

contrast, Osakis, Wadena, and Ashby, all receive between 4 to 8 more inches of snowfall per year.

According to the petitioner, "the drier climate and lighter snow cover makes for lowered water tables, but watershed flowing from areas to the north and east replenish the water and maintain constant lake water levels." In addition, the petitioner states that the petitioned area has temperature averages that are generally warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer than those of adjacent areas.

## Public Participation

### Comments

We request comments from anyone interested. Please support your comments with specific information. Examples include name evidence and data about growing conditions or area boundaries.

Although we do not acknowledge receipt, we will consider your comments if we receive them on or before the closing date. We will consider comments received after the closing date if time permits. We regard all comments as originals.

You may submit comments in any of four ways.

- *By mail:* You may send written comments to ATF at the address listed in the Addresses section.

- *By facsimile:* You may submit comments by facsimile transmission to 202-927-8525. Faxed comments must—

- (1) Be legible;
- (2) Reference this Notice number;
- (3) Be on 8½ by 11-inch paper;
- (4) Contain a legible, written signature; and

- (5) Be five or less pages long. This limitation assures electronic access to our equipment. We will not accept faxed comments that exceed five pages.

- *By e-mail:* You may e-mail comments to [nprm@atfhq.atf.treas.gov](mailto:nprm@atfhq.atf.treas.gov). Comments transmitted by electronic-mail must—

- (1) Contain your name, mailing address, and e-mail address;
- (2) Reference this Notice number on the subject line; and
- (3) Be legible when printed on 8½ by 11-inch paper. We will not acknowledge receipt of e-mail.

- *Online:* We provide a comment form with the online copy of this proposed rule. See the ATF Internet Web site at <http://www.atf.treas.gov>.

You may also write to the Director to ask for a public hearing. The Director reserves the right to determine, in light of all circumstances, whether a public hearing will be held.

### Disclosure

You may inspect copies of the petition, the proposed regulations, the appropriate maps, and any written comments by appointment. The ATF Reading Room, Public and Governmental Affairs, is located in room 6480 at 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226. You may also obtain copies at 20 cents per page. If you want to view or request copies of comments, call the ATF librarian at telephone number 202-927-7890.

For your convenience, we will post comments received in response to this Notice on the ATF Web site. All comments posted on our Web site will show the names of commenters but not street addresses, telephone numbers, or e-mail addresses. We may also omit voluminous attachments or material that we consider unsuitable for posting. In all cases, the full comment will be available in the ATF Reading Room. To access online copies of the comments on this rulemaking, visit <http://www.atf.treas.gov/> and select "Regulations," then "Notices of proposed rulemaking (Alcohol)." Next, select "View Comments" under this Notice number. Finally, select "Notice of Proposed Rulemakings Comments" and this Notice number.

### Confidentiality

We do not recognize any submitted material as confidential. We will disclose all information that relates to the comments, including the identity of the commenters. Do not enclose in your comments any material you consider confidential or inappropriate for disclosure.

## Regulatory Analyses and Notices

### Paperwork Reduction Act

We propose no requirement to collect information. Therefore, the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, do not apply.

### Regulatory Flexibility Act

We certify that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, including small businesses. The establishment of viticultural areas represents neither ATF endorsement nor approval of the quality of wine produced in the areas. Rather, it allows identification of areas distinct from one another where a given quality, reputation, or other characteristic of the wine produced in the area is essentially attributable to its geographical origin.

We believe that the establishment of viticultural areas allows wineries to describe more accurately the origin of their wines to consumers and helps consumers identify the wines they purchase. Thus, any benefit derived from the use of a viticultural area name is the result of the proprietor's efforts and consumer acceptance of wines from that area.

### Executive Order 12866

This proposed rule is not a "significant regulatory action" as defined by Executive Order 12866. Therefore, no regulatory assessment is required.

### Drafting Information

The principal author of this document is Lisa M. Gesser, Regulations Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

## List of Subjects in 27 CFR Part 9

Administrative practices and procedures, Consumer protection, Viticultural areas, and Wine.

## Authority and Issuance

ATF proposes to amend 27 CFR part 9 as follows:

## PART 9—AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREAS

1. The authority citation for part 9 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 27 U.S.C. 205.

### Subpart C—Approved American Viticultural Areas

2. Amend subpart C by adding § 9.177 to read as follows:

#### § 9.177 Alexandria Lakes

(a) *Name.* The name of the viticultural area described in this section is "Alexandria Lakes".

(b) *Approved maps.* The appropriate maps for determining the boundary of the Alexandria Lakes viticultural area are the following four U.S.G.S. topographical maps (7.5 minute series 1:24000 scale):

- (1) "Alexandria West, Minn.," 1966, revised 1994.
- (2) "Alexandria East, Minn.," 1966, revised 1994.
- (3) "Lake Miliona East, Minn.," 1969.
- (4) "Lake Miliona West, Minn.," 1969.

(c) *Boundaries.* The proposed Alexandria Lakes viticultural area is located in Douglas County, Minnesota and is encompassed by 6 fresh water lakes in an area of approximately 17 square miles. The proposed boundaries are as follows:

- (1) The beginning point is located on Alexandria West, Minn. map between