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U.S. Citizenship
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FILE: WAC 04 037 50927 Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER Date: FEB 10 2005

IN RE: Petitioner: [REDACTED]
Beneficiary: [REDACTED]

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

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

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, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The service center director denied the nonimmigrant visa petition and the matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected as untimely filed.

In order to properly file an appeal, the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(i) provides that the affected party must file the complete appeal within 30 days after service of the unfavorable decision. If the decision was mailed, the appeal must be filed within 33 days. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b).

The record indicates that the director's decision was issued on June 9, 2004. It is noted that the director properly gave notice to the petitioner that it had 33 days to file the appeal. The appeal was received by Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on July 28, 2004 or 49 days after the decision was issued. The AAO notes that the appeal was originally received by the AAO, the incorrect filing location, on July 13, 2004, (34 days after the decision was issued), and therefore would have been untimely filed even if it had been filed at the proper office. However, as noted in the decision, as well as in the regulations, an appeal must be filed with the office where the unfavorable decision was made. 8 C.F.R. § 103.32(a)(2)(i). Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(2) states that if an untimely appeal meets the requirements of a motion to reopen or a motion to reconsider, the appeal must be treated as a motion, and a decision must be made on the merits of the case. The official having jurisdiction over a motion is the official who made the last decision in the proceeding, in this case the service center director. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii). The director declined to treat the late appeal as a motion and forwarded the matter to the AAO.

As the appeal was untimely filed, the appeal must be rejected.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.