicants for designation to provide official services in the geographic area currently assigned to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (Minnesota).

DATES: Comments must be postmarked, or sent by telecopier (FAX) or electronic mail by October 1, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted in writing to USDA, GIPSA, FGIS, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604. Telecopier (FAX) users may send comments to the automatic telecopier machine at 202-690-2755, attention: Janet M. Hart. All comments received will be made available for public inspection at the above address located at 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, telephone 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the June 30, 1997, Federal Register (62 FR 35147), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic area assigned to Minnesota to submit an application for designation. There were three applicants: Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc., applied for designation to provide official services in the Minnesota counties of Filmore, Goodhue, Houston,

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Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona; Minnesota applied for designation to provide official services in the entire Minnesota area; Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Service Company, applied for designation to provide official services in the Minnesota counties of Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, and Rock.

GIPSA is publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments concerning the applicants. Commenters are encouraged to submit reasons and pertinent data for support or objection to the designation of these applicants. All comments must be submitted to the Compliance Division at the above address. Comments and other available information will be considered in making a final decision. GIPSA will publish notice of the final decision in the Federal Register, and GIPSA will send the applicants written notification of the decision.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.)

Dated: August 14, 1997

Neil E. Porter

Director, Compliance Division

[FR Doc. 97-23128 Filed 8-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-F

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