

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewers' position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21.

Dated: March 19, 2008.

Donna F. Harmon,
South Fork Management Unit District Ranger,
Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity To Comment on the Applicants for the Cedar Rapids, IA Area Consisting of Northeast Iowa, Southeast Minnesota, and East Texas

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: GIPSA requests comments on the applicants for designation to provide official services in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa area that was open for designation.

- Gulf Country Inspection Service, Inc. (Gulf Country) applied for the Cedar Rapids, Iowa area.
 - South Texas Grain Inspection, LLC (South Texas) applied for part of the Cedar Rapids, Iowa area, the east Texas region.
 - Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc. (Mid-Iowa) applied for their current designation in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- DATES:** Comments must be postmarked or electronically dated on or before April 25, 2008.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit comments on these applicants. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Deliver to Karen Guagliardo, Review Branch Chief, Compliance Division, GIPSA, USDA, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250.
- *Fax:* Send by facsimile transmission to (202) 690-2755, attention: Karen Guagliardo.
- *E-mail:* Send via electronic mail to Karen.W.Guagliardo@usda.gov.
- *Mail:* Send hardcopy to Karen Guagliardo, Review Branch Chief, Compliance Division, GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3604.
- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments and reading any comments posted online.

Read Applications and Comments: All applications and comments will be available for public inspection at the office above during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(b)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Guagliardo at 202-720-7312, e-mail Karen.W.Guagliardo@usda.gov.

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 December 3, 2007, **Federal Register** (72 FR 67885), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa area to submit an application for designation.

There were three applicants for the Cedar Rapids, Iowa area comprised of northeast Iowa, southeast Minnesota, and east Texas open for designation: Mid-Iowa, currently designated for the entire area and doing business as InterContinental Grain Inspections in east Texas region, applied for the entire area. Gulf Country, a corporation not currently designated, owned by Tyrone Robichaux, John Shropshire, Eurvin Williams, Pat LaCour, and Dan Williams, applied for the entire area, but stated they would accept no less than the east Texas region. South Texas, a limited liability company not currently designated, owned by Corpus Christi Grain Exchange, Inc., applied for a portion of the east Texas region bounded on the north and east by Maverick, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Gonzales, Lavaca, and Jackson Counties; and bounded on the south and west by the Texas state line.

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 the applicants. All comments must be submitted to the Compliance Division at the above address or at <http://www.regulations.gov>. 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: 7 U.S.C. 71-87k.

James E. Link,
Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

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