



PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

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Contact Person

Stephen Ehlke
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that a \$12,000 settlement was reached with Clark's Trading Company (Clark's), located in Mukwonago, Wisconsin, related to various contracts for meat products which Clark's had with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Clark's Trading Company had contracts with the Federal Bureau of Prisons to provide various meat products to federal correctional institutions nationwide, including in the state of Wisconsin. Clark's certified to the Bureau of Prisons that the products it provided met certain federal regulations related to the percentage of fat contained in the meat, as required under the terms of its contracts with the Bureau. After receiving a complaint from a state agency, the United States Department of Agriculture, Food Safety Inspection Services (FSIS) initiated an investigation to determine whether the products provided by Clark's to multiple federal correctional institutions met the quality standards required. The investigation revealed that on several occasions the products did not meet the regulatory requirements.

Based on these findings the United States was prepared to file a claim against Clark's under the False Claims Act. Before suit was filed, however, the parties reached

an agreement in which Clark's has agreed to pay \$12,000 within 60 days of the settlement agreement. The parties agree that the settlement agreement reached between them does not constitute an admission of wrongdoing or liability by Clark's, nor a concession by the United States that its claims are not well founded, and does not constitute an adjudication of fact or law.

The claims against Clark's Trading Company were the result of an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Food Safety and Inspection Service. The matter was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Ehlke.

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