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FILE: [REDACTED]
[WAC 05 092 77960]

Office: California Service Center

Date: **OCT 30 2006**

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

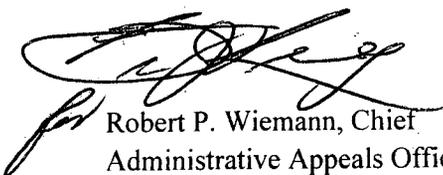
PETITION: Application for Temporary Protected Status under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1254.

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

[REDACTED]

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, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, California Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

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

The record reveals that the applicant filed a late initial TPS application on June 27, 2002, under CIS receipt number SRC 02 213 56054. The director denied the application on November 06, 2002, because the applicant failed to respond to a notice of intent to deny with 30 days. It is noted that in the Notice of Intent to Deny, dated August 30, 2002, the director specifically requested that the applicant provide evidence that the applicant met the requirements for late initial registration. The director, therefore, considered that application abandoned and denied the application. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(13). A denial due to abandonment may not be appealed; however, an applicant may file a motion to reopen under 8 C.F.R. § 103.5 within 30 days of the denial decision. The record does not indicate that the applicant filed a motion to reopen or reconsider.

The applicant filed the current Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on December 31, 2004, and indicated that he was filing a re-registration application. The director denied that application on April 6, 2006, because the applicant's initial TPS application had been denied and the applicant was not eligible to apply for TPS.

If the applicant is filing an application as a re-registration, a previous grant of TPS must have been afforded the applicant, as only those individuals who are granted TPS must register annually. In addition, the applicant must continue to maintain the conditions of eligibility. 8 C.F.R. § 244.17.

On appeal, in an attempt to establish the applicant's eligibility for TPS, counsel states that the applicant is eligible for TPS because of the testimonial and evidentiary documentation the applicant provided earlier in support of his application. However, counsel does not submit any addition evidence on appeal.

In this case, the applicant has not previously been granted TPS. Therefore, he is not eligible to re-register for TPS. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application will be affirmed.

It is noted that the director's decision does not explore the possibility that the applicant was attempting to file a late initial application for TPS instead of an annual re-registration.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an applicant may apply for TPS during the initial registration period, or:

- (f) (2) During any subsequent extension of such designation if at the time of the initial registration period:
 - (i) The applicant is a nonimmigrant or has been granted voluntary departure status or any relief from removal;

- (ii) The applicant has an application for change of status, adjustment of status, asylum, voluntary departure, or any relief from removal which is pending or subject to further review or appeal;
 - (iii) The applicant is a parolee or has a pending request for reparole; or
 - (iv) The applicant is a spouse or child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant.
- (g) Has filed an application for late registration with the appropriate Service director within a 60-day period immediately following the expiration or termination of conditions described in paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

Persons applying for TPS offered to Nicaraguans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and continuous physical presence since January 5, 1999. The initial registration period for Nicaraguans was from January 05, 1999, through August 20, 1999. The record reveals that the applicant filed his application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on December 31, 2004.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period he fell within at least one of the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) above.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he meets the above requirements. Applicants shall submit all documentation as required in the instructions or requested by CIS. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a). The sufficiency of all evidence will be judged according to its relevancy, consistency, credibility, and probative value. To meet his or her burden of proof, the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from his or her own statements. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b).

The applicant has failed to provide any evidence to establish that this application should be accepted as a late initial registration under 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Therefore, the application also must be denied for this reason.

The application will be denied for the above stated reasons, with each considered as an independent and alternative basis for denial. An alien applying for temporary protected status has the burden of proving that he or she meets the requirements enumerated above and is otherwise eligible under the provisions of section 244 of the Act. The applicant has failed to meet this burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.