



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

Office of Field
Operations

Springdale District

4700 S. Thompson
Suite B-201
Springdale, AR 72764
Voice 479-751-8412
Fax 479-751-9049

November 6, 2019

Via Email: sharon.fennewald@swissmeats.com
FedEx Tracking: 776910663802

Ms. Sharon Fennewald, Plant Manager
Swiss Processing Plant Inc., Est. M2969+P2969+V2969
2056 Hwy 19 S.
Hermann, MO 65041

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Dear Ms. Fennewald,

On October 30, 2019, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) notified you of the suspension of the assignment of inspection personnel at your facility. This Notice of Suspension (NOS) was based on the Rules of Practice specified in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 500.3(b) due to your establishment's failure to prevent inhumane handling and slaughtering of livestock at your facility as required by 9 CFR 313.16(a)(1) and 313.16(a)(3).

On October 30, 2019, you provided a written response (Action Plan) to the NOS via email, beginning a dialogue with FSIS that concluded with your final Action Plan submission on November 4, 2019. FSIS analyzed the corrective and preventive measures provided in your Action Plan and subsequent revisions, and determined they represented compliance or the intent to comply with all applicable regulations. Therefore, FSIS will hold the suspension in abeyance pending verification by FSIS personnel that your Action Plan is effectively implemented. You were verbally notified of the suspension being held in abeyance by Dr. Evan Sumner, Deputy District Manager, on November 4, 2019, and this letter serves as formal, written notification of the same.

An abeyance is a moratorium on the effect of a suspension. Once a suspension is imposed, the Agency may put it into abeyance if the establishment undertakes corrective and preventive actions that the Agency finds will ensure that the conditions that were the basis for the suspension will be eliminated, and the Action Plan is effectively implemented. During the abeyance period, FSIS personnel will evaluate your corrective and preventive actions to ensure their effectiveness.

A copy of the FSIS Verification Plan is being shared with you to assist 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

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the Action Plan identified in your proposal and subsequent clarifications, and that measures proffered are effective in assuring ongoing regulatory compliance. It identifies the regulatory noncompliance, your actions, and FSIS verification procedures.

Please be advised that your failure to comply with statutory and regulatory requirements, to implement the corrective actions identified in the Action Plan, and/or failure to notify this office in writing of any changes to the Action Plan may result in us initiating further regulatory action as deemed necessary at the time. **During this period of abeyance, any changes made to the Action Plan need to be submitted to this office for review and comment prior to you putting the changes into place.** FSIS inspection program personnel will notify the Frontline Supervisor and District Office immediately when modifications are made to the Action Plan and your establishment fails to notify this office.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,



for
Robert Q. Bane
District Manager

cc: Ms. Geraldine French, Acting EARO
Dr. Evan Sumner, DDM
Dr. Don Dowdle, DDM
Mr. Jeffery Barham, DDM

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FO/Quarterly Reports