

specifically talked about the pilot programs for barges. Of those seven, five supported the program for barges, and two did not. Subsequently, GIPSA determined that this proposed pilot program was too narrow in scope for the initial round of pilot programs.

Subsequently, some official agencies expressed their belief that a pilot program on the Mississippi River would be beneficial because there is some uncertainty over the boundary lines between official agencies along the Mississippi River. At one point GIPSA considered the boundary to be the middle of a river. Official agencies found this very difficult to work with, and GIPSA subsequently changed the boundary definition to the edge of a river. The middle of a river was viewed as an open area to be served by either contiguous official agency.

In 1993, because of flooding along the Mississippi River, GIPSA granted a temporary exception for certain types of barge inspections along portions of the Illinois, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers. This exception made the covered river areas open to any official agency for probe sampling and inspections to expedite barge traffic. GIPSA noted no problems as a result of this exception.

In addition, some facilities located along the Mississippi River (Birds Point Terminal, Bertrand, Missouri; Peavey, St. Louis, Missouri; ADM, Winona, Minnesota; and Consolidated Grain, Caruthersville, Missouri) have received services from alternative official agencies under the existing pilot programs. There have been no significant problems resulting from the barge inspections on the Mississippi River under the existing pilot programs.

GIPSA is requesting comments on the four barge pilot program options described below.

1. Barges on the Mississippi River may be sampled by probe by any official agency; or

2. Barges on the Mississippi River may be sampled by probe at any location by the official agency designated to serve the geographic area within which the barge was loaded; or

3. Barges on all rivers may be sampled by probe by any official agency; or

4. Barges on all rivers may be sampled by probe at any location by the official agency designated to serve the geographic area within which the barge was loaded.

GIPSA will consider comments on other possible pilot programs.

Official agencies desiring to participate in this pilot program would be asked to submit their plans to provide official services under such a pilot program to Compliance Division.

This pilot program will start approximately January 1, 1998, and run concurrently with the two existing pilot programs ending October 31, 1999. During this time, GIPSA will monitor these pilot programs. If, at any time, GIPSA determines that a pilot program is having a negative impact on the official system or is not working as intended, the pilot program may be modified or discontinued.

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

Dated: October 6, 1997.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration; Solicitation of Nominations for Members of the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

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

ACTION: Notice to solicit nominees.

SUMMARY: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is announcing that nominations are being sought for persons to serve on the Federal Grain Inspection Service Advisory Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under authority of section 20 of the United States Grain Standards Act (Act) Pub. L. 97-35, the Secretary of Agriculture established the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) on September 29, 1981, to provide advice to the Administrator on implementation of the Act. Section 14(c) of the United States Grain Standards Act Amendments of 1993, Pub. L. 103-156, extended the authority for the Advisory Committee through September 30, 2000.

The Advisory Committee presently consists of 15 members, appointed by the Secretary, who represent the interests of grain producers, processors, handlers, merchandisers, consumers, and exporters, including scientists with expertise in research related to the policies in section 2 of the Act. Members of the Committee serve without compensation. They are reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, for travel away from their homes or regular places of business in performance of Committee service, as authorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code. Alternatively, travel

expenses may be paid by Committee members.

Nominations are being sought for persons to serve on the Advisory Committee to replace the five members and four alternate members whose terms expire in December 1997.

Persons interested in serving on the Advisory Committee, or in nominating individuals to serve, should contact: James R. Baker, Administrator, GIPSA, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 3601, Washington, D.C. 20250-3601, in writing and request Form AD-755, which must be completed and submitted to the Administrator at the above address not later than December 9, 1997.

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical handicap, or marital status. To ensure that recommendations of the committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The final selection of Advisory Committee members and alternates will be made by the Secretary.

Dated: October 3, 1997.

James R. Baker,

Administrator.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: November 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41