



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food Safety  
and Inspection  
Service

Denver District Office of Field Operations  
Denver Federal Center, Building 45  
PO Box 25387  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0387  
Telephone: (303) 236-9800  
Fax: (303) 236-9794

**SENT CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN-RECEIPT REQUESTED  
& FACSIMILE**

8 November 2011

Mr. Ricardo De Los Santos, General Manager  
Valley Meat Co., LLC,  
Establishment 07299 M  
Roswell, NM 88203

**NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE**

Dear Mr. De Los Santos:

On November 7, 2011 the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) provided you with a written "Notice of Suspension" of the assignment of inspectors at your establishment, Est. 07299 M, in accordance with 9 CFR 500.3(b), Rules of Practice.

The decision to take enforcement action was based on your failure to meet regulatory requirements in accordance with 9 CFR 313.16(a)(3), 9 CFR 313.16(b) and 9 CFR 313.16(b)(iv) in regards to the humane handling of animals at your establishment during slaughter operations. Your firm failed to properly stun a beef cow, as described by FSIS personnel in a Memorandum of Interview, dated November 4, 2011.

On November 7, 2011, the Denver District Office received a written response from your firm, via facsimile, addressing the assurances by your firm to insure prevention of any future occurrences of inhumane handling.

After reviewing your response, FSIS determined that your written assurances have adequately addressed the concerns outlined in the letter of suspension and will hold the Suspension in Abeyance.

As a federally inspected establishment, you are expected to comply with the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) and all regulations promulgated there under. The regulations require an establishment to take appropriate action(s) when either management of the establishment or FSIS determines that the plant's SSOP, HACCP or other systems may be ineffective.

The inspector will implement a FSIS Verification Plan at a later date. The FSIS Verification Plan is designed to ensure that your establishment fully implements the corrective actions and preventive measures as stated in your submissions and that these corrective actions and preventive measures are effective in assuring future regulatory compliance.

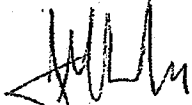
The FSIS Verification Plan identifies your corrective actions and preventive measures, the relevant regulatory requirement, and the ISP code under which FSIS personnel will verify implementation and execution, along with any timelines you identified in your proposals

Failure to comply with the regulatory requirements may result in our initiating further enforcement action, which could include a recommendation to withdraw inspection, or other appropriate administrative or legal action.

It is important for you to understand that FSIS has responsibility to initiate action if your establishment fails to operate in accordance with the regulatory requirements.

Please submit all written responses to the Denver District Office. If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact the Denver District Office at (303) 236-9800.

Sincerely,



Anna Gallegos  
Deputy District Manager  
Denver District

Cc: FO/QER  
Reader File  
Est. File  
R. Nelson, DM  
S. Wagner, DDM  
R. Reeder, DDM  
S. Symons, DDICS  
[REDACTED], DVMS  
[REDACTED] FLS  
[REDACTED] IIC  
A. Khroustalev, RD/OPEER