

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

REC'D - USDA/OALJ/OHC
2021 MAY 21 PM 12:54'

In re:)
)
New England Meat Packing, LLC,) FMIA and PPIA Docket Nos. 21-J-0011
and Memet Beqiri,) 21-J-0012
)
)
Respondents.) Consent Decision and Order

This is a proceeding under Title I of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), as amended, (21 U.S.C. § 601 *et seq.*) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA), as amended, (21 U.S.C. § 451 *et seq.*) and the applicable Rules of Practice (7 C.F.R. § 1.130 *et seq.*, 9 C.F.R. § 500.1 *et seq.*) to withdraw Federal meat and poultry inspection services from New England Meat Packing, LLC, and Memet Beqiri (hereinafter referred to as “Respondents”). This proceeding was commenced by a Complaint filed by the Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The parties have agreed that this proceeding should be terminated by entry of the Consent Decision and Order set forth below pursuant to the Consent Decision provisions of the Rules of Practice (7 C.F.R. § 1.138).

Respondents admit the findings of fact, as set forth herein, and specifically admit that the Secretary has jurisdiction in this matter, neither admit nor deny the remaining allegations, waive oral hearing and further procedure, waive all rights to seek judicial review and otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this decision, including waiving challenges to the Administrative Law Judge’s authority to enter this Consent Decision and Order under the Administrative Procedure Act and the Constitution of the United States, and waive any action against the Complainant under the Equal Access to Justice Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. § 504 *et seq.*)

for fees and other expenses incurred by Respondents in connection with this proceeding or any action against any USDA employee in their individual capacity. Respondents consent and agree, for the purpose of settling this proceeding and for such purpose only, to the entry of this Consent Decision and Order.

Complainant agrees to the entry of this Consent Decision and Order.

Findings of Fact

1. New England Meat Packing, LLC (“Respondent New England”) is now, and was at all times material herein, a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, operating a meat and poultry slaughter and processing establishment located at 30 Furnace Hollow Road, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076.

2. Respondent New England is, and was at all times material herein, a recipient of Federal meat and poultry inspection services, pursuant to the FMIA and PPIA at its place of business in Stafford Springs, Connecticut, and designated as official Establishment M-21183/P-21183.

3. Memet Beqiri (“Respondent Memet Beqiri”) is an individual, who at all times material herein was responsibly connected to Respondent New England as its sole owner and general manager. As of the filing of this Consent Decision and Order, Respondent Memet Beqiri has transferred at least 20% of his financial interest in Respondent New England to his father, (b) (6), but remains responsibly connected to Respondent New England.

4. (b) (6) is an individual and the father of Respondent Memet Beqiri. As of the filing of this Consent Decision and Order, (b) (6) is responsibly connected to Respondent New England as the Owner of at least 20% of Respondent New England.

5. On or about August 20, 2019, in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut Case No. 3:19-CR-00208-AWT, Respondent Memet Beqiri pled guilty to one (1) felony count of Making and Using a False Document, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1001(a)(3), and Aiding and Abetting, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2. Respondent Memet Beqiri's guilty plea was for knowingly and willfully making and using thirty-six (36) false documents, namely lab sample reports, relating to carcass swabs and ground beef samples for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) testing required under the FMIA, bearing the laboratory's letterhead and laboratory director's signature, knowing the lab sample reports contained materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and entries.

6. On or about August 21, 2019, in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, United States District Judge Alvin W. Thompson accepted Respondent Memet Beqiri's guilty plea and Respondent Memet Beqiri was found guilty for the above felony.

7. On or about November 24, 2020, in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, Respondent Memet Beqiri was sentenced to two years of probation and assessed a \$15,000 fine for the above felony.

Conclusion

Respondents having admitted jurisdiction and the Findings of Facts herein, and the parties having agreed to the issuance of this Consent Decision and Order, the Consent Decision and Order will be issued.

Order

Federal meat and poultry inspection services under Title I of the FMIA and the PPIA are withdrawn from Respondents, its owners, officers, directors, partners, affiliates, successors and assigns, directly or through any corporate or other device, for a period of five (5) years beginning

on the effective date of this Order; provided, however, said withdrawal of inspection services shall be held in abeyance, and Federal meat and poultry inspection services shall be provided to Respondents, pursuant to a conditional grant of inspection, for so long as the statutory and regulatory requirements for applicable inspection services and all terms and conditions of this Order set forth below are met and maintained.

Changes to Limited Liability Company

1. Prior to the effective date of this Order, and subject to verification by FSIS, Respondents shall implement the following changes to its limited liability company (LLC):

(a) Respondent Memet Beqiri shall be partially financially divested, as defined herein, from Respondent New England, its affiliates, successors, and/or assigns;

(b) Respondent New England shall modify its LLC documents to add Muhamed Beqiri as a member of the LLC;

(c) Respondent Memet Beqiri's ownership interest in Respondent New England shall have been, in part, sold, transferred or otherwise assigned to (b) (6). Upon such transfer of ownership, Respondent Memet Beqiri may retain a majority ownership interest in Respondent New England, and (b) (6) shall hold at least 20% ownership interest in Respondent New England and be responsibly connected with Respondent New England;

(d) Prior to the effective date of this Order, Respondent New England shall provide the Director, Enforcement Operations Staff (Director, EOS), records to substantiate this change of ownership.

Operational Divestiture of Respondent Memet Beqiri

2. Upon the effective date of this Order, Respondent Memet Beqiri shall be operationally

divested from Respondent New England's federally inspected establishment, its successors, affiliates, and assigns, except as otherwise provided herein, and shall remain so for a period of five years. As such, Respondent Memet Beqiri shall not:

(a) provide direction to or exercise operational control of any activities subject to the jurisdiction or regulation of FSIS, including, but not limited to, federal inspection of slaughter or processing operations, custom exempt slaughter or processing operations, and/or retail exempt operations for Respondent New England;

(b) directly or indirectly interact with or communicate with any personnel of the FSIS Philadelphia District Office regarding official duties performed with respect to Respondent New England or any other matter associated with Respondent New England subject to the jurisdiction of FSIS, including, but not limited to, federal inspection of slaughter or processing operations, custom exempt slaughter or processing operations, and/or retail exempt operations for Respondent New England; and

(c) otherwise exert influence over Respondent New England, its owners, officers, directors, partners, successors, affiliates, and assigns, in activities regulated under the FMIA and PPIA, including, but not limited to, federal inspection of slaughter or processing operations, custom exempt slaughter or processing operations, and/or retail exempt operations for Respondent New England.

3. Notwithstanding the restrictions set forth in paragraph 2 of this Order, the parties agree that Respondent Memet Beqiri shall be permitted to perform the functions necessary to fulfill the job responsibilities of Director of Sales and Marketing as outlined in the attached job description.

4. Respondent New England and its owner, officers, directors, partners, successors, affiliates and assigns, shall take action, as necessary, to prevent Respondent Memet Beqiri from

performing any of the functions listed in paragraph 2 of the Order and ensure Respondent Beqiri is only performing those permitted functions listed in paragraph 3 of this Order.

Chief Operating Officer

5. Prior to the effective date of this Order, Respondent New England shall appoint

(b) (6) to serve as Chief Operating Officer.

6. The Chief Operating Officer shall:

(a) have overall decision-making authority for Respondent New England with respect to activities regulated by and under the jurisdiction of FSIS;

(b) provide supervision and oversight over the General Supervisor and other plant personnel;

(c) have responsibility, generally, for ensuring compliance with FSIS statutes, regulations, and the terms of this Order;

(d) serve as the primary contact for communications with the Director, EOS, and communicate, as necessary, with the FSIS Philadelphia District office management and inspection personnel; and

(e) carry out other duties as defined by Respondent New England.

7. The individual appointed, hired, or named to the Chief Operating Officer position shall be identified by Respondent New England on its application for federal inspection services required by paragraph 17 of this Order.

8. Should (b) (6) vacate the Chief Operating Officer position during the period of this Order, Respondent New England shall immediately notify the Director, EOS, and the District Manager, FSIS Philadelphia District Office, and shall appoint, hire, or otherwise designate another person to fill the vacated position within fifteen (15) business days, subject to

the concurrence of the Director, EOS. If Respondent New England is unable to fill the vacated position within the allotted time, it may designate an individual to serve in an acting capacity and submit a request to the Director, EOS, for additional time to fill the position.

General Supervisor

9. Prior to the effective date of this Order, and subject to the concurrence of the Director, EOS, Respondent New England shall appoint, hire, or otherwise designate one individual to serve as General Supervisor.

10. The General Supervisor shall:

(a) serve as the primary day-to-day contact with FSIS personnel;

(b) have overall responsibility for managing day-to-day activities regulated under the FMIA and PPIA, including, but not limited to, monitoring, validation, reassessment, recordkeeping, sampling, testing, maintenance of sanitary conditions, the establishment's Hazard and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system, Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP), *Escherichia coli* Sampling and Testing Program, and other food safety systems; providing oral and written responses to noncompliance records documented by FSIS personnel; and submitting any appeals of findings of FSIS personnel;

(c) designate another person to perform the duties of General Supervisor whenever the General Supervisor is not on Respondent New England's premises and any operations subject to the jurisdiction or regulation of FSIS are occurring; and

(d) carry out other duties as defined by Respondent New England.

11. The individual appointed, hired, or named to the General Supervisor position shall be identified by Respondent New England on its application for federal inspection services required by paragraph 17 of this Order.

12. Should the General Supervisor vacate their position during the period of this Order, Respondent New England shall immediately notify the Director, EOS, and the District Manager, FSIS Philadelphia District Office and shall appoint, hire, or otherwise designate another person to fill the vacated position within fifteen (15) business days, subject to the concurrence of the Director, EOS. If Respondent New England is unable to fill the vacated position within the allotted time, it may designate an individual to serve in an acting capacity and submit a request to the Director, EOS, for additional time to fill the position.

Quality Control Manager

13. Prior to the effective date of this Order, and subject to the concurrence of the Director, EOS, the Respondent New England shall appoint or hire an individual to the position of Quality Control Manager.

14. This person shall be someone other than the General Supervisor and Chief Operating Officer and responsible for the overall implementation, coordination, documentation, monitoring, recordkeeping, review and maintenance of the food safety programs and other written programs required by Federal regulations and this Order, and carrying out other duties as defined by Respondent New England

15. The Quality Control Manager shall:

(a) successfully complete, prior to or within thirty (30) calendar days from the effective date of this Order, a course of instruction in the seven principals of HACCP; and

(b) provide proof of successful course completion as described in paragraph 15(a) to the Director, EOS.

16. Should the Quality Control Manager vacate their position during the period of this Order, Respondent New England shall immediately notify the Director, EOS, and the District

Manager, FSIS Philadelphia District Office and shall appoint, hire, or otherwise designate another person to fill the vacated position within fifteen (15) business days, subject to the concurrence of the Director, EOS. If Respondent New England is unable to fill the vacated position within the allotted time, it may designate an individual to serve in an acting capacity and submit a request to the Director, EOS, for additional time to fill the position.

Documentation

17. Prior to the effective date of this Order, Respondent New England shall submit to the District Manager, FSIS, Office of Field Operations, Philadelphia District Office (hereinafter “District Manager”), an updated application for Federal (meat, poultry, Siluriformes fish, egg products, and/or import) inspection (FSIS Form 5200-2) that accurately lists the members of Respondent New England’s limited liability company, Chief Operating Officer, General Supervisor, and any additional individual(s) responsibly connected, as defined in 21 U.S.C. 467(a) and 671, and complies with FSIS statutes, regulations, and policies. Further, the Respondent New England shall submit an updated application for Federal (meat, poultry, Siluriformes fish, egg products, and/or import) inspection (FSIS Form 5200-2) to the District Manager within fifteen (15) calendar days of any change to required information prescribed above for the duration of this Order.

18. Prior to the effective date of this Order, Respondent New England shall submit to the Director, EOS, a document that identifies Respondent New England’s ownership, organizational and management structure, including the names and titles of all owners, management officials, supervisors, Chief Operating Officer, General Supervisor, and the Quality Control Manager, required by this Order or otherwise, and their attendant roles, duties, and responsibilities. Respondent New England may revise its organizational and management structure document to

reflect changes during the period of this Order and shall promptly provide such revision(s) to the Director, EOS.

Compliance Officer

19. Within forty-five (45) calendar days of the effective date of this Order, and subject to the concurrence of the Director, EOS, Respondent New England shall appoint, retain, or otherwise designate a part-time, independent third party to serve as Compliance Officer. The Compliance Officer:

(a) shall exercise independent oversight of Respondent New England's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Decision and Order and the Federal regulations, shall receive any and all reports of alleged compliance issues of the terms of this Order, including the biannual third-party audit findings, and shall have the authority to conduct inquiries into alleged compliance issues and make recommendations to Respondent New England's ownership and management in response to compliance concerns;

(b) shall not be a current or former owner, manager, employee, affiliate, representative or agent of Respondent New England or serve in any other position or role required by this Consent Decision and Order;

(c) shall conduct quarterly conference calls or meetings with Respondent New England in order to facilitate its responsibilities listed in paragraph 19(a); and

(d) shall prepare and submit a quarterly report of its oversight of Respondent New England's compliance, as described in paragraphs 19(a) and (c) to the Director, EOS.

Ethics Training and Corporate Code of Conduct

20. Within ninety (90) calendar days of the effective date of this Order, all management and supervisors, including, but not limited to, owners, Chief Operating Officer, General

Supervisor, and Quality Control Manager, of Respondent New England shall participate in and successfully complete a training program(s) or educational course(s) encompassing ethical business practices. Prior to participating in this course, Respondent New England shall submit a detailed description of the proposed training course(s) for concurrence by the Director, EOS. Respondent New England shall maintain for the duration of this Order records documenting the successful completion of such training and shall make those records available upon request to any FSIS program personnel.

21. Within sixty (60) calendar days of the effective date of this Order and subject to verification by FSIS, Respondent New England shall develop and submit for review by the Director, EOS, a code or policy statement of business conduct and ethics to ensure food safety and regulatory compliance in business practices (hereinafter “Corporate Code”) applicable to all business entities and individuals within or employed by Respondent New England. The Corporate Code shall be permanently displayed in a prominent location (for all employees) in Respondent New England’s Federal establishment and shall be discussed with all current and new employees. The Corporate Code, at a minimum, shall include:

- (a) a statement of corporate policy addressing business ethics and the public trust;
- (b) a statement of Respondent New England’s commitment to comply with all the terms of this Order, including, but not limited to the operational divestiture provisions for Respondent Memet Beqiri;
- (c) a statement of Respondent New England’s commitment to comply with all applicable Federal and State food safety and other laws in the conduct of their business;
- (d) guidelines for Respondent New England’s employees to follow with respect to food safety and ethics issues;

(e) guidelines for Respondent New England's employees to follow with respect to reporting any compliance issues with the terms of this Order, including, but not limited to the operational divestiture provisions for Respondent Memet Beqiri, to the Compliance Officer; and

(f) assurances to preclude any acts of intimidation or assault of, or interference with, USDA program employees.

Escherichia coli Sampling and Testing Program

22. Prior to the effective date of this Order, Respondent New England shall develop and submit, for review and concurrence by the Director, EOS, a written *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) Sampling and Testing Program which shall include, at a minimum:

(a) requirements to notify FSIS inspection program personnel prior to any *E. coli* Biotype I or other applicable sampling or testing of products, and ensure that all sampling and testing for its amenable products are conducted in accordance, and as required by 9 C.F.R. Parts 310 and 417;

(b) the name of the type of livestock slaughtered in the greatest number;

(c) specimen collection procedures which identify employees designated to collect samples, and shall address location(s) of sampling, how sampling randomness is achieved, and handling of the sample to ensure integrity;

(d) the name of the laboratory the Respondent New England will contract with that uses a quantitative method for analysis of *E. coli* that is approved as an AOAC Official Method of the AOAC International and meets the analysis requirements as prescribed in 9 C.F.R. 310.25(3);

(e) records of findings, corrective actions taken, and preventative measures implemented, when any non-compliance are found; and

(f) recall procedures to effectively recall potentially adulterated or misbranded products produced or processed, by Respondent New England when found within distribution channels.

23. Upon implementation of the program, Respondent New England shall notify FSIS program personnel of any changes or modifications to this program or any of the recordkeeping forms associated with the program.

24. The General Supervisor shall be responsible for oversight of all aspects of the *E. coli* Sampling and Testing Program.

New England Management and Personnel Training

25. Upon the effective date of this Order, and subject to verification by FSIS, Respondent New England shall develop a training program for all current employees and future hires to ensure that all employees are trained in all aspects on the terms of this Order including, but not limited to:

- (a) the changes to the limited liability corporation;
- (b) the operational divestiture provisions for Respondent Memet Beqiri;
- (c) the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Operating Officer, General Supervisor, Quality Control Manager, and Compliance Officer positions;
- (d) the Corporate Code of Conduct;
- (e) requirements of the *E. coli* Sampling and Testing Program and any other written sanitation programs, process controls, and other systems, plans, and recordkeeping procedures relevant to each employee's position; and
- (f) reporting any compliance issues with the terms of this Order to the Compliance Officer.

26. Respondent New England shall provide copies of all training materials to FSIS for review and evaluation prior to training employees.

27. Respondent New England shall, within sixty (60) calendar days from the effective date of this Order, and subject to verification by FSIS, train all current employees consistent with the requirements of this Order as relevant to each employee's position.

28. Respondent New England shall train and educate any new employee(s), consistent with the requirements of this Order, within thirty (30) calendar days from the first date(s) of employment.

29. Respondent New England shall conduct annual training from the effective date of this Order for all employees and management personnel, current and new, consistent with all applicable FSIS statutory requirements and the requirements of this Order.

30. Respondent New England shall document and maintain all training materials, certifications, training records, test results, and other materials for all training required by this Order and make records available to FSIS personnel for review and/or copying immediately upon request.

Third Party Audit Provisions

31. Respondent New England will be required to appoint, hire, or contract a qualified, independent third party to conduct audits of (a) Respondent New England's implementation, monitoring and maintenance of sanitation SSOP, HACCP plans, other process controls and other programs or plans; (b) the effectiveness of Respondent New England's sanitation program, SSOPs, HACCP plans, other process controls and other programs or plans to ensure food safety; (c) Respondent New England's compliance with FSIS statutory and regulatory requirements, (d) Respondent New England's compliance with the terms of this Order, including, but not limited

to the operational divestiture provisions for Respondent Memet Beqiri; and (e) any other findings and recommendations of the independent third party. Respondents shall submit the name and qualifications of the selected independent, third-party auditor to the Director, EOS, for concurrence.

32. The independent third party shall be a person, entity, or corporation free from bias and absent from a conflict of interest with the Respondents. Specifically, the person, entity or corporation conducting an audit (a) shall not be a current or former officer, director, employee, affiliate, contractor, representative or agent of Respondents and (b) shall serve the Respondents only in the limited capacity of executing the audit duties. If the Director, EOS, has good cause to believe that an audit was conducted by a person, entity, or corporation otherwise employed by or affiliated with Respondents or with a present bias or conflict of interest, any written audit and report of the audit shall be deemed disqualified for the purposes of complying with this Order.

33. The audits shall be conducted at least as frequently as follows: (a) the first audit shall be conducted within six (6) months from the effective date of this Order and; (b) subsequent audits shall be conducted every six (6) months thereafter for the duration of the Order.

34. The Chief Operating Officer shall prepare, for each audit conducted, a written response to the findings and recommendation of each audit. The written response shall identify: (a) any modifications to its SSOPs, HACCP plans, other process controls and other programs or plans; (b) any corrective actions implemented; (c) any other actions implemented or planned in response; and (d) supportable information for any decision by Respondent New England not to implement any audit recommendation.

35. The Chief Operating Officer shall submit a copy of each third-party audit and the Chief Operating Officer's written response or other documents related to the audit to the

Compliance Officer and Director, EOS, for review and concurrence within fifteen (15) calendar days after each audit is completed.

Management Meetings

36. Within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent New England's owners, managers and supervisors, including, but not limited to, Chief Operating Officer, General Supervisor, Quality Control Manager, and Compliance Officer, shall participate in a meeting with the District Manager for the FSIS Philadelphia District Office or their designee, the Director, EOS, or their designee, and any other personnel designated to attend the meeting by FSIS, to review the terms and conditions of the Consent Decision and Order and the compliance responsibilities of Respondent New England and its owners, managers, supervisors, and employees.

37. Upon the effective date of this Order, Respondent New England's owners, Compliance Officer, managers and supervisors shall participate in quarterly meetings with personnel designated by the FSIS Philadelphia District Office regarding the issues addressed by this Consent Decision and Order.

38. The meetings identified herein shall emphasize maintaining compliance with the terms and conditions of the Consent Decision and Order. The meetings may cover inspection, compliance, regulatory issues, or other matters, as determined by FSIS or Respondent New England.

39. FSIS may, in its discretion, determine the Agency attendees for the meetings identified herein and waive attendance by any specific owner or manager of Respondent New England. FSIS may also, in its discretion, waive any quarterly meeting and shall notify Respondent New England accordingly.

40. The meetings identified herein may be conducted in person at Respondent New England's establishment, at the FSIS Philadelphia District Office, at another USDA facility, or remotely, such as by teleconference, or otherwise, as agreed to by the FSIS Philadelphia District Office and Respondent New England.

41. Respondent New England and FSIS agree to cooperate in scheduling the meetings identified herein.

42. The meetings identified herein shall not limit, in any way, any other meetings (*e.g.*, weekly in-plant meetings) or other activities between FSIS employees and Respondent New England and its owners, managers, supervisors or employees.

Recordkeeping Provisions

43. Respondent New England shall keep and maintain full, complete, and accurate written copies of (a) all written records required by the FMIA and PPIA and implementing regulations promulgated thereunder; and (b) all applicable State or Local statutes; and all other written records required by this Order.

44. Respondent New England shall make all records regarding its federally inspected establishment available to FSIS inspection program personnel for review and/or copying upon request, in a timeframe consistent with FSIS requirements.

45. Respondent New England shall immediately notify the Director, EOS, of any changes or modification to its business records, *E. coli* Sampling and Testing Program, any training documents, or Corporate Code of Conduct Policy statement required by regulation or by this Order, including all changes to its related recordkeeping forms.

Implementation

46. Respondent New England shall implement company policies and programs

required by this Order, and require strict adherence to its policies and programs on the part of all current and future officers, managers, supervisors, and employees, and take and document corrective action including disciplinary action when necessary.

General Provisions

47. Respondent New England and any of Respondent New England's, partners, employees, agents or affiliates shall not:

(a) violate any section of the FMIA, PPIA or the regulations promulgated thereunder, any State or Local statute involving the preparation, sale, transportation, or attempted distribution of any adulterated, non- inspected, misbranded or deceptively packaged meat, meat food products, poultry products or other foods or food products;

(b) commit any felony or fraudulent act or other criminal act involving fraud, conspiracy, bribery, or any other act or circumstances indicating a lack of integrity needed for the conduct of operations affecting the public health;

(c) willfully make or cause to be made any false entry into any accounts, records, reports, or memoranda kept by Respondent New England in compliance with Federal, state or local statutes or regulations or this Order; neglect or fail to make full, true, and correct accounts, records, reports, or memoranda that fully and correctly disclose all transactions in Respondent New England's business;

(d) assault, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any program employee in the performance of his or her official duties under the FMIA, PPIA, EPIA or regulations promulgated thereunder;

(e) conduct any operation requiring Federal inspection outside Respondent New England's official hours of operations without first submitting a written request to, and receiving written approval from, FSIS Philadelphia District Office.

48. For positions which would make an individual responsibly connected to Respondent New England's firm as defined by 21 U.S.C. 467(a) and 671, Respondent New England shall not knowingly hire or add any new individual who has been convicted, in any Federal, state, or territorial court, of any felony, or more than one misdemeanor based upon the acquiring, handling, or distributing of unwholesome, mislabeled or deceptively packaged food, or based upon fraud in connection with transactions in food. To the extent permitted by State and Federal law, Respondent New England shall immediately terminate their connection with any such individual when that individual's conviction becomes known to Respondent New England.

49. Respondents shall fully and completely cooperate with any FSIS investigation, inquiry, review or examination of Respondents compliance with the FMIA, PPIA, or this Order.

Enforcement Provisions

50. The Administrator, FSIS, shall have the right to summarily withdraw inspection services upon a determination by the Director, EOS, or his or her designee, that one or more conditions set forth in this Order have been violated. In the event that inspection services are summarily withdrawn, the Respondents retain the right to request an expedited hearing pursuant to the Rules of Practice, 9 C.F.R. Part 500, concerning any violation alleged as the basis for a summary withdrawal of inspection services. This does not affect complainant's right to suspend operations in accordance with Rules of Practice, 9 C.F.R. Part 500.

51. Nothing in this Order shall preclude the referral of any violation of law to the U.S.

Department of Justice for possible criminal or civil proceedings or preclude the Administrator, FSIS, from taking other appropriate administrative action under the FMIA, PPIA, and the regulations promulgated there under.

52. If any provision of this Order is declared invalid, such declaration shall not affect the validity of any other provision herein.

53. The provisions of this Order shall be applicable for a period of five (5) years from the effective date of this Order.

54. This Consent Decision and Order shall be considered issued and effective on the date of signature by an Administrative Law Judge.

Done at Washington D.C.
this 21 day of May, 2021.



Tierney Carlos
Administrative Law Judge



Memet Beqiri, Owner
New England Meat Packing, LLC



Owner/Chief Operating Officer
New England Meat Packing, LLC



Brian J. Wolf
Attorney for Memet Beqiri
New England Meat Packing, LLC



Scott C. Safian
Director, Enforcement Operations Staff
Food Safety and Inspection Service
United States Department of Agriculture

LAUREN AXLEY Digitally signed by LAUREN AXLEY
Date: 2021.05.21 09:04:58 -0400

Lauren Axley
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Office of the General Counsel
United States Department of Agriculture