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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Cancellation of New York's Designation

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 New York State Department of Agriculture (New York) is designated to provide official **inspection** services until October 31, 1999, according to the Act. New York asked GIPSA to cancel its designation effective April 1, 1998. Accordingly, GIPSA is announcing that New York's designation is being canceled effective April 1, 1998.

DATES: April 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Neil E. Porter, Director, Compliance Division, AG Code 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-3604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Neil E. Porter, telephone 202-720-8262.

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 New York, main office in Albany, New York, to provide official **inspection**

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services under the Act on November 1, 1996.

Section 7(g) (1) of the Act provides that designations of official agencies will 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 New York ends on October 31, 1999, according to the Act. However, New York advised GIPSA that they wanted to cancel their designation. GIPSA has determined that there is not a

sufficient need for official services to require a replacement agency.

Accordingly, GIPSA is canceling New York's designation effective April 1, 1998. Any firms in New York that require official service after April 1, 1998, should contact GIPSA's Baltimore Field Office at 410-590-2259

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

Dated: January 29, 1998.

Neil E. Porter,
Director, Compliance Division.
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