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**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

**MI**

FILE:

[REDACTED]  
[SRC 03 259 55100]

Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER

Date: JUL 18 2005

IN RE:

Applicant: [REDACTED]

APPLICATION: Application for Temporary Protected Status under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1254

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: SELF-REPRESENTED

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.

  
*[Signature]*

for Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The application was denied by the Director, Texas Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The case will be remanded for further consideration and action.

The applicant is a native and citizen of El Salvador who is seeking Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1254.

The director denied the application after determining that the applicant had abandoned his application by failing to respond to a request for evidence.

If all requested initial evidence and requested additional evidence is not submitted by the required date, the application or petition shall be considered abandoned and, accordingly, shall be denied. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(13). A denial due to abandonment may not be appealed, but an applicant or petitioner may file a motion to reopen. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(15).

The record reveals that the applicant filed his application on September 16, 2003. On January 6, 2004, the applicant was requested to submit additional evidence establishing his qualifying residence in the United States. The record does not contain a response from the applicant; therefore, the director concluded that the applicant had abandoned his application and denied the application on February 19, 2004. The director advised the applicant that, while the decision could not be appealed, the applicant could file a motion to reopen within 30 days.

The applicant responded to the director's decision on March 9, 2004. The applicant stated:

On January 6, 2004 you requested evidence that I had continuously [sic] resided in USA since February 13, 2001 and evidence that I had maintained legal status in the United States prior to filing or evidence that I had previously filed.

On that date I mailed evidence of my continuous presence, and I also presented evidence that I had filed TPS in the original filing in 2002 only I never got any answer from the Immigration Service in Texas.

I would like to appeal this decision and I ask that the BCIS grant me my work permit and grant me the right to protection under TPS in the USA.

The director erroneously accepted the applicant's response as an appeal instead of a motion to reopen and forwarded the file to the AAO. However, as the director's decision was based on abandonment, the AAO does not have jurisdiction over this case. Therefore, it will be remanded and the director shall consider the applicant's response as a motion to reopen.

In these proceedings, the burden of proof rests solely with the applicant. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361.

**ORDER:** The case is remanded to the director for further action consistent with the above and entry of a decision.