



United States Department of Agriculture

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Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

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

DEC 21 2015

Ms. Lorna Moffatt  
P.O. Box 545  
Monterey, California 93942

Dear Ms. Moffatt:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received your petition dated November 3, 2015, requesting that FSIS allow the use of inert gases, such as nitrogen and argon, to be used as a humane method of slaughter for swine. To grant your petition would require that FSIS amend its Humane Slaughter of Livestock regulations in 9 CFR part 313 to designate and approve the use of these inert gases as a humane method of slaughtering and handling swine in connection with slaughter.

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 15-04. 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>

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 black ink that reads "Charles E. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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