

Supreme
beef packers, inc.

October 8, 1997

Dr. Chaudhry IIC
Establishment #2228
1000 East Main St.
Ladonia, Texas 75449

Re: Humane Slaughter Requirements: Regulation # 313.50, ISG Task Code # 03B03a2

Dear Dr. Chaudhry:

We would appreciate your consideration in reviewing the following appeal to PDR number 156-97, and request that you withdraw the PDR based on the following information.

- 1) It is against our company policy to slaughter any animal in a in-humane manner. Supreme Beef Packers (SBP) has in the past and always will comply with all Humane slaughter requirements as stated in the FSIS Regulations. The problem we have encountered with these very serious PDR's is a disagreement with you and your guidance to your inspectors in the interpretation of what a normal involuntary muscle reflex is after the animal has been properly stunned.
- 2) As you are aware SBP was recently surveyed at the direction of Washington DC to review Humane slaughter and proper handling of cattle. Ms. Wilma Alley from Lawrence, Kansas was here in July of 1997 to conduct the survey. After personally observing our stunning for some time, Ms. Alley stated in her exit interview with plant management that SBP's handling and stunning practices were acceptable to USDA. Ms. Alley further stated there was no problem with our stunning procedures.
- 3) It is unfair for our firm to be subjected to a "Stunning Inspectors" condition. SBP's knocking box location allows the Viscera inspector to review each and every animal that is stunned. Other plants are not subjected to such extensive scrutiny of their stunning practices. The Viscera inspector is approximately 20 feet away from the knocking box. We believe that the distance between the two is too far to make an accurate inspection. These PDR's are written at the instant movement has been observed without taking into consideration the following other factors:
 - a) drooping ears,
 - b) collapsed animal at time of stunning,
 - c) elapsed time from stunning to movement (involuntary reflexes),
 - d) lack of rhythmic breathing,

- e) lack of moaning or bellowing,
- f) lack of eye blinking,
- g) location spot of the skull penetration,
- h) proper equipment with excellent maintenance.

As we have unsuccessfully informed you in the past, we believe that all of the above should be considered before a determination that in-humane slaughter has occurred. Additionally, as we previously stated, we believe that uncoordinated movement (even for several minutes) and or gasping and gagging (sign of a dying brain) are indicators of proper stunning.

On October 7, 1997, the Circuit Supervisor, Dr. Danny Vaughan, reviewed our stunning practices and concurred that SBP was doing an acceptable job of stunning. He even stated that "the stunning was as good as he had seen".

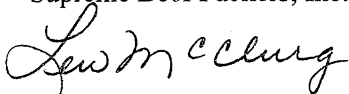
Prior to February of 1997 no USDA personnel has ever alleged to us that we did improper stunning. We have been knocking large quantities of cattle for at least 17 years. We are certain that we have complied with the Humane slaughter requirements.

Each of these PDR's has resulted in line shut downs that has resulted in unfair economic damages to the company.

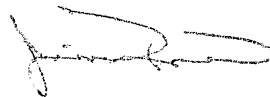
We appreciate your attention in this matter and look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours truly,

Supreme Beef Packers, Inc.



Lew McClurg / Director of Operations



Jim Reed / Plant Manager

cc: Skipper Adams

To Jim Reed, plant manager.
From: M A. Chaudhry DVM. *M.A. Chaudhry*
IIC est, 2228. *18/17/97*
Subject; Your appeal to inhumane slaughter PDR. *65-97*

This is for your information that all inspectors assigned to this plant and I as SVMO inspector incharge of this plant have the responsibilities to make sure that all cattle are handled and slaughtered humanely and requirements of the regulation are implemented. We observed, verified and documented deficiencies according to the requirements of PBIS and regulation.

In accordance with regulation 313.15, a(3) Immediately after the stunning blow is delivered the animal shall be in a state of complete unconsciousness and remain in this condition throughout shackling, sticking and bleeding.

Therefore, whenever violation to the regulation 313.15 as per PDR were observed by the inspection personnel assigned to this plant, these deficiencies were recorded on the PDRs. This plant has slaughtered about 50,000 cattle since february and inspection personnel have observed about 22 times violation of not stunning the animals humanely. If we have followed the conditions which you have mentiond in your appeal then we should have written 50,000 PDRs and those conditions are not in the regulation.

Therefore, this is for your information that these observation and documentions of inhumane slaughter, violation of regulation 315.15 are correct as per PDRs, so your appeal to PDR is denied. If you have any question please discuss with me. thanks.