

organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed actions.

The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in April 2003. At that time, the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the draft environmental impact statement in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will end 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. It is anticipated that a final environmental impact statement will be published in June, 2003. A Record of Decision will also be published at that time.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation to 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 reviewer's position and contentions (*Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 512, 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 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 regarding 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 environmental impact 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 in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments may not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

I am the responsible official for this environmental analysis. My address is Idaho Panhandle National Forest, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814.

Dated: February 24, 2003.

**Ranotta McNair**,  
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-4855 Filed 2-28-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-121-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

[03-01-A]

#### Opportunity for Designation in the Grand Forks (ND), Idaho, Lewiston (ID), Minnesota, Ohio Valley (IN), and Utah Areas, and Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Serving These Areas

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The designations of the official agencies listed below will end in September and November 2003. 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 services provided by these currently designated agencies: Grand Forks Grain Inspection Department, Inc. (Grand Forks); Idaho Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Idaho); Lewiston Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Lewiston); Minnesota Department of Agriculture (Minnesota); Ohio Valley Grain Inspection, Inc. (Ohio Valley); and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (Utah).

**DATES:** Applications and comments must be postmarked or electronically dated on or before April 1, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit applications and comments to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3604; FAX 202-690-2755. If an application is submitted by FAX, GIPSA reserves the right to request an original application. All applications and comments will be made available for public inspection at Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, during regular business hours.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janet M. Hart at 202-720-8525, e-mail [Janet.M.Hart@usda.gov](mailto: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

Official agency	Main office	Designation start	Designation end
Grand Forks .....	Grand Forks, ND .....	10/01/2002	09/30/2003
Idaho .....	Pocatello, ID .....	12/01/2000	11/30/2003
Lewiston .....	Lewiston, ID .....	12/01/2000	09/30/2003
Minnesota .....	Saint Paul, MN .....	01/01/2001	09/30/2003
Ohio Valley .....	Evansville, IN .....	11/01/2000	09/30/2003
Utah .....	Salt Lake City, UT .....	12/01/2000	09/30/2003

a. Pursuant to section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the State of North Dakota, is assigned to Grand Forks.

Bounded on the North by the North Dakota State line;

Bounded on the East by the North Dakota State line south to State Route 200;

Bounded on the South by State Route 200 west-northwest to the western Traill County line; the western Traill County line; the southern Grand Forks and Nelson County lines; the southern Eddy County line west to U.S. Route 281; U.S. Route 281 north to State Route 15; State Route 15 west to U.S. Route 52; U.S. Route 52 northeast to State Route 3; and

Bounded on the West by State Route 3 north to State Route 60; State Route 60 west-northwest to State Route 5; State Route 5 west to State Route 14; State Route 14 north to the North Dakota State line.

Grand Fork's assigned geographic area does not include the following grain elevators inside Grand Fork's area which have been and will continue to be serviced by the following official agencies: Fessenden Coop Association, Fessenden; and Fessenden Coop Association, Manfred; both in Wells County (located in Grain Inspection, Inc.'s area; and Harvey Farmers Elevator, Harvey, Wells County (located in Minot Grain Inspection, Inc.'s area. b.

Pursuant to section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the State of Idaho, is assigned to Idaho.

The southern half of the State of Idaho up to the northern boundaries of Adams, Valley, and Lemhi Counties.

c. Pursuant to section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the State of Idaho, is assigned to Lewiston.

The northern half of the State of Idaho down to the northern boundaries of Adams, Valley, and Lemhi Counties.

d. Pursuant to section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, the entire State of Minnesota, except those export port locations within the State, is assigned to Minnesota.

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

the States of Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee, is assigned to Ohio Valley.

Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Knox (except the area west of U.S. Route 41 (150) from Sullivan County south to U.S. Route 50), Pike, Posey, Vanderburgh, and Warrick Counties, Indiana.

Caldwell, Christian, Crittenden, Henderson, Hopkins (west of State Route 109 south of the Western Kentucky Parkway), Logan, Todd, Union, and Webster (west of Alternate U.S. Route 41 and State Route 814) Counties, Kentucky.

Cheatham, Davidson, and Robertson Counties, Tennessee.

f. Pursuant to section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, the entire State of Utah, is assigned to Utah.

## 2. Opportunity for Designation

Interested persons, including Grand Forks, Idaho, Lewiston, Minnesota, Ohio Valley, and Utah, 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 October 1, 2003, and ending September 30, 2006. 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, [www.usda.gov/gipsa/oversight/parovreg.htm](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 Grand Forks, Idaho, Lewiston, Minnesota, Ohio Valley, and Utah, official agencies. Commenters are encouraged to submit pertinent data concerning the these official agencies including information on the timeliness, cost, quality, 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.*

[FR Doc. 03-4872 Filed 2-28-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

[02-03-S]

### Designation for the Jamestown (ND), Lincoln (NE), Memphis (TN), Omaha (NE), Sioux City (IA), and Tischer (IA) Areas

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announces designation of the following organizations to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act): Grain Inspection, Inc. (Jamestown); Lincoln Inspection Service, Inc. (Lincoln); Memphis Grain Inspection Service (Memphis); Omaha Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Omaha); Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Service Company (Sioux City); and A. V. Tischer and Son, Inc. (Tischer).

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** April 1, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janet M. Hart at 202-720-8525, e-mail [Janet.M.Hart@usda.gov](mailto: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