

specifically talked about the pilot programs for barges. Of those seven, five supported the program for barges, and two did not. Subsequently, GIPSA determined that this proposed pilot program was too narrow in scope for the initial round of pilot programs.

Subsequently, some official agencies expressed their belief that a pilot program on the Mississippi River would be beneficial because there is some uncertainty over the boundary lines between official agencies along the Mississippi River. At one point GIPSA considered the boundary to be the middle of a river. Official agencies found this very difficult to work with, and GIPSA subsequently changed the boundary definition to the edge of a river. The middle of a river was viewed as an open area to be served by either contiguous official agency.

In 1993, because of flooding along the Mississippi River, GIPSA granted a temporary exception for certain types of barge inspections along portions of the Illinois, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers. This exception made the covered river areas open to any official agency for probe sampling and inspections to expedite barge traffic. GIPSA noted no problems as a result of this exception.

In addition, some facilities located along the Mississippi River (Birds Point Terminal, Bertrand, Missouri; Peavey, St. Louis, Missouri; ADM, Winona, Minnesota; and Consolidated Grain, Caruthersville, Missouri) have received services from alternative official agencies under the existing pilot programs. There have been no significant problems resulting from the barge inspections on the Mississippi River under the existing pilot programs.

GIPSA is requesting comments on the four barge pilot program options described below.

1. Barges on the Mississippi River may be sampled by probe by any official agency; or

2. Barges on the Mississippi River may be sampled by probe at any location by the official agency designated to serve the geographic area within which the barge was loaded; or

3. Barges on all rivers may be sampled by probe by any official agency; or

4. Barges on all rivers may be sampled by probe at any location by the official agency designated to serve the geographic area within which the barge was loaded.

GIPSA will consider comments on other possible pilot programs.

Official agencies desiring to participate in this pilot program would be asked to submit their plans to provide official services under such a pilot program to Compliance Division.

This pilot program will start approximately January 1, 1998, and run concurrently with the two existing pilot programs ending October 31, 1999. During this time, GIPSA will monitor these pilot programs. If, at any time, GIPSA determines that a pilot program is having a negative impact on the official system or is not working as intended, the pilot program may be modified or discontinued.

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

Dated: October 6, 1997.

**Neil E. Porter,**

*Director, Compliance Division.*

[FR Doc. 97-26899 Filed 10-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration; Solicitation of Nominations for Members of the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee**

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

**ACTION:** Notice to solicit nominees.

**SUMMARY:** The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is announcing that nominations are being sought for persons to serve on the Federal Grain Inspection Service Advisory Committee.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under authority of section 20 of the United States Grain Standards Act (Act) Pub. L. 97-35, the Secretary of Agriculture established the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) on September 29, 1981, to provide advice to the Administrator on implementation of the Act. Section 14(c) of the United States Grain Standards Act Amendments of 1993, Pub. L. 103-156, extended the authority for the Advisory Committee through September 30, 2000.

The Advisory Committee presently consists of 15 members, appointed by the Secretary, who represent the interests of grain producers, processors, handlers, merchandisers, consumers, and exporters, including scientists with expertise in research related to the policies in section 2 of the Act. Members of the Committee serve without compensation. They are reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, for travel away from their homes or regular places of business in performance of Committee service, as authorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code. Alternatively, travel

expenses may be paid by Committee members.

Nominations are being sought for persons to serve on the Advisory Committee to replace the five members and four alternate members whose terms expire in December 1997.

Persons interested in serving on the Advisory Committee, or in nominating individuals to serve, should contact: James R. Baker, Administrator, GIPSA, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 3601, Washington, D.C. 20250-3601, in writing and request Form AD-755, which must be completed and submitted to the Administrator at the above address not later than December 9, 1997.

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical handicap, or marital status. To ensure that recommendations of the committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

The final selection of Advisory Committee members and alternates will be made by the Secretary.

Dated: October 3, 1997.

**James R. Baker,**

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 97-26898 Filed 10-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

## **COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED**

### **Procurement List; Proposed Additions**

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Proposed additions to Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

**COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE:** November 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published pursuant to 41

U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed actions.

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the services to the Government.

2. The action does not appear to have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the services proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.

The following services have been proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

**Janitorial/Custodial**

Keene USARC, 682 Main Street,  
Keene, New Hampshire

NPA: Easter Seal Society of New  
Hampshire, Manchester, New  
Hampshire

**Janitorial/Custodial**

Craft Bros. USARC, 11 St. Anselm's  
Drive, Manchester, New Hampshire

NPA: Easter Seal Society of New  
Hampshire, Manchester, New  
Hampshire

**Janitorial/Custodial**

Grenier Field USARC, Manchester,  
New Hampshire

NPA: Easter Seal Society of New  
Hampshire, Manchester, New  
Hampshire

**Janitorial/Custodial**

Paul A. Doble USARC, 125 Cottage  
Street, Portsmouth, New Hampshire

NPA: Easter Seal Society of New  
Hampshire, Manchester, New

**Hampshire  
Janitorial/Custodial**

Raymond Bisson USARC, 70  
Rochester Hill Road, Rochester,  
New Hampshire

NPA: Easter Seal Society of New  
Hampshire, Manchester, New  
Hampshire

**Janitorial/Custodial**

Rainbow Bridge U.S. Plaza, Niagara  
Falls, New York

NPA: Niagara County Chapter,  
NYSARC, Niagara Falls, New York

**Switchboard Operation**

Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 423  
East 23rd Street, New York, New  
York

NPA: The Corporate Source, Inc., New  
York, New York

**Beverly L. Milkman,**

*Executive Director.*

[FR Doc. 97-26996 Filed 10-9-97; 8:45 am]

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**COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM  
PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR  
SEVERELY DISABLED**

**Procurement List; Additions**

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From  
People Who Are Blind or Severely  
Disabled.

**ACTION:** Additions to the Procurement  
List.

**SUMMARY:** This action adds to the  
Procurement List commodities and a  
service to be furnished by nonprofit  
agencies employing persons who are  
blind or have other severe disabilities.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase  
From People Who Are Blind or Severely  
Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403,  
1735 Jefferson Davis Highway,  
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June  
20, July 11, 18, August 22, 1997, the  
Committee for Purchase From People  
Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled  
published notices (62 FR 33585, 37191,  
38518 and 44637) of proposed additions  
to the Procurement List.

*The following comments pertain to  
Drain Plug Assembly (2590-00-299-  
0739)*

Comments were received from the  
current contractor for the drain plug  
assembly, both through its counsel and  
through the office of a Member of  
Congress. The contractor indicated that  
addition of this item to the Procurement  
List would severely affect the company  
in that it would lose sales and have to

close a production line, with the layoff  
of several workers. The contractor also  
stated that its subcontractors for plating,  
heat treating, and painting of  
components would be affected.

The contractor claimed that the  
addition would eliminate at least one  
proven supplier of the drain plug  
assemblies, as the company could not  
afford to maintain an idle production  
line and would not be able to retool fast  
enough to meet emergency  
requirements. The contractor questioned  
the nonprofit agency's capability to  
meet emergency requirements and its  
ability to produce the assembly at a  
price comparable to that currently  
offered by the contractor, claiming that  
the addition will greatly increase the  
Government's cost to obtain the item.  
The contractor also indicated that  
addition of the item to the Procurement  
List was inconsistent with Government  
policies to increase contracting with  
small businesses.

The contractor indicated that the  
drain plug assembly represented a very  
small percentage of its Government  
sales, and thus an even smaller  
percentage of its total sales. These  
percentages are well below the level the  
Committee normally considers to  
constitute severe adverse impact on a  
contractor. In addition, we have been  
informed that demand for the assembly  
has been sharply reduced, so sales of the  
item will represent an even smaller  
amount in the future.

The nonprofit agency will be  
assembling the components of the drain  
plug assembly, so the contractor will  
have the opportunity to provide these  
components as a subcontractor and may  
not have to shut its production line, lay  
off workers, and remove itself from the  
ranks of potential suppliers of the drain  
plug assembly. Committee regulations  
encourage nonprofit agencies to  
subcontract with small businesses such  
as the commenting contractor.

Although the contractor indicated that  
its subcontractors would be providing  
information to the Committee on how  
the addition would affect them, we have  
received no such information. It would  
thus appear that any impact on these  
subcontractors is not severe.

Assessments of Government  
contractor capability normally include  
capability to meet emergency  
requirements that are in excess of  
normal demands. Nonprofit agencies  
participating in the Committee's Javits-  
Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program are held  
to the same capability standards as other  
Government contractors. In this case,  
the Government contracting activity  
which buys the drain plug assembly  
declined an opportunity to conduct a