

Done at Washington, DC, this 14th day of July, 1997.

B.H. Robinson,

Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

[FR Doc. 97-19023 Filed 7-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the Kansas Area

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces the designation of Kansas Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Grain Inspection), to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 1997.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, telephone 202-720-8525.

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 March 5, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 10022), GIPSA announced an Opportunity for Designation in Kansas - Termination of Kansas' Designation, Possible Cancellation of Kansas' Designation, and Requests for Applications for Designation from Persons Interested in Providing Official Services in Kansas. Applications were due by March 31, 1997. There were four applicants: Amarillo Grain Exchange, Inc., applied for designation to provide official services in the Kansas counties of Grant, Haskell, Morton, Seward, Stanton, and Stevens; the Kansas State Grain Inspection Department (Kansas) applied for designation to provide official services in the entire Kansas area (the area currently assigned to them); Kansas Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Grain Inspection), a proposed organization being formed by the Kansas Grain and Feed Association to function under a trust, that plans to establish its main office in Topeka, Kansas, applied for designation to provide official services in the entire State of Kansas;

and the Missouri Department of Agriculture applied for designation to provide official services in the Kansas counties of Atchison, Doniphan, Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte. Kansas, the currently designated official agency, subsequently withdrew its application.

GIPSA requested comments on the applicants for the Kansas area in the April 14, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 18085). Comments were due by May 13, 1997. GIPSA received 10 comments by the deadline.

The 10 commentors: 8 grain firms currently served by Kansas, 1 financial institution, and 1 grain association, each supported designation of Grain Inspection. These comments were of the view that Grain Inspection would be best able to provide official services.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act; and according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Grain Inspection is better able to provide official services in the geographic area for which they applied. Effective September 1, 1997, and ending August 31, 2000, Grain Inspection is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the March 5, 1997, **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Grain Inspection at 913-296-3451.

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

Dated: July 14, 1997

Neil E. Porter

Director, Compliance Division

[FR Doc. 97-18942 Filed 7-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Oklahoma

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Oklahoma, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in Oklahoma for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Oklahoma to issue a series of new and revised conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG. These new

standards include Channel Vegetation (Code 322); Chiseling and Subsoiling (Code 324); Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328); Cross Wind Ridges (Code 589A); Cross Wind Stripcropping (Code 489B); Cross Wind Trap Strips (Code 489C); and Herbaceous Wind Barriers (Code 422A). Some of these practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land.

DATES: Comments will be received on or before August 20, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquire in writing to Kevin D. Norton, Acting State Resource Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 100 USDA, Suite 203, Stillwater, OK 74074-2655. Copies of these standards will be made available upon written request.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law, to NRCS State technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Oklahoma will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following the period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Oklahoma regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: July 9, 1997.

Ronnie L. Clark,

State Conservationist, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

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BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative; Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with respect to a request from Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative for financing assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) related to the construction of a new operations center in Richland County, South Carolina.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Environmental Protection Specialist, Engineering and