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[Notices]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Little Rock (AR) Area

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States **Grain** Standards Act, as amended (Act), provides that official agency designations will end not later than triennially and may be renewed. The designation of Arkansas **Grain Inspection Service** (Arkansas) will end October 31, 1997, according to the Act. GIPSA has determined that Arkansas will not be redesignated. GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in the Little Rock area to submit an application for designation.

DATE: Applications must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before October 30, 1997.

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ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604 (Room 1647-S), 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604. Applications may be submitted by FAX on 202-690-2755. If an application is submitted by FAX, GIPSA reserves the right to request an original application. All applications will be made available for public **inspection** at this address located at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, 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.

Section 7(f)(1) of the Act authorizes GIPSA's Administrator to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services. GIPSA designated Arkansas, main office located in Little Rock, Arkansas, to provide official **inspection** services under the Act on November 1, 1994.

Section 7(g)(1) of the Act provides that designations of official

agencies shall end not later than triennially and may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in Section 7(f) of the Act. The designation of Arkansas ends on October 31, 1997, according to the Act.

GIPSA, in the April 14, 1997, Federal Register (62 FR 18084), asked persons interested in providing official services in the Little Rock area to submit an application for designation. Arkansas was the only applicant. Since Arkansas was the only applicant, GIPSA did not ask for comments.

GIPSA has evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria prescribed in section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act and according to the provisions of Section 7(f), determined that the designation Arkansas will not be renewed. GIPSA is again asking persons interested in providing official services in the Little Rock area, as described in the April 14, 1997, Federal Register, to submit an application for designation.

Interested persons are hereby given the opportunity to apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the April 14, 1997, Federal Register. Effective November 1, 1997, until an official agency can be selected, requests for official services should be directed to GIPSA's Stuttgart, Arkansas, Field Office at 501-673-2508. Persons wishing to apply for designation should contact the Compliance Division at the address listed above for forms and information.

Applications and other available information will be considered in determining which applicant will be designated.

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

Dated: September 19, 1997.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

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