

**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 3, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 9412), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to Denver and East Indiana to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by April 1, 1997. Denver and East Indiana, the only applicants, each applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them.

Since Denver and East Indiana were the only applicants for the respective areas, GIPSA did not ask for comments on the applicants.

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 Denver and East Indiana are able to provide official services in the geographic areas for which they applied. Effective September 1, 1997, and ending August 31, 2000, Denver and East Indiana are designated to provide official services in the geographic areas specified in the March 3, 1997, **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Denver at 303-292-5361 and East Indiana at 765-289-1206.

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

Dated: July 24, 1997.

**Neil E. Porter,**

*Director, Compliance Division.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

#### Opportunity for Designation in the Lima (OH) and Virginia Areas

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act), provides that official agency designations will end not later than triennially and may be renewed. The designations of Lima Grain Inspection Service, Inc. (Lima), and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Virginia), will end January 31, 1998, according to the Act. GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in the Lima and Virginia areas to submit an application for designation.

**DATES:** Applications must be postmarked or sent by telecopier (FAX) on or before September 2, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications must be submitted to USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604. Applications may be submitted by FAX on 202-690-2755. If an application is submitted by FAX, GIPSA reserves the right to request an original application. All applications will be made available for public inspection at this 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.

Section 7(f)(1) of the Act authorizes GIPSA's Administrator 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. GIPSA designated Lima, main office located in Lima, Ohio, and Virginia, main office located in Richmond, Virginia, to provide official services under the Act on February 1, 1995.

Section 7(g)(1) of the Act provides that designations of official agencies shall end not later than triennially and may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in Section 7(f) of the Act. The designations of Lima and Virginia end on January 31, 1998, according to the Act.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, in the State of Ohio, is assigned to Lima.

Bounded on the North by the northern and eastern Williams County lines; the northern and eastern Defiance County

lines south to U.S. Route 24; U.S. Route 24 northeast to State Route 108;

Bounded on the East by State Route 108 south to Putnam County; the northern and eastern Putnam County lines; the eastern Allen County line; the northern Hardin County line east to U.S. Route 68 (excluding all of Sidney, Ohio); U.S. Route 68 south to U.S. Route 47;

Bounded on the South by U.S. Route 47 west-southwest to Interstate 75; Interstate 75 south to the Shelby County line; the southern and western Shelby County lines; the southern Mercer County line; and

Bounded on the West by the Ohio-Indiana State line from the southern Mercer County line to the northern Williams County line.

Lima's assigned geographic area does not include the following grain elevator inside Lima's area which has been and will continue to be serviced by the following official agency: East Indiana Grain Inspection, Inc.: Payne Cooperative Association, Payne, Paulding County.

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the Act, the following geographic area, the entire State of Virginia, except those export port locations within the State, is assigned to Virginia.

Interested persons, including Lima and Virginia, are hereby given the opportunity to apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas specified above under the provisions of Section 7(f) of the Act and section 800.196(d) of the regulations issued thereunder.

Designation in the Lima and Virginia areas is for the period beginning February 1, 1998, and ending January 31, 2001. Persons wishing to apply for designation should contact the Compliance Division at the address listed above for forms and information.

Applications and other available information will be considered in determining which applicant will be designated.

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

Dated: July 24, 1997.

**Neil E. Porter,**

*Director, Compliance Division.*

[FR Doc. 97-19926 Filed 7-31-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration; United States Standards for Beans

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is soliciting comments on its proposal to change the voluntary United States Standards for Beans. Specifically, GIPSA is proposing to change the name of the class Black Turtle Soup beans to Black beans and to establish a separate grade chart for Cranberry beans. These changes have been requested by the industry in order to improve the usability of the voluntary United States Standards for Beans.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before September 2, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be submitted to Sharon Vassiliades at GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3649, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-3649; faxed to (202) 720-4628; or e-mailed to svassili@fgisdc.usda.gov.

All comments received will be made available for public inspection at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m.—3:30 p.m.).

The current United States Standards for Beans, along with the proposed changes, is available either through the above addresses or by accessing GIPSA's Home Page on the Internet at: [www.usda.gov/gipsa/strulreg/standard/beans](http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/strulreg/standard/beans).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact Sharon Vassiliades at (202) 720-1738.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade, and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices\* \* \*" The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities and makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Beans do not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations but are maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is proposing to change the United States Standards for Beans using the procedures it published in the **Federal Register** on February 13, 1997 (62 FR 6705). Specifically, GIPSA is proposing to change the name of the class Black

Turtle Soup beans to Black beans and to establish a separate grade chart for Cranberry beans.

In June 1995, the Michigan Bean Commission and the Michigan Bean Shippers Association requested that the U.S. Standards for Beans be revised to establish a separate grade chart for Cranberry beans. Currently, the grades and grade requirements for Cranberry and Yelloweye beans are shown together on one chart. These groups also asked that the class Black Turtle Soup beans be renamed as Black beans.

Cranberry beans are grown predominately in Michigan. Traditionally, most Cranberry beans have been exported to Italy. The Cranberry bean market has expanded, and these beans are now being shipped in volume to Spain, Portugal, and other Mediterranean countries. As commerce has grown, acreage has increased to include parts of Minnesota and North Dakota. To ensure continued market stability, U.S. producers and shippers need more precise export tonnage information. Currently, the Department of Commerce combines Cranberry and Yelloweye bean export information into one database. Establishing a separate grade chart for Cranberry beans will enable the Department of Commerce to develop a separate database for Cranberry beans.

Michigan is also the primary producer of Black Turtle Soup beans. These beans are commonly known in the United States, and throughout the world, as Black beans. According to the Michigan Bean Commission and the Michigan Bean Shippers Association, "The Black bean has been saddled with the ill-advised, meaningless, and in many circles, derogatory label 'Black Turtle Soup' bean too long." These groups feel that the U.S. class designation, Black Turtle Soup bean, is confusing to potential Black bean buyers. For this reason, the U.S. bean industry strongly favors renaming the class Black Turtle Soup beans as Black beans.

Accordingly, GIPSA has determined that establishing a separate grade chart for Cranberry beans and renaming the class Black Turtle Soup beans as Black beans will improve the usability of U.S. Standards for Beans.

These standard changes were recommended to us and reviewed by the affected trade. Therefore, GIPSA is publishing this notice with a 30-day comment period which will provide a sufficient amount of time for interested persons to comment on changes to the standards.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*

Dated: July 24, 1997.

**James R. Baker,**  
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-20100 Filed 7-31-97; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Rural Utilities Service**

**Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Jackson County Water Association, Jackson County Lake Project and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent and notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (U.S.C. 4231 *et seq.*) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508) and Agency regulations 7 CFR 1940-G. The primary scope of the EIS is to evaluate the environmental impacts of and alternatives to the Jackson County Water Association's applications for financial assistance to provide water supply for the residents of Jackson and surrounding counties. This project, known as the Jackson County Lake (Project), is one of the initiatives developed for the Kentucky Highlands Empowerment Zone. The project proposes to construct a 115 foot tall dam on the Laurel Fork of the Rockcastle River in Jackson County, Kentucky creating a 640 acre lake, storing approximately 28,440 acre feet of water. Included in the proposal is a raw water intake, pumps, water treatment plant upgrade from 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD) to 2.0 MGD, and pipelines necessary for transporting raw water to the Jackson County Water Association's water treatment plant for treatment and distribution to residents in Jackson County and portions of Lee, Madison, Owsley, and Rockcastle Counties. In addition to improving the water supply of the areas specified above, the Project will serve to meet a stated goal of the Kentucky Highland Empowerment Zone's Strategic Plan for increasing local recreational and tourism opportunities in the Jackson County area.

The RUS has received two pre-applications from the Jackson County