



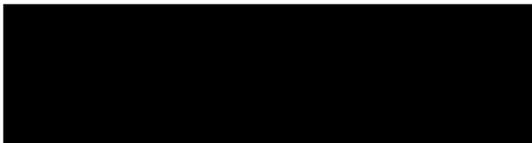
DH

U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Deleting data deleted
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536



File: SRC 02 108 55393 Office: Texas Service Center

Date: SEP 12 2002

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiaries



Petition: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to § 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER: Self-represented

Public Copy

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision 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.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office that originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, Texas Service Center, who certified the decision to the Associate Commissioner for Examinations for review. The decision of the director will be affirmed.

The petitioner engages in the business of landscape maintenance. It seeks to employ the beneficiaries as landscape laborers for ten months. The certifying officer of the Department of Labor declined to issue a labor certification because the petitioner had not established a temporary or seasonal need for these workers. The director determined that the petitioner had not established that the need for the services to be performed is temporary.

Section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii), defines an H-2B temporary worker as:

an alien...having a residence in a foreign country which he has no intention of abandoning, who is coming temporarily to the United States to perform other temporary service or labor if unemployed persons capable of performing such service or labor cannot be found in this country, but this clause shall not apply to graduates of medical schools coming to the United States to perform services as members of the medical profession....

Matter of Artee Corp., 18 I&N Dec. 366 (Comm. 1982), codified in current regulations at 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(6)(ii), specified that the test for determining whether an alien is coming "temporarily" to the United States to "perform temporary services or labor" is whether the need of the petitioner for the duties to be performed is temporary. It is the nature of the need, not the nature of the duties, that is controlling. See 55 Fed. Reg. 2616 (1990).

As a general rule, the period of the petitioner's need must be a year or less, although there may be extraordinary circumstances where the temporary services or labor might last longer than one year. The petitioner's need for the services or labor must be a one-time occurrence, a seasonal need, a peakload need, or an intermittent need. 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(6)(ii)(B).

The petition indicates that the employment is seasonal and that the temporary need recurs annually.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(6)(ii)(B)(2) states that for the nature of the petitioner's need to be seasonal, the petitioner must establish that the services or labor is traditionally tied to a season of the year by an event or pattern and is of a recurring nature. The petitioner shall specify the period(s) of time during each year in which it does not need the services or labor. The

employment is not seasonal if the period during which the services or labor is not needed is unpredictable or subject to change or is considered a vacation period for the petitioner's permanent employees.

The nontechnical description of the job on the Application for Alien Employment Certification (Form ETA 750) reads:

Mow, cut, water, and edge lawns; Rake and blow leaves; dig holes for bushes; pull and chop weeds, prune, and haul topsoil and mulch. Worker will work under close supervision, using hand and power pruners and hedge clippers. Will use rakes to clean-up leaves after trimming/pruning shrubbery. This is an entry level position. No previous experience is required.

The petition indicates that the dates of intended employment are from February 15, 2002 until December 15, 2002. The Department of Labor (DOL) did not issue the labor certification because the petitioner filed two applications together that tied two seasonal needs into a year. The DOL issued the petitioner an H-2B certification for 15 groundskeeper, industrial/commercial workers from February 1, 2001 until December 20, 2001 and 5 additional landscape laborers from November 1, 2001 until March 15, 2002. The petitioner has now submitted the present H-2B petition for 15 landscape laborers from February 15, 2002 until December 15, 2002. Therefore, the petitioner has established a need for workers in different capacities year round.

Consequently, the employment cannot be considered as seasonal. The petitioner has been shown to have a permanent need for workers. The petitioner is required to demonstrate that its intention is to employ the specific beneficiaries for only a temporary period. The petitioner's need for the services of the beneficiaries has not been shown to be temporary. For this reason, the petition may not be approved.

This petition may not be approved for another reason. The regulation at 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(2)(iii) states in pertinent part that:

Named beneficiaries. Nonagricultural petitions must include the names of beneficiaries and other required information at the time of filing. Under the H-2B classification, exceptions may be granted in emergent situations involving multiple beneficiaries at the discretion of the director, and in special filing situations as determined by the Service's Headquarters.

The regulations do not provide for the acceptance of nonagricultural petitions that do not include the names of the beneficiaries and other required information at the time of filing. Further, the petitioner has not presented an emergent situation that would allow the Service to waive the names of the temporary nonagricultural workers at the time of filing. For this additional reason, the petition may not be approved.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. Here, the petitioner has not met that burden.

ORDER: The decision of the director is affirmed. The petition is denied.