



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

By Electronic Mail and Certified Mail

Mr. Ricardo De Los Santos, General Manager
Valley Meat Company, LLC
3845 Cedarvale Road
Roswell, New Mexico 88203

APR 12 2013

Dear Mr. De Los Santos:

This follows communication between Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) officials and you regarding the convictions listed in your March 15, 2013, application for federal inspection and our subsequent Notice of Show Cause, dated March 25, 2013. As we mentioned in the Notice, FSIS statutes authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to take administrative action to refuse to provide or withdraw inspection if an applicant, or responsibly connected individual to an applicant for federal inspection, is convicted in any federal or state court of certain crimes (see Section 401 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 671).

We are in receipt of your written responses, on April 4, 2013, and April 11, 2013, which included copies of certified court records. FSIS has reviewed your response and supporting documentation. Based upon the length of time that has elapsed since your convictions, and other factors, by copy of this letter I am recommending to the Dallas District Manager that your application be processed, and a grant of federal inspection be issued, provided you meet all other requirements for inspection.

We note that your April 4, 2013, submittal contends that the disclosed convictions were previously identified on a 1990 application for federal inspection. However, for clarification, our records indicate prior disclosure of only the 1978 conviction, and no disclosure of a 1988 conviction prior to submittal of your March 2013 application.

As a reminder, applications for federal inspection must identify, among others, all responsibly connected officials, disclose the associated convictions requested, and all other requested information. Applicants are also responsible for submitting updates when changes occur to the information provided in the application.

Sincerely,

Scott C. Safian
Evaluation and Enforcement Division
Program Evaluation, Enforcement and Review

cc:
Dr. Jennifer Beasley-McKean, District Manager
Office of Field Operations
Denver District Office