

Official agency	Headquarters location and telephone
Northeast Indiana	Hoagland, IN—260-639-6390

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

Donna Reifschneider,

Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

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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, USDA. (04-03-C)

ACTION: Notice.

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 electronically dated on or before January 3, 2005.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit comments on this notice by any of the following methods:

- Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver to Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, GIPSA, USDA, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

- Fax: Send by facsimile transmission to (202) 690-2755, attention: Janet M. Hart.

- E-mail: Send via electronic mail to Janet.M.Hart@usda.gov.

- Mail: Send hardcopy to Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Janet M. Hart at (202) 720-8525, e-mail Janet.M.Hart@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 September 1, 2004, **Federal Register** (69 FR 53404), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the Minnesota areas to submit an application for designation.

There were three applicants for the Minnesota area: Minnesota, Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Service Company (Sioux City), both currently designated official agencies; and Kathleen Duea proposing to do business as Southern Minnesota Grain Inspection. Minnesota applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them. Sioux City applied for all or part of the following Minnesota Counties: Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Watonwan, and Yellow Medicine. Southern Minnesota Grain Inspection applied for all or part of the area currently assigned to Minnesota, and specified all or part of the following Minnesota Counties: Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Martin, Murray, Nobles, and Watonwan. 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. 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.*).

Donna Reifschneider,

Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity for Designation in the Georgia, Cedar Rapids (IA), Montana, and Lake Village (IN) Areas, and Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Serving These Areas

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA. (04-04-A).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The designations of the official agencies listed below will end in June 2005. Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is asking persons interested in providing official services in the areas served by these agencies to submit an application for designation. GIPSA is also asking for comments on the quality of services provided by these currently designated agencies: Georgia Department of Agriculture (Georgia); Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc. (Mid-Iowa); Montana Department of Agriculture (Montana); and Schneider Inspection Service, Inc. (Schneider).

DATES: Applications and comments must be postmarked or electronically dated on or before January 3, 2005.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit applications and comments on this notice. You may submit applications and comments by any of the following methods:

- Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver to Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, GIPSA, USDA, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250.

- Fax: Send by facsimile transmission to (202) 690-2755, attention: Janet M. Hart.

- E-mail: Send via electronic mail to Janet.M.Hart@usda.gov.

- Mail: Send hardcopy to Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

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:

Janet M. Hart at 202-720-8525, e-mail Janet.M.Hart@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.

Section 7(f)(1) of the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (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.

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.

1. Current Designations being Announced for Renewal. For Georgia, main office in Atlanta; Mid-Iowa, main office in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Montana, main office in Helena; and Schneider, main office in Lake Village, Indiana; the current designations started July 1, 2002 and will end June 30, 2005.

a. Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, the entire State of Georgia, except those export port locations within the State which are serviced by GIPSA, is assigned to Georgia.

b. Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the State of Iowa, is assigned to Mid-Iowa.

Bounded on the North by the northern Winneshiek and Allamakee County lines;

Bounded on the East by the eastern Allamakee County line; the eastern and southern Clayton County lines; the eastern Buchanan County line; the northern and eastern Jones County lines; the eastern Cedar County line south to State Route 130;

Bounded on the South by State Route 130 west to State Route 38; State Route 38 south to Interstate 80; Interstate 80 west to U.S. Route 63; and

Bounded on the West by U.S. Route 63 north to State Route 8; State Route 8 east to State Route 21; State Route 21 north to D38; D38 east to State Route 297; State Route 297 north to V49; V49 north to Bremer County; the southern Bremer County line; the western Fayette and Winneshiek County lines.

c. Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, the entire State of Montana, is assigned to Montana.

d. Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in

the States of Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, is assigned to Schneider.

In Illinois and Indiana:

Bounded on the North by the northern Will County line from Interstate 57 east to the Illinois-Indiana State line; the Illinois-Indiana State line north to the northern Lake County line; the northern Lake, Porter, Laporte, St. Joseph, and Elkhart County lines;

Bounded on the East by the eastern and southern Elkhart County lines; the eastern Marshall County line;

Bounded on the South by the southern Marshall and Starke County lines; the eastern Jasper County line south-southwest to U.S. Route 24; U.S. Route 24 west to Indiana State Route 55; Indiana State Route 55 south to the Newton County line; the southern Newton County line west to U.S. Route 41; U.S. Route 41 north to U.S. Route 24; U.S. Route 24 west to the Indiana-Illinois State line; and

Bounded on the West by Indiana-Illinois State line north to Kankakee County; the southern Kankakee County line west to U.S. Route 52; U.S. Route 52 north to Interstate 57; Interstate 57 north to the northern Will County line.

Berrien, Cass, and St. Joseph Counties, Michigan.

The following grain elevators, located outside of the above contiguous geographic area, are part of this geographic area assignment: Cargill, Inc., and Farmers Grain, both in Winamac, Pulaski County, Indiana (located inside Titus Grain Inspection, Inc.'s, area).

Schneider's assigned geographic area does not include the export port locations inside Schneider's area which are serviced by GIPSA.

2. Opportunity for designation.

Interested persons, including Georgia, Mid-Iowa, Montana, and Schneider are hereby given the opportunity to apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas specified above under the provisions of Section 7(f) of the Act and section 800.196(d) of the regulations issued thereunder. Designation in the specified geographic areas is for the period beginning July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2008. Persons wishing to apply for designation should contact the Compliance Division at the address listed above for forms and information, or obtain applications at the GIPSA Web site, <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/oversight/parovreg.htm>.

3. Request for Comments. GIPSA also is publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments on the quality of services for the Georgia, Mid-Iowa, Montana, and Schneider official

agencies. In commenting on the quality of services, commenters are encouraged to submit pertinent data including information on the timeliness, cost, and scope of services provided. All comments must be submitted to the Compliance Division at the above address.

Applications, comments, 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.*).

Donna Reifschneider,

Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to the Natural Resources Conservation Service National Handbook of Conservation Practices

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to issue a series of new or revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include: Closure of Waste Impoundments (Code 360), Cross Wind Trap Strips (Code 589C), Irrigation Water Management (Code 449), Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment (Code 453), Mine Shaft and Adit Closing (Code 457), Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment (Code 521D), and Water Well (Code 642). NRCS State Conservationists who choose to adopt these practices for use within their States will incorporate them into Section IV of their respective electronic Field Office Technical Guides (eFOTG). These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land, or on land determined to be wetland.

DATES: Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with this date of publication. This series of new or revised conservation practice standards will be adopted after the close of the 30-day period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of these standards can be