



NATIONAL CHICKEN COUNCIL

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December 18, 2000

Mr. Thomas Billy
Administrator
Food Safety and Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250-3700

98-062P
98-062P-1
Stephen Pretanik
Alice Johnson

Re: Docket No. 98-062P, Performance Standards for On-line Antimicrobial Reprocessing of Pre-chill Poultry Carcasses – Request for Extension of Comment Period

Dear Mr. Billy:

The National Chicken Council and the National Turkey Federation respectfully request that the comment period on the referenced proposed rule be extended for 60-days beyond the current January 30, 2001 closing date. This additional time is needed due to the holidays falling into the current comment period and the time that will be necessary to obtain the data FSIS is requesting to support a performance standard.

Please let us know as early as possible of FSIS's decision with respect to this request.

Sincerely,

Stephen Pretanik
Director of Science and Technology
National Chicken Council

Alice Johnson, DVM
VP Scientific and Regulatory Affairs
National Turkey Federation