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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the State of Minnesota

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces the designation of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (Minnesota) to provide official services under the United States **Grain** Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1998.

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 June 30, 1997, Federal Register (62 FR 35147), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic area assigned to

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Minnesota to submit an application for designation. Applications were

due by July 30, 1997. There were three applicants for the Minnesota area: Mid-Iowa **Grain Inspection, Inc.**, applied for designation to provide official services in the Minnesota counties of Filmore, Houston, and Winona; Minnesota applied for designation to provide official services in the entire Minnesota area; and Sioux City **Inspection** and Weighing Service Company, applied for designation to provide official services in the Minnesota counties of Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, and Rock.

GIPSA requested comments on the applicants for the Minnesota area

in the September 2, 1997, Federal Register (62 FR 46245). Comments were due by October 1, 1997. GIPSA received no comments by the deadline.

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 Minnesota is better able to provide official services in the Minnesota area.

Effective January 1, 1998, and ending December 31, 2000, Minnesota is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the June 30, 1997, Federal Register.

Interested persons may obtain services by contacting Minnesota at 612-341-7190.

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

Dated: November 21, 1997.
Neil E. Porter,
Director, Compliance Division.
[FR Doc. 97-31334 Filed 11-28-97; 8:45 am]
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