
From: Dan Karney [dk424@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2006 9:04 AM
To: FSIS RegulationsComments
Subject: FSIS: docket #04-006P--End meat recall secrecy!

May 1, 2006

Public Comment USDA

Dear USDA,

I'm writing in support of the proposed rule requiring the U.S. Department of Agriculture to make public the names of grocery stores who have received tainted meat and poultry products.

Under the proposed regulation, "Availability of Lists of Retail Consignees During Meat or Poultry Product Recalls" (Docket No. 04-006P), the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will be required to make available to the public the names and locations of the grocery stores who have received tainted meat and poultry products.

The proposed regulation is a positive step forward and will ensure consumers have access to important information about the health and safety of the meat and poultry they purchase that is currently not available. It will help me to know if I might have bought a recalled product and might have it in my refrigerator.

In addition, however, I feel strongly that the federal government should also make available information about contaminated meat or poultry products that have been sent to hotels, restaurants and institutions, such as public schools and nursing homes. If tainted meat or poultry products have been sent to the school my children attend, or to the nursing home my parents are in, I would like to know that information, so that I can contact the school or home and make sure they are returning or discarding the recalled meat or poultry products.

In addition, I feel strongly that FSIS should post the relevant names and locations on the internet as soon as they receive it from the distributor. The earlier I know about a meat recall, the earlier that I can take action to protect myself and my family.

Even though the new proposal is a good first step, however, USDA still needs the legal authority to require companies to recall tainted foods. Currently, the agency has to rely on the meat industry's voluntary compliance with recall requests from USDA.

I commend FSIS for proposing this rule. The American public has too much at stake for this rule, with the suggested modifications, not to be considered and adopted at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

Mr. Dan Karney
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