

[Federal Register: December 1, 1997 (Volume 62, Number 230)]

[Notices]

[Page 63513]

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[DOCID:fr01de97-31]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Opportunity to Comment on the Applicants for the Little Rock Area

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA requests comments on the applicants for designation to provide official services in the geographic area formerly assigned to Arkansas **Grain Inspection Service** (Arkansas).

DATES: Comments must be postmarked, or sent by telecopier (FAX) by December 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted in writing to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604. Telecopier (FAX) users may send comments to the automatic telecopier machine at 202-690-2755, attention: Janet M. Hart. All comments received will be made available for public **inspection** at the above address located at 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., during regular business hours.

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 October 1, 1997, Federal Register (62 FR 51407), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the Little Rock area, formerly assigned to Arkansas, to submit an application for designation by October 30, 1997. There were two applicants: Memphis **Grain Inspection Service**, a currently designated official agency, located at Memphis, Tennessee, and contiguous to the Little Rock area, applied for designation to provide official services in the Little Rock area; and the former Arkansas agency reorganized and applied for designation to provide official services in the Little Rock area.

GIPSA is publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments concerning the applicants. Commenters are encouraged to submit reasons and pertinent data for support or objection to the designation of the applicants. All comments must be submitted to the Compliance Division at the above address. Comments and other available information will be considered in making a final decision. GIPSA will publish notice of the final decision in the Federal Register, and GIPSA will send the applicants written notification of the decision.

Effective November 1, 1997, until an official agency can be selected, requests for official services should be directed to GIPSA's Stuttgart, Arkansas, Field Office at 501-673-2508.

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. 97-31335 Filed 11-28-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P
