



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW,
Washington, D.C.
20250

OCT 14 2014

Mr. David Plunkett
Senior Staff Attorney
Caroline Smith-DeWaal
Director, Food Safety Program
Center for Science in the Public Interest
1200 L Street NW, Suite 300
Washington DC 20005-0453

Dear Mr. Plunkett and Ms. Smith-DeWaal:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the October 1, 2014 petition you submitted on behalf of the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI). The petition requests that FSIS declare certain strains of antibiotic-resistant (ABR) *Salmonella* to be adulterants in all meat and poultry. The petition requests that FSIS take this action through interpretive rulemaking on all four strains jointly or on each strain individually. The petition also requests that FSIS outline sampling and testing protocols to monitor for the presence of the pathogens in raw meat and poultry products and, when the Agency finds pathogens, that the Agency seek the recall of the adulterated meat or poultry from the food supply without waiting for human illnesses to occur. CSPI requests that FSIS grant this petition expedited review. The petition is a refiling of a petition CSPI filed in May 2011, in which it asked FSIS to declare four strains of ABR *Salmonella* as adulterants when found in ground meats and poultry.

Your request is being considered as a rulemaking petition under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(e)), USDA's administrative regulations (7 CFR 1.28), and FSIS's regulations on petitions (9 CFR part 392). Your petition has been referred to the Office of Policy and Program Development for review, and it has been assigned petition number 14-06. As provided in 9 CFR 392.6, your petition will be made available to the public in the FSIS docket room and will be posted on the FSIS Website at:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/petitions>

Mr. Plunkett

You may contact Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager, Issuances Staff at (202) 720-5627 if you have any questions regarding the status of your petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles E. Williams".

Charles E. Williams
Director
Issuances Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development