



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0253 – Room 2610-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20250-0253

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 30, 2008

Mr. Stan Mendell
Westland Meat Company
13677 Yorba Avenue
Chino, California 91710

Dear Mr. Mendell:

Effective immediately, this letter serves as notification to you that the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is suspending your eligibility to receive contracts to supply meat products, or any other products, to the Federal food and nutrition program or for any other Federal agency or program, pending the results of an ongoing investigation. The suspension is based on adequate evidence that your company has committed irregularities of a serious nature in its business dealings with the Government; specifically, the recent incidents at your facility, which your company has acknowledged, involving the humane handling of livestock.

This action is in accordance with provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation at 48 C.F.R. Part 9, Subpart 9.4. In particular, 48 C.F.R. subsection 9.407-2 provides that:

(a) The suspending official may suspend a contractor suspected, upon adequate evidence, of

(7) Commission of any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty that seriously and directly affects the present responsibility of a Government contractor or subcontractor.

and

(c) The suspending official may upon adequate evidence also suspend a contractor for any other cause of so serious or compelling a nature that it affects the present responsibility of a Government contractor or subcontractor.

As you know, our 2007 Technical Requirements Section 1.1, part of your contract(s) with USDA, states that all contracts, in addition, meat from carcasses of non-ambulatory or purchased ground beef products

The contents of this guidance document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Mr. Stan Mendell

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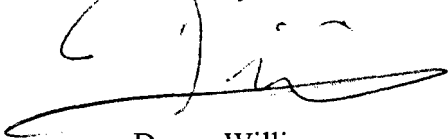
Effective immediately, Westland Meats must immediately cease production on its USDA contracts and not deliver on contracts that have been produced. During the period of suspension, Westland Meats is also excluded from conducting business with the Government as agents or representatives of other contractors, including serving as a subcontractor to other companies doing business with the Government.

This suspension is temporary but will remain in effect pending further investigation and such legal proceedings as may ensue.

Within 30 days after receipt of the notice, Westland Meats may submit, in person, in writing, or through a representative, information and argument in opposition to the suspension, including any additional specific information that it believes raises a genuine dispute over the material facts.

If you have any questions, please contact me 202-720-2650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duane Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Duane Williams
Contracting Officer
Livestock and Seed Program