

northwest to State Route 22; State Route 22 south to U.S. Route 12; U.S. Route 12 west-northwest to the North Dakota State line; and

Bounded on the West by the western North Dakota State line north to Interstate 94.

The following grain elevators, located outside of the above contiguous geographic area, are part of this geographic area assignment: Farmers Coop Elevator, Fessenden, Farmers Union Elevator, and Manfred Grain, both in Manfred, all in Wells County (located inside Grand Forks Grain Inspection Department, Inc.'s area); and Norway Spur, and Oakes Grain, both in Oakes, Dickey County (located inside North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc.'s area).

Jamestown's assigned geographic area does not include the following grain elevators inside Jamestown's area which have been and will continue to be serviced by the following official agency: Minot Grain Inspection, Inc.: Benson Quinn Company, Underwood; and Missouri Valley Grain Company, Washburn, all in McLean County.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the USGSA, the following geographic area, in the States of Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota, is assigned to Sioux City.

In Iowa:

Bounded on the North by the northern Iowa State line from the Big Sioux River east to U.S. Route 59;

Bounded on the East by U.S. Route 59 south to B24; B24 east to the eastern O'Brien County line; the O'Brien County line south; the northern Buena Vista County line east to U.S. Route 71; U.S. Route 71 south to the southern Sac County line;

Bounded on the South by the Sac and Ida County lines; the eastern Monona County line south to State Route 37; State Route 37 west to State Route 175; State Route 175 west to the Missouri River; and

Bounded on the West by the Missouri River north to the Big Sioux River; the Big Sioux River north to the northern Iowa State line.

In Nebraska:

Cedar, Dakota, Dixon, Pierce (north of U.S. Route 20), and Thurston Counties.

In South Dakota:

Bounded on the North by State Route 44 (U.S. 18) east to State Route 11; State Route 11 south to A54B; A54B east to the Big Sioux River;

Bounded on the East by the Big Sioux River; and

Bounded on the South and West by the Missouri River.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the USGSA, the following geographic area, in the State of Iowa, is assigned to Tischer.

Bounded on the North by Iowa-Minnesota State line from U.S. Route 71 east to U.S. Route 169;

Bounded on the East by U.S. Route 169 south to State Route 9; State Route 9 west to U.S. Route 169; U.S. Route 169 south to the northern Humboldt County line; the Humboldt County line east to State Route 17; State Route 17 south to C54; C54 east to U.S. Route 69; U.S. Route 69 south to the northern Hamilton County line; the Hamilton County line west to R38; R38 south to U.S. Route 20; U.S. Route 20 west to the eastern and southern Webster County lines to U.S. Route 169; U.S. Route 169 south to E18; E18 west to the eastern Greene County line; the Greene County line south to U.S. Route 30;

Bounded on the South by U.S. Route 30 west to E53; E53 west to N44; N44 north to U.S. Route 30; U.S. Route 30 west to U.S. Route 71; and

Bounded on the West by U.S. Route 71 north to the Iowa-Minnesota State line.

The following grain elevators, located outside of the above contiguous geographic area, are part of this geographic area assignment: Farmers Co-op Elevator, Boxholm, Boone County (located inside Central Iowa Grain Inspection Service, Inc.'s area); and West Bend Elevator Co., Algona, Kossuth County; Big Six Elevator, Burt, Kossuth County; Gold-Eagle, Goldfield, Wright County; and Farmers Co-op Elevator, Holmes, Wright County (located inside D. R. Schaal Agency's area).

Interested persons, including Jamestown, Sioux City, and Tischer, 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 Jamestown geographic area is for the period beginning August 1, 1997, and ending July 31, 2000. Designation in the Sioux City and Tischer geographic areas is for the period beginning July 1, 1997, and ending June 30, 2000. 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: December 23, 1996

Neil E. Porter

*Director, Compliance Division*

[FR Doc. 96-33326 Filed 12-31-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-F

## ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

### Notice of Meeting

**AGENCY:** Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has scheduled its regular business meetings to take place in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 14-15, 1997 at the times and location noted below.

**DATES:** The schedule of events is as follows:

Tuesday, January 14, 1997

9:00-11:00 AM Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws and Statutory Review  
11:00-Noon Planning and Budget Committee  
1:30-5:00 PM ADAAG Revision—Discussion of Issues (Closed Meeting)

Wednesday, January 15, 1997

8:30-10:00 AM Long-Range Planning Group  
10:00-Noon Technical Programs Committee  
1:30-3:30 PM Board Meeting

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at: Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information regarding the meetings, please contact Lawrence W. Roffee, Executive Director, (202) 272-5434 ext. 14 (voice) and (202) 272-5449 (TTY).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** At the Board meeting, the Access Board will consider the following agenda items:

- Approval of the Minutes of the November 13, 1996 Board Meeting.
- Planning and Budget Committee Report.
- Technical Programs Committee Report.
- Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws and Statutory Review Report.
- Play Facilities Regulatory Negotiation Committee Report.
- ADAAG Revision-Rulemaking Process and Schedule.
- Telecommunications Access Advisory Committee Report.

All meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities. Sign language interpreters and an assistive listening system are available at all meetings.

David Capozzi,

*Director, Office of Technical and Information Services.*

[FR Doc. 96-33125 Filed 12-31-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8150-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 960924272-6272-01]

RIN 0693-ZA13

#### Announcing Development of a Federal Information Processing Standard for Advanced Encryption Standard

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** A process to develop a Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) for Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) incorporating an Advanced Encryption Algorithm (AEA) is being initiated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). As the first step in this process, draft minimum acceptability requirements and draft criteria to evaluate candidate algorithms are being published for comment. Also announced for comment are draft submission requirements. An open, public workshop on the draft minimum acceptability requirements, evaluation criteria and submission requirements has also been scheduled. It is intended that the AES will specify an unclassified, publicly disclosed encryption algorithm capable of protecting sensitive government information well into the next century.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit views from the public, manufacturers, voluntary standards organizations, and Federal, state, and local government users so that their needs can be considered in the process of developing the AES.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 2, 1997.

The AES Evaluation Criteria/Submission Requirements Workshop will be held on April 15, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to Director, Computer Systems Laboratory, Attn: FIPS for AES Comments, Technology Building, Room A231, National Institute of Standards

and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

Electronic comments may be sent to AES@nist.gov.

Comments received in response to this notice will be made part of the public record and will be made available for inspection and copying in the Central Records and Reference Inspection Facility, Room 6020, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th Street between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues, NW, Washington, DC, 20230.

The AES Criteria Workshop will be held at the Green Auditorium, Administration Building, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland. Copies of the comments submitted will be available at the Workshop. For planning purposes, advance registration is encouraged. To register, please fax your name, address, telephone, fax and e-mail address to 301-948-1233 (Attn: AES Criteria Workshop) by April 10, 1997. Registration will also be available at the door. The workshop will be open to the public.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Edward Roback, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 820, Room 426, Gaithersburg, MD 20899; telephone 301-975-3696 or via fax at 301-948-1233. Technical inquiries regarding the proposed draft evaluation criteria and draft submission requirements should be addressed to Miles Smid, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 820, Room 426, Gaithersburg, MD 20899; telephone 301-975-2938 or via fax at 301-948-1233.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This work effort is being initiated pursuant to NIST's responsibilities under the Computer Security Act of 1987, the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996, Executive Order 13011, and OMB Circular A-130.

NIST recognizes that many institutions, both within and outside the Federal Government, have considerable investments in their current installed base of encryption equipment implementing the Data Encryption Algorithm, specified in the Data Encryption Standard (DES, Federal Information Processing Standard 46-2). DES was first approved in 1977 and was most recently reaffirmed by the Secretary in 1993, until December 1998. In 1993 the following statement was included in the standard:

"At the next review (1998), the algorithm specified in this standard will be over twenty years old. NIST will consider alternatives which offer a higher level of security. One of these

alternatives may be proposed as a replacement standard at the 1998 review."

It is NIST's review that a multi-year transition period will be necessary to move toward any new encryption standard and that DES will continue to be of sufficient strength for many applications. NIST will consult with all interested parties so that a smooth transition can be accomplished.

In order to provide a basis for the evaluation of encryption algorithms submitted to be considered as the AEA for incorporation into the FIPS for AES, evaluation criteria will be used to review submitted algorithms. Comments on the draft criteria (and, at the appropriate time, or candidate algorithms) from voluntary consensus standards organizations are particularly encouraged.

#### Proposed Draft Minimum Acceptability Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

The draft minimum acceptability requirements and evaluation criteria are:

- A.1 AES shall be publicly defined.
- A.2 AES shall be a symmetric block cipher.

- A.3 AES shall be designed so that the key length may be increased as needed.

- A.4 AES shall be implementable in both hardware and software.

- A.5 AES shall either be (a) freely available or (b) available under terms consistent with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) patent policy.

- A.6 Algorithms which meet the above requirements will be judged based on the following factors:

- (a) Security (i.e., the effort required to cryptanalyze),
- (b) Computational efficiency,
- (c) Memory requirements,
- (d) Hardware and software suitability,
- (e) Simplicity,
- (f) Flexibility, and
- (g) Licensing requirements.

Comments are being sought on these draft minimum acceptability criteria and evaluation criteria, suggestions for other criteria, and relative importance of each individual criterion in the evaluation process. Criteria will be finalized by NIST following the criteria workshop.

#### Proposed Draft Submission Requirements

In order to provide for an orderly, fair, and timely evaluation of candidate algorithm proposals, submission requirements will specify the procedures and supporting documentation necessary to submit a candidate algorithm.