U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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Washington, DC 20529

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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

PUBLIC COPY

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MAY 25 2004

[redacted]

FILE: [redacted] Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER Date:

IN RE: Applicant: [redacted]

APPLICATION: Application for Status as a Temporary Resident pursuant to Section 210 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1160

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. The file has been returned to the service center that processed your case. If your appeal was sustained, or if your case was remanded for further action, you will be contacted. If your appeal was dismissed, you no longer have a case pending before this office, and you are not entitled to file a motion to reopen or reconsider your case.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application for temporary resident status as a special agricultural worker was denied by the Director, Western Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected.

The director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish the performance of at least 90 man-days of qualifying agricultural employment during the eligibility period. This decision was based on adverse information relating to the applicant's claim of employment for foreman Antonio Cortes at Blech Ranch.

Whenever an application for special agricultural worker status is denied or the status of a lawful temporary resident is terminated, the alien shall be given written notice setting forth the specific reasons for the denial on Form I-692, Notice of Denial. Form I-692 shall also contain advice to the applicant that he or she may appeal the decision and that such appeal must be taken within **30 days** following service of the notification of decision. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(3)(i). An appeal received after the thirty (30) day period has tolled will not be accepted for processing. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(3)(iv). Form I-694, Notice of Appeal, shall be used to file the appeal and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(3)(ii). Whenever a person has the right or is required to do some 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. Service by mail is complete upon mailing. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b).

The director issued the Notice of Denial on August 21, 1991, and sent it to the applicant's most current address of record via certified mail. The notice was returned by the U.S. Postal Service, which stamped the envelope "Returned to Sender; Unclaimed." There is no evidence in the record, however, that the applicant attempted to notify the Immigration and Naturalization Service (now, Citizenship and Immigration Services or CIS) of any change of address prior to the issuance of the decision. As such, the applicant's failure to receive the director's notice must be deemed to be of his own making. The appeal was not received until July 25, 2003. The appeal was untimely filed and, therefore, must be rejected.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.