

Summary of Collection: The Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA) of 2002 is the primary Federal law governing the protection of animal health. The AHPA is contained in Title X, subtitle E, sections 10401–18, of Public Law 107–171, May 13, 2002, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for, among other things, protecting the health of our Nation's livestock and poultry populations by preventing the introduction and spread of serious diseases and pests of livestock and poultry and for eradicating such diseases and pests from the United States when feasible. The regulations in 9 CFR part 92, Importation of Animals and Animal Products: Procedures for Requesting Recognition of Regions, set out the process by which a foreign government may request recognition of the animal health status of a region or approval to export animals or animal products to the United States based on the risk associated with animals or animal products from that region. Each request must include information about the region.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collection information that might include: (1) The authority, organization, and infrastructure of the Veterinary Service Organization in the region; (2) disease status; (3) the status of adjacent regions with respect to the agent; (4) the extent of an active disease control program, if any, if the agent is known to exist in the region; (5) the vaccination status of the region, when the last vaccination, what is the extent of vaccination if it is currently used, and what vaccine is being used; (6) the degree to which the region is separated from adjacent regions of higher risk through physical or other barriers; (7) the extent to which movement of animal and animal products is controlled from regions of higher risk, and the level of biosecurity regarding such movements; (8) livestock demographics and marketing practices in the region; (9) the type and extent of surveillance in the

region, e.g., is it passive and/or active, what is the quantity and quality of sampling and testing; (10) diagnostic laboratory capabilities, and (11) policies and infrastructure for animal disease control in the region, i.e., emergency response capacity. Without the information the U.S. livestock and poultry industries could suffer serious economic losses as the result of such an incursion, since the value of their products would be diminished both domestically and internationally.

Description of Respondents: Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 3.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 120.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the Unassigned Areas of East Texas

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA is announcing the designation of the following organization to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (USGSA): Central Illinois Grain Inspection (Central Illinois) d/b/a Lone Star Grain Inspection in Texas.

DATES: *Effective Date:* April 20, 2009.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Karen Guagliardo, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647–S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Guagliardo at 202–720–7312, e-mail Karen.W.Guagliardo@usda.gov.

Read Applications: All applications and comments will be available for public inspection at the office above during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(b)).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the September 29, 2008, **Federal Register** (73 FR 56546), GIPSA requested applications for designation to provide official services in the geographic area named above. Applications were due by October 29, 2008.

There were two applicants for the east Texas area: Central Illinois and Gulf Country Inspection Service, Inc. (Gulf Country); both applied for the entire area open for designation. Central Illinois is currently designated as an official service provider and has been providing services in the designation area on an interim basis since July 1, 2008. Gulf Country is a proposed official service provider owned by Tyrone Robichaux, Richard Maynard, Pat LaCour, and Dan Williams. GIPSA asked for comments on Central Illinois and Gulf Country in the December 1, 2008, **Federal Register** (73 FR 72762). Comments were due by December 31, 2008. GIPSA received a total of 3 comments by the closing date all in support of Central Illinois. The comments received were from grain companies located in the area of designation.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in section 7(f)(1) of the USGSA (7 U.S.C. 79(f)) and determined that Central Illinois is better able to provide official services in the geographic areas specified in the September 2, 2008, **Federal Register**, for which they applied. This designation action to provide official services in the specified area is effective March 12, 2009. Central Illinois' current designation, which terminates on March 31, 2011, will be amended to include the east Texas area.

Interested persons may obtain official services by calling the telephone numbers listed below.

Official agency	Headquarters location and telephone	Designation start	Designation end
Central Illinois	Bloomington, IL, 309–827–7121. Additional Locations: Pekin, IL, Saginaw, TX, 817–306–8124.	4/1/2008	3/31/2011

Section 7(f)(1) of the USGSA 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 (7 U.S.C. 79 (f)(1)).

Under section 7(g)(1) of the USGSA, designations of official agencies are effective for 3 years unless terminated by the Secretary but may be renewed

according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in section 7(f) of the Act.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 71–87k.

Alan R. Christian,

*Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection,
Packers, and Stockyards Administration.*

[FR Doc. E9–9019 Filed 4–17–09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Announcement of Grant Application Deadlines and Funding Levels

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funds availability and solicitation of applications.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announces its Community Connect Grant Program application window for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. In addition, RUS announces the minimum and maximum amounts for Community Connect grants applicable for the fiscal year. The Community Connect Grant Program regulations can be found at 7 CFR 1739, subpart A.

DATES: You may submit completed applications for grants on paper or electronically according to the following deadlines:

- Paper copies must carry proof of shipping *no later than* June 19, 2009 to be eligible for FY 2009 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2009 grant funding.

- Electronic copies must be received by June 19, 2009 to be eligible for FY 2009 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2009 grant funding.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain application guides and materials for the Community Connect Grant Program via the Internet at the following Web site: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/commconnect.htm>. You may also request application guides and materials from RUS by contacting the appropriate individual listed in section VII of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

Submit completed paper applications for grants to the Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 2870, STOP 1599, Washington, DC 20250–1599. Applications should be marked “Attention: Director, Broadband Division, Rural Utilities Service.”

Submit electronic grant applications at <http://www.grants.gov> (Grants.gov), following the instructions you find on that Web site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Kuchno, Director, Broadband

Division, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, telephone: (202) 690–4673, fax: (202) 690–4389.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Federal Agency: Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

Funding Opportunity Title: Community Connect Grant Program.

Announcement Type: Initial announcement.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 10.863.

Dates: You may submit completed applications for grants on paper or electronically according to the following deadlines:

- Paper copies must carry proof of shipping *no later than* June 19, 2009, to be eligible for FY 2009 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2009 grant funding.

- Electronic copies must be received by June 19, 2009, to be eligible for FY 2009 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2009 grant funding.

Items in Supplementary Information

I. *Funding Opportunity:* Brief introduction to the Community Connect Grant Program.

II. *Award Information:* Available funds and minimum and maximum amounts.

III. *Eligibility Information:* Who is eligible, what kinds of projects are eligible, what criteria determine basic eligibility.

IV. *Application and Submission Information:* Where to get application materials, what constitutes a completed application, how and where to submit applications, deadlines, items that are eligible.

V. *Application Review Information:* Considerations and preferences, scoring criteria, review standards, selection information.

VI. *Award Administration Information:* Award notice information, award recipient reporting requirements.

VII. *Agency Contacts:* Web, phone, fax, e-mail, contact name.

I. Funding Opportunity

The provision of broadband transmission service is vital to the economic development, education, health, and safety of rural Americans. The purpose of the Community Connect Grant Program is to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible applicants that will provide currently unserved areas, on a “community-oriented connectivity” basis, with broadband transmission service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety services. Rural Utilities Service will give priority to rural areas that it believes have the greatest need for broadband

transmission services, based on the criteria contained herein.

Grant authority will be used for the deployment of broadband transmission service to extremely rural, lower-income communities on a “community-oriented connectivity” basis.

The “community-oriented connectivity” concept will stimulate practical, everyday uses and applications of broadband facilities by cultivating the deployment of new broadband transmission services that improve economic development and provide enhanced educational and health care opportunities in rural areas. Such an approach will also give rural communities the opportunity to benefit from the advanced technologies that are necessary to achieve these goals. Please see 7 CFR 1739, subpart A for specifics.

This notice has been formatted to conform to a policy directive issued by the Office of Federal Financial Management (OFFM) of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), published in the **Federal Register** on June 23, 2003. This Notice does not change the Community Connect Grant Program regulation (7 CFR 1739, subpart A).

II. Award Information

A. Available Funds

1. *General.* The Administrator has determined that the following amounts are available for grants in FY 2009 under 7 CFR 1739.2(a).

2. Grants:

a. \$13,406,000 is available for grants. Under 7 CFR 1739.2, the Administrator has established a minimum grant amount of \$50,000 and a maximum grant amount of \$1,000,000 for FY 2009.

b. Assistance instrument: Rural Development will execute grant documents appropriate to the project prior to any advance of funds with successful applicants.

B. Community Connect grants cannot be renewed. Award documents specify the term of each award. Applications to extend existing projects are welcomed (grant applications must be submitted during the application window) and will be evaluated as new applications.

III. Eligibility Information

A. *Who is eligible for grants? (See 7 CFR 1739.10.)*

1. Only entities legally organized as one of the following are eligible for Community Connect Grant Program financial assistance:

- a. An incorporated organization,
- b. An Indian tribe or tribal organization, as defined in 25 U.S.C. 450b(b) and (c),