



Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

May 20, 2020

Raleigh District Office

**EMAIL / COURIER**

6020 Six Forks Road  
Raleigh, NC. 27609  
Voice: 919-844-8400  
Fax: 844-839-6360

Mr. Markus Vaughn (Plant Manager)  
Washington County Meat Packing, Est. M32062  
20505 Campground Road  
Bristol, Virginia 24202

## **NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE**

Dear Mr. Vaughn,

On May 18, 2020, your establishment received official notification from the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the suspension of the assignment of inspection personnel for slaughter operations at Washington County Meat Packing, Est. M32062. The decision to suspend inspection at your establishment was based on the determination by FSIS that your establishment failed to slaughter and handle animals humanely.

On May 19, 2020, you provided FSIS with proposed responses to the suspension action. Your responses outlined written corrective and preventive measures to bring your establishment into compliance with humane handling of livestock requirements and to achieve compliance with the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (Title 21 of the United States Code {21 U.S.C} 603), the Humane Methods of Slaughter act of 1978 (HMSA) (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), and federal regulations {Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR) parts 313}. Based on your submitted written assurances, we have determined that the suspension of the assignment of inspectors for slaughter operations at your plant will be held in abeyance, in accordance with 9 CFR Part 500.5(e).

The suspension will remain in abeyance pending verification by FSIS that your proposed corrective and preventive measures have been effectively implemented. Plant personnel should monitor operations to prevent violations of humane handling and slaughter from occurring in the future. It is also important for you to understand the responsibility of FSIS to initiate action when there is a failure to operate in accordance with 9 CFR Part 313 of the regulations.

A copy of the FSIS Verification Plan is enclosed to assist you in understanding the nature and importance of the Agency's verification activities. This FSIS Verification Plan is designed to verify that your establishment fully implements the corrective actions proffered in your proposed corrective actions, and that these revisions and corrective actions are effective in assuring ongoing regulatory compliance. It identifies your corrective action elements, the relevant regulatory

requirements, the PHIS task under which corrective action elements will be verified, and the monitoring frequency. Only FSIS can amend the verification plan and any modifications to your submitted acceptable corrective actions made during the abeyance period will need to be submitted in writing to FSIS for verification of compliance prior to implementation by your establishment. FSIS will begin verification of your proposed actions before startup of your next scheduled slaughter.

Please be advised that, as a federally inspected establishment, you are expected to comply with FSIS regulations and to take appropriate corrective action to prevent Inhumane Handling of Livestock at your establishment. Your failure to comply with these requirements or to implement the measures in your action plan could result in reinstatement of the suspension of inspection at your establishment or other appropriate administrative or legal action.

If you have any questions, you may call me at 919-208-2945 or contact me via email at [todd.furey2@usda.gov](mailto:todd.furey2@usda.gov). You may also contact Dr. Arial Thompson, Deputy District Manager, at 919-208-2946.

Sincerely,

**ARIAL**

**THOMPSON**

Todd Furey

District Manager

Raleigh, NC

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THOMPSON

Date: 2020.05.21 09:17:09  
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cc:

P. Bronstein, AA/FO

H. Sidrak, DAA/FO

M. Watts, EARO/FO

S. Safian, ELD/OIEA

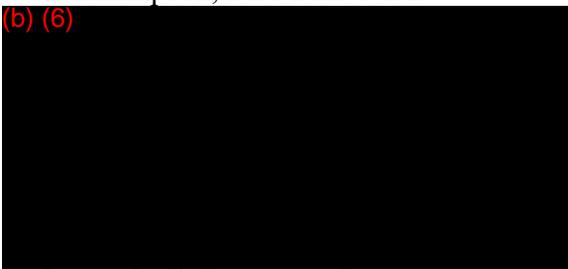
L. Hortert, RD/CID/OIEA

R. Murphy, DDM/RDO/FO

M. Roling, DDM/RDO/FO

A. Thompson, DDM/RDO/FO

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Quarterly Enforcement Report  
Establishment File (Est. M32062)