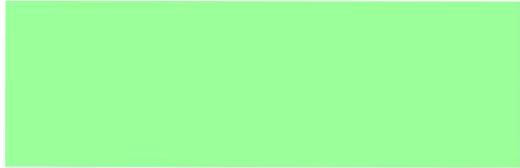


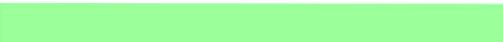


U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

(b)(6)

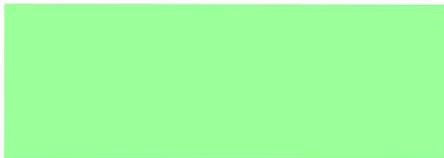


DATE: JUN 17 2013 OFFICE: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER FILE: 

IN RE: Petitioner:   
Beneficiary: 

PETITION: Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker as a Skilled Worker or Professional Pursuant to Section 203(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(3)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosed please find the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All of the documents related to this matter have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Please be advised that any further inquiry that you might have concerning your case must be made to that office.

If you believe the AAO inappropriately applied the law in reaching its decision, or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen in accordance with the instructions on Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$630. The specific requirements for filing such a motion can be found at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. **Do not file any motion directly with the AAO.** Please be aware that 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i) requires any motion to be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider or reopen.

Thank you,

Ron Rosenberg  
Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The preference visa petition was denied by the Director, Nebraska Service Center. The subsequent appeal was dismissed by the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO). The petitioner filed a motion to reopen, which was dismissed by the AAO. The matter is now before the AAO on a second motion to reopen and reconsider. The motions will be dismissed.

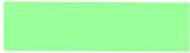
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regulations require that motions to reconsider be filed within 30 days of the underlying decision. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i). If mailed, motions must be filed within 33 days of the underlying decision. 8 C.F.R. § 103.8(b). Similarly, USCIS regulations require that motions to reopen be filed within 30 days of the underlying decision, except that failure to timely file a motion to reopen may be excused in the discretion of USCIS where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and was beyond the affected party's control. *Id.* In this matter, the motion was filed on February 28, 2013, 35 days after the AAO's January 24, 2013 decision. The record indicates that the AAO's decision was mailed to both the petitioner at its business address and to its counsel of record.

On motion, counsel asserts that the decision was sent to the petitioner only and it was not delivered until February 22, 2013. Counsel contends that the petitioner was not able to obtain financial documents from his accountant within the short time frame, and therefore determine whether there was a basis for filing the instant motion. The AAO's January 24, 2013 decision indicates it was mailed to the same address as counsel indicates on the enclosed Form G-28. Counsel asserts that snow storms closed federal offices, and that the AAO's decision arrived during "tax season," leading to reasonable delays in filing the previous motions. The record does not reflect that either decision was returned to the AAO as undeliverable. Counsel provides no evidence to corroborate his claim of no delivery or late delivery, etc. The assertions of counsel do not constitute evidence. *Matter of Obaigbena*, 19 I&N Dec. 533, 534 (BIA 1988); *Matter of Ramirez-Sanchez*, 17 I&N Dec. 503, 506 (BIA 1980). As the record does not establish that the failure to file the motion within 30 days of the decision was reasonable and beyond the affected party's control, the motions are untimely and must be dismissed for that reason.

Furthermore, the motion shall be dismissed for failing to meet an applicable requirement. As the AAO discussed in its prior decision of January 21, 2013, the regulation at 8 C.F.R. §§ 103.5(a)(1)(iii) lists the filing requirements for motions to reopen and motions to reconsider. Section 103.5(a)(1)(iii)(C) requires that motions be "[a]ccompanied by a statement about whether or not the validity of the unfavorable decision has been or is the subject of any judicial proceeding." In this matter, the motion does not contain the statement required by 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(iii)(C). The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(4) states that a motion which does not meet applicable requirements must be dismissed. Therefore, because the instant motion did not meet the applicable filing requirements listed in 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(iii)(C), it must also be dismissed for this reason.

Motions for the reopening or reconsideration of immigration proceedings are disfavored for the same reasons as petitions for rehearing and motions for a new trial on the basis of newly discovered evidence. *See INS v. Doherty*, 502 U.S. 314, 323 (1992) (citing *INS v. Abudu*, 485 U.S. 94 (1988)). A party seeking to reopen a proceeding bears a "heavy burden." *INS v. Abudu*, 485 U.S. at 110. With the current motion, the movant has not met that burden. The motions will be dismissed.

(b)(6)



Page 3

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. The petitioner has not sustained that burden. Accordingly, the motions will be dismissed, the proceedings will not be reopened or reconsidered, and the previous decisions of the director and the AAO will not be disturbed.

**ORDER:** The motions are dismissed.