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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE: [Redacted]
EAC 02 264 50740

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: JUL 22 2005

IN RE: Petitioner: [Redacted]
Beneficiary: [Redacted]

PETITION: Petition for Special Immigrant Religious Worker Pursuant to Section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(4), as described at Section 101(a)(27)(C) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(C)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The employment-based immigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center. The Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) dismissed a subsequent appeal. The matter is now before the AAO on a motion to reopen and reconsider. The motion will be dismissed.

The motion is untimely. Under the provisions of 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i), a motion to reopen or reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen or reconsider. The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b) states that whenever a person is required to act within a prescribed period after the service of a notice upon him and the notice is served by mail, three days shall be added to the prescribed period. The AAO issued its decision on October 20, 2004. The petitioner's motion was received by the service center on December 3, 2004, 44 days after the AAO issued its decision. The motion was therefore filed untimely.

The petitioner's motion was initially sent to the AAO; however, with its decision, the AAO informed the petitioner that any further inquiry regarding its case must be made with the office that originally decided the case.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a) provides that the agency may, in its discretion, accept a motion beyond this time frame if the petitioner demonstrates that the delay was reasonable and beyond his or her control. The petitioner provides no evidence that the delay in filing its motion to reopen was reasonable and beyond its control.

ORDER: The motion is dismissed.