



March 1, 2022

High Plains Processing LLC
Establishment 47413
PO Box 1012
Las Vegas, NM 87701

SENT VIA EMAIL
CERTIFIED - RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED
7020 1810 0002 2252 7179

Attention: Mr. Orvis Meston, Owner

NOTICE OF DEFERRAL

On February 4, 2022, the Dallas District Office (DDO) issued a Notice of Intended Enforcement to High Plains Processing LLC, Establishment 47413, notifying you of our intent to withhold the marks of inspection and suspend the assignment of inspection program personnel (IPP) at your establishment. This enforcement action was taken based on documentation by inspection program personnel (IPP) of repeated inhumane handling practices, a violation of Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 313.2 (e).

On February 10, 2022, February 18, 2022, and February 25, 2022, your establishment provided documentation to the DDO containing the immediate and further planned corrective actions to be conducted in response to the NOIE. Your planned corrective actions and preventive measures include the following: 1) training of plant employees in humane handling of livestock, 2) documenting the humane handling of livestock training on the Livestock Humane Handling Training Log, 3) completion of water heater installation and verification that all heaters are functioning in pens 1-6, 4) verifying that water heaters are operational and are monitored at least 2 times per day and results documented, signed, and dated by a designated employee in the Water Heater Monitoring Log, 5) verifying that water is available and accessible for all animals and that monitoring is completed at least 2 times per day and results documented, signed, and dated by a designated employee on the Water, Feed, and Stocking Density Form, and 6) monitoring of accessibility of drinking water for all animals will also be completed and verified daily on the Daily Livestock Humane Handling Audit: Barns, Pens and Yards Log. After careful evaluation of all responses, you were contacted on February 28, 2022, by Dr. Kinsey Naylor-Byles, Deputy District Manager, and verbally notified of the decision to defer enforcement. Dr. Naylor-Byles explained the deferral process, including verification that those corrective actions proffered by your establishment are successfully implemented.

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 plan is designed to verify that your establishment fully implements the proffered corrective actions and that these actions are effective in assuring on-going regulatory compliance and food safety. The plan identifies your corrective action elements, the relevant regulatory requirements, and the Public Health Information System (PHIS) tasks under which FSIS will conduct verification activity.

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Your establishment's personnel should continue to monitor operations to prevent the inhumane handling and slaughter of animals. It is also important for you to understand FSIS's responsibility to initiate action when there is a failure to handle or slaughter animals humanely, in accordance with the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978 (HMSA), Title 7, Chapter 48, Section 1902, the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), 21 United States Code (USC) 610(b), regulations promulgated thereunder, and in accordance with 9 CFR 500.3 (b). When these conditions exist, FSIS personnel will continue to take action until plant management institutes effective actions.

Be advised, as a federally inspected establishment you are expected to comply with all parts of 9 CFR 313 and all other requirements concerning the preparation, sale, and transportation of meat products. Failure to comply with these requirements or to implement effectively the measures outlined in your responses could lead to a withholding or suspension of inspection, or other appropriate action.

If you have any questions, please contact (b) (6)

(b) (6), or (b) (6)

Sincerely,

JENNIFER
BEASLEY MCKEAN

c=US, o=U.S. Government,
ou=Department of Agriculture,
0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=120
01000063383, cn=JENNIFER
BEASLEY MCKEAN

Jennifer Beasley-McKean, DVM
District Manager

cc:

(b) (6)

Inspector in Charge, Establishment 47413, Las Vegas, NM

VERIFICATION PLAN
High Plains Processing LLC
Establishment 47413
March 1, 2022

On February 4, 2022, High Plains Processing LLC, Establishment 47413, Las Vegas, New Mexico, was issued a Notice of Intended Enforcement based on documentation by inspection program personnel (IPP) of repeated inhumane handling practices, a violation of Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 313.2 (e). This verification plan is designed to verify the corrective actions and preventive measures listed in the establishment's responses submitted on, February 10, 2022, February 18, 2022, and February 25, 2022, are effectively implemented.

Livestock Humane Handling

9 CFR 320.1 (a)

Verify once

Verify that employees are trained in humane handling of livestock and each trained employee name, signature, and date of the training was documented in the Livestock Humane Handling Training Log.

Livestock Humane Handling

9 CFR 313.2 (e) and 320.1 (a)

Verify once

Verify that water heater installation was completed and all heaters are functioning in pens 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6.

Verify on Each Day of Slaughter

Verify that water tank heaters are operational and have been monitored at least 2 times per day and the results are documented, signed, and dated by a designated employee in the Water Heater Monitoring Log.

Verify that water is available and accessible for all animals. Verify that monitoring has been completed at least 2 times per day and results are documented, signed, and dated by a designated employee in the Water, Feed, and Stocking Density Form.

Monitoring of accessibility of drinking water for all animals will also be completed and verified daily on the Daily Livestock Humane Handling Audit: Barns, Pens and Yards Log.