



United States Department of Agriculture

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Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

February 6, 2023

Digitally signed copy emailed

Office of Field  
Operations  
Des Moines District  
Office

Bart Ver Mulm, Owner  
Hudson Meat and Sausage Inc.  
617 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Hudson, SD, 57034

Neal Smith Federal  
Building  
210 Walnut Street  
Room 985  
Des Moines, IA  
50309-2123

Voice 515.727.8960  
Fax 515.727.8991

**LETTER OF DEFERRAL**

Dear Mr. Ver Mulm:

This letter confirms verbal notification on February 6, 2023 of the voice message and follow-up email, sent February 3, 2023 by the Des Moines District Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to establishment Hudson Meat and Sausage Inc., M18632, located at 617 4<sup>th</sup> St., Hudson, SD, herein referred to as the/your establishment, of the decision to place the Notice of Intended Enforcement (NOIE), initiated on January 27, 2023, due to observation by inspection program personnel (IPP) of an egregious humane handling incident, into deferral (NOD).

On January 27 through February 3, 2023, you provided FSIS, via multiple emails, written corrective actions and preventive measures, in response to the regulatory noncompliance detailed in the NOIE. The response outlined actions adequate to address the noncompliance regarding humane handling of livestock requirements, including a plan to maintain 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) Part 313.16(a)(1)}.

The following documents were included, detailing actions immediately implemented and further proposed at your establishment:

- Immediate Corrective Action (1 page)
- Request for extension (email)
- NOIE Response letter (2 pages)
- Robust Systematic Approach for Animal Welfare v6. (7 pages)
- Training material and logs (17 pages)
- Humane Handling Reassessment audit (5 pages)
- Swine Slaughter Observation form (1 page)

Based on your written response, you were informed via telephone, that the suspension of the assignment of IPP, for slaughter operations, at your establishment is placed in deferral effective February 3, 2023.

The deferral period will remain pending verification by FSIS personnel that your proposed corrective actions and preventive measures have been effectively implemented and are adequate to maintain compliance. Establishment 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.

During the deferral period verification activities will be conducted by IPP and results will be reported to the Des Moines District Office on a weekly basis. The decision to place the NOIE in deferral is based on the proffered actions. Any modifications to your submitted corrective actions and preventive measures made during the deferral period need to be submitted, in writing, to the Des Moines District Office for review prior to implementation by your establishment.

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 questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact the Des Moines District Office, at 515-727-8960 or (b) (6), District Veterinary Medical Specialist (DVMS), at (b) (6) or (b) (6), DVMS, at (b) (6)

Sincerely,

**JEFFERY  
JACOBSEN**

Digitally signed by  
JEFFERY JACOBSEN  
Date: 2023.02.06  
08:09:39 -06'00'

for

Dawn Sprouls, DVM  
District Manager  
USDA FSIS OFO  
Des Moines District Office