



# Animal Welfare Institute

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November 12, 2013

Paul A. Resweber, DVM  
District Manager  
Jackson District Office, FSIS  
713 S. Pear Orchard Road  
Plaza 2, Suite 402  
Ridgeland, MS 39157

RE: Brooksville Meat Fabrication (Est. 09173M)

Dear Dr. Resweber:

I write to urge you to support the initiation of proceedings to withdraw the federal grant of inspection from Brooksville Meat Fabrication for the establishment's repeated failure to slaughter animals humanely in accordance with the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act.

The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) routinely monitors humane slaughter enforcement actions, and as a result we are aware that your office has suspended Brooksville Meat for humane slaughter violations four times since May 2013, with the original suspension and all three subsequent reinstatements issued for egregious stunning violations. In addition, over the past year you have issued the plant a total of nine Noncompliance Records for various humane handling/humane slaughter violations, according to the Notice of Third Reinstatement of Suspension. Based on its past history, we believe it is very likely that animals will suffer in the near future as a consequence of additional humane slaughter incidents at Brooksville Meat.

In general, AWI believes that plants should lose their grant of inspection after three egregious violations within a 12-month period. As you know, very few plants are cited this frequently. Furthermore, since 2008 only three other federally inspected plants have received *four* or more humane slaughter suspensions in less than a year, and all of these are currently closed or have changed ownership. Certain plants appear to lack the managerial and/or financial resources to operate properly. The Brooksville Meat establishment has received ample opportunity to correct its deficiencies, and having repeatedly failed to do so, should now lose its right to operate before more animals suffer needlessly.

AWI has been pleased to see an increase in federal humane slaughter enforcement in recent years. However, we remain particularly concerned about repeated egregious violations at particular plants. We encourage you to not wait for Brooksville Meat to eventually go out of business, but rather take the initiative to protect animals from inhumane treatment by

withdrawing the plant's grant of inspection. We ask that you work with the FSIS Office of Investigation, Enforcement, and Audit and the USDA Office of General Counsel to take this action as soon as possible.

Please contact me if AWI can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Liss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" and "L".

Cathy Liss  
President