DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

Designation for the Essex, Illinois; Savage, Minnesota; Alabama; and Washington Areas

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of designation.

SUMMARY: AMS is announcing the designations of Kankakee Grain Inspection, Inc. (Kankakee); State Grain Inspection, Inc. (State Grain); Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (Alabama); and the Washington Department of Agriculture (Washington) to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA), as amended. The realignment of offices within the U.S. Department of Agriculture authorized by the Secretary’s Memorandum dated November 14, 2017, eliminates the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) as a standalone agency. The grain inspection activities formerly part of GIPSA are now organized under the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

DATES: Applicable Date: January 1, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Jacob Thein, Compliance Officer, USDA, AMS, FGIS, QACD, 10383 North Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jacob Thein, 816–866–2223, Jacob.D.Thein@usda.gov or FGIS.QACD@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the July 3, 2017, Federal Register (82 FR 30817–30820), GIPSA requested applications for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas presently serviced by Kankakee, State Grain, Alabama, and Washington. Applications were due by August 2, 2017.

Because the current official agencies, Kankakee, State Grain, Alabama, and Washington, were the only applicants for designation to provide official services in these areas, GIPSA did not ask for additional comments.

GIPSA evaluated the designation criteria in section 7(f) of the USGSA (7 U.S.C. 79(f)) and determined that Kankakee, State Grain, Alabama, and Washington are qualified to provide official services in the geographic areas specified in the Federal Register on July 3, 2017. These designations to provide official services in the specified areas of Kankakee, Alabama, and Washington are effective January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2022. The designation to provide official services in the specified area of State Grain is effective January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2018.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting this agency at the following telephone number:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official agency</th>
<th>Headquarters location and telephone</th>
<th>Designation start</th>
<th>Designation end</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kankakee</td>
<td>Essex, IL 815–365–2268</td>
<td>1/1/2018</td>
<td>12/31/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Grain</td>
<td>Savage, MN 952–808–8566</td>
<td>1/1/2018</td>
<td>12/31/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Montgomery, AL 251–438–2549</td>
<td>1/1/2018</td>
<td>12/31/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Olympia, WA 253–820–3756</td>
<td>1/1/2018</td>
<td>12/31/2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana Montanore Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Kootenai National Forest (KNF) will prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on a proposed federal action, which is approval of a Plan of Operations for the Evaluation Phase of the Montanore Project (Project) The Project is a proposed underground copper and silver mine located about 18 miles south of Libby, near the Cabinet Mountains within the Libby Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana. The Montanore Project is proposed by Montanore Minerals Corp. (MMC), a subsidiary of Hecla Mining Co.

DATES: Scoping is not required for an SEIS (40 CFR 1502.9(c)(4)). The Forest Service is not inviting comments at this time. The draft SEIS is expected to be available for public review and comment in the first quarter of 2018 and the final SEIS is expected to be issued in the second quarter of 2018. The comment period for the draft SEIS will be for 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: Kootenai National Forest, 31374 U.S. Highway 2, Libby, MT 59923.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynn Hagarty, Project Coordinator, Kootenai National Forest, Supervisor’s Office, 31374 U.S. Highway 2, Libby, MT 59923–3022. Inquiries can be made by phone at (406) 293–6211 or via email at lhagarty@fs.fed.us.
Following is a brief summary of the Evaluation Phase of the Montanore Project, as it would occur under Alternative 3 selected by the KNF in its 2016 ROD. Detailed descriptions of the alternatives studied in detail are provided in the Joint FEIS and ROD, which can be can be viewed or downloaded from the following website: https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/kootenai/landmanagement/projects.

**Evaluation Phase**

The purposes of the Evaluation Phase would be to: (1) Expand the knowledge of the mineralized zones of the deposit; (2) assess and define the mineralized zone within established valid existing rights; and (3) collect, provide, and analyze additional geotechnical, hydrological, and other information necessary for preparation of a mine plan for subsequent phases. An updated mine Plan of Operations would be required should MMC decide, based on the assessment of the orebody and other information collected during the Evaluation Phase, to pursue subsequent phases of the project. Information collected during the Evaluation Phase would be used to confirm and update the analysis for subsequent phases that has provided in the JFEIS, should the KNF receive an updated mine Plan of Operations for subsequent project phases.

The Evaluation Phase is anticipated to last 18 to 24 months. MMC would dewater the full extent of the existing Libby Adit and develop an additional 10,500 feet of drifts and 35 drill stations above the currently defined ore zones. MMC would drill ahead of the drifts and keep all drill stations 300 feet from the Rock Lake Fault and 1,000 feet from Rock Lake. The drill core would be used to support resource modeling, mine planning, metallurgical testing, preliminary hydrology assessment, and rock mechanic studies for the full Montanore Project. An estimated 287,000 tons (140,000 cubic yards) of waste rock would be generated and stored on private land at the Libby Adit Site. The waste rock storage areas would be lined to collect runoff from the area and seepage through the waste rock.

Water from the Libby Adit and from the waste rock storage area would be treated before discharging to MPDES-permitted outfalls. The MPDES permit MT0030279, which the DEQ issued in 2017, sets effluent limits and establishes monitoring for wastewater discharges from the Libby Adit Water Treatment Plant. Treated water would be discharged to a percolation pond located at the Libby Adit Site.