

the Secretary, five per centum of the total amount of grain exported from the United States annually, the Secretary may delegate authority to the State agency to perform all or specified functions involving official inspection (other than appeal inspection) at export port locations within the State, including export port locations which may in the future be established, subject to such rules, regulations, instructions, and oversight as the Secretary may prescribe, and any such official inspection shall continue to be the direct responsibility of the Secretary. Any such delegation may be revoked by the Secretary, at the discretion of the Secretary, at any time upon notice to the State agency without opportunity for a hearing. Under Section 79(e) of the USGSA, every five years, the Secretary shall certify that each State agency with a delegation of authority is meeting the criteria described in subsection (f)(1)(A). Delegations shall be renewed according to the criteria and procedures set forth in Section 79(e)(2)(B) of the USGSA.

#### Area of Delegation

##### *South Carolina*

Pursuant to Section 79(e)(2) of the USGSA, the following export port locations in the State of South Carolina are assigned to this State agency.

##### In South Carolina

All export port locations in the State of South Carolina, except those export port locations within the State, which are serviced by GIPSA.

#### Request for Comments

We are publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to comment on the quality of services provided by the State of South Carolina. We are particularly interested in receiving comments citing reasons and pertinent data supporting or objecting to the delegation of the applicant. Submit all comments to Sharon Lathrop at the above address or at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

All comments are available for public inspection at the office above during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(c)). We consider comments and other available information when determining certification.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 71–87k.

#### Randall D. Jones,

*Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

#### Opportunity for Designation in the Montana Area; Request for Comments on the Official Agency Servicing This Area

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The designation of the official agency listed below will end on June 30, 2017. We are asking persons or governmental agencies interested in providing official services in the areas presently served by this agency to submit an application for designation. In addition, we are asking for comments on the quality of services provided by the following designated agency: Montana Department of Agriculture (Montana).

**DATES:** Applications and comments must be received by May 17, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit applications and comments concerning this notice using any of the following methods:

- *Applying for Designation on the Internet:* Use FGISonline ([https://fgis.gipsa.usda.gov/default\\_home\\_FGIS.aspx](https://fgis.gipsa.usda.gov/default_home_FGIS.aspx)) and then click on the Delegations/Designations and Export Registrations (DDR) link. You will need to obtain an FGISonline customer number and USDA eAuthentication username and password prior to applying.

- *Submit Comments Using the Internet:* Go to [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (<http://www.regulations.gov>). Instructions for submitting and reading comments are detailed on the site.

- *Mail, Courier or Hand Delivery:* Jacob Thein, Compliance Officer, USDA, GIPSA, FGIS, QACD, 10383 North Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153.

- *Fax:* Jacob Thein, 816–872–1257.

- *Email:* [FGIS.QACD@usda.gov](mailto:FGIS.QACD@usda.gov).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jacob Thein, 816–866–2223 or [FGIS.QACD@usda.gov](mailto:FGIS.QACD@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 79(f) of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) authorizes the Secretary 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 (7 U.S.C. 79 (f)). Under section 79(g) of the USGSA, designations of official agencies are effective for no longer than five years, unless terminated

by the Secretary, and may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in section 79(f) of the USGSA.

#### Areas Open for Designation

##### *State of Montana*

Pursuant to Section 79(f)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act, the following geographic area in the State of Montana is assigned to this official agency.

##### In Montana

The entire State of Montana.

#### Opportunity for Designation

Interested persons or governmental agencies may apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas specified above under the provisions of section 79(f) of the USGSA and 7 CFR 800.196. Designation in the specified geographic area in Montana is for the period beginning July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2022. To apply for designation or to request more information, contact Jacob Thein at the address listed above.

#### Request for Comments

We are publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to comment on the quality of services provided by the Montana official agency. In the designation process, we are particularly interested in receiving comments citing reasons and pertinent data supporting or objecting to the designation of the applicant. Submit all comments to Jacob Thein at the above address or at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

All applications and comments will be available for public inspection at the office above during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(c)). We consider applications, comments, and other available information when determining which applicants will be designated.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 71–87k.

#### Randall D. Jones,

*Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.*

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