UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

FRONT RANGE EQUINE RESCUE, <i>et al.</i> ,	~
Plaintiffs,	
v.	
TOM VILSACK, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, <i>et al.</i> ,))))
Federal Defendants,	
VALLEY MEAT COMPANY, LLC, et al.,	
Defendant-Intervenors.	,

Civ. No. 1:13-cv-00639-MCA-RHS

<u>FEDERAL DEFENDANTS' UNOPPOSED MOTION TO CLARIFY THAT THE</u> <u>COURT'S AUGUST 2, 2013 TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER [ECF NO. 94]</u> <u>APPLIES ONLY TO HORSE SLAUGHTER INSPECTIONS</u> (EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION REQUESTED)

Federal Defendants hereby respectfully request the Court clarify that its August 2, 2013 Temporary Restraining Order, ECF No. 94, enjoins Federal Defendants from providing meat inspection services to Valley Meat and Responsible Transportation *only* for horses, and does not bar Federal Defendants from granting inspections for other amenable species covered by the Federal Meat Inspection Act. *See, e.g.*, 21 U.S.C. §§ 601(w), 603, 604.

The operative paragraphs of the Temporary Restraining Order generally expressly refer to "horses," consistent with Plaintiffs' request for emergency injunctive relief, which focuses solely on horse slaughter inspection services. One provision, however, is not so qualified and states that "Federal Defendants are ordered to suspend or withhold the provision of meat inspection services to Valley Meat and Responsible Transportation until further order of the

Case 1:13-cv-00639-MCA-RHS Document 123 Filed 08/21/13 Page 2 of 3

Court." ECF No. 94 at 7. Given that the Court's finding that Plaintiffs had met the requirements for a temporary restraining order based only on issues related to horse inspection services, the Temporary Restraining Order could be interpreted to apply only to horse slaughter inspections. Taken out of context, however, the plain language of the provision quoted above is not so limited. Federal Defendants therefore request that the Court clarify that the Temporary Restraining Order enjoins Federal Defendants from providing meat inspection services to Valley Meat and Responsible Transportation only for horses, and not for other amenable species.

Expedited consideration of this request for clarification is necessary because Responsible Transportation has recently applied to Federal Defendants for an amended grant of inspection to add the commercial slaughter and processing of cattle in lieu of commercial slaughter of horses, mules, and other equines pending a ruling on Plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction. Federal Defendants have reviewed this application and are prepared to grant Responsible Transportation's request upon clarification from the Court, so that inspectors can be provided to Responsible Transportation to begin the slaughter of cattle (only) as soon as feasible. Responsible Transportation has advised that it would like to begin cattle slaughter as soon as September 3, 2013, and due to the lead-in time for obtaining cattle, ensuring operations are ready to begin, and assigning federal inspectors, Federal Defendants respectfully request that the Court rule on this unopposed motion at its earliest convenience.

Pursuant to D.N.M. LR-Civ. 7.1(a), Federal Defendants have made a good-faith request for concurrence in this motion from the other Parties to this litigation. None of the Parties (Plaintiffs, Plaintiff-Intervenor, and Defendant-Intervenors) oppose this motion.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of August, 2013.

2

Case 1:13-cv-00639-MCA-RHS Document 123 Filed 08/21/13 Page 3 of 3

ROBERT G. DREHER Acting Assistant Attorney General Environment & Natural Resources Division United States Department of Justice

/s/ Andrew A. Smith

ANDREW A. SMITH (NM Bar 8341) Senior Trial Attorney c/o United States Attorneys Office 201 Third Street, N.W., Suite 900 P.O. Box 607 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103 Telephone: (505) 224-1468 Facsimile: (505) 346-7205 Andrew.Smith@usdoj.gov

ALISON D. GARNER (DC Bar 983858) Trial Attorney P.O. Box 7611 Washington, D.C. 20044-7611 Telephone: (202) 514-2855 Facsimile: (202) 305-0506 Alison.Garner@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for Federal Defendants

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 21, 2013, I filed through the United States District Court ECF System the foregoing document to be served by CM/ECF electronic filing on all counsel of record.

/s/Andrew A. Smith ANDREW A. SMITH U.S. Department of Justice