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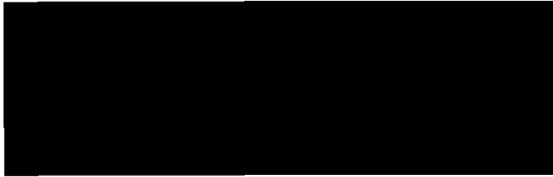
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
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FILE: [REDACTED] Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER Date: **JUL 26 2010**

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

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

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

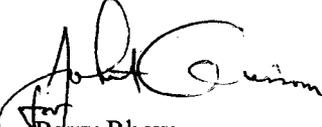
SELF REPRESENTED

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 law was inappropriately applied by us in reaching our decision, or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. The specific requirements for filing such a request can be found at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. All motions must be submitted to the office that originally decided your case by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$585. Please be aware that 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i) requires that any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider or reopen.

Thank you,


Perry Rhew
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, California Service Center. The matter is now before the AAO on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed. The petition will be denied.

The petitioner is a landscape company that seeks to employ the beneficiaries as landscape laborers pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(H)(ii)(b) for the period of April 1, 2009 to November 30, 2009.

The director denied the petition on December 12, 2008, concluding that the petitioner had not submitted a certified temporary labor certification from the Department of Labor (DOL) or notice stating that such certification could not be made at the time of filing the petition, and the petitioner failed to submit evidence requested by the director.

On appeal, the petitioner explained that it submitted the application for a temporary labor certification prior to filing the Form I-129, but it was pending. The petitioner also explained that it filed the Form I-129 prior to receiving a certified temporary labor certification because the petitioner believed that the Form I-129 must be submitted "as soon as possible."

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(6)(iii)(2009) states in pertinent part:

(C) The petitioner may not file an H-2B petition unless the United States petitioner has applied for a labor certification with the Secretary of Labor . . . within the time limits prescribed or accepted by each, and has obtained a labor certification determination as required by paragraph (h)(6)(iv). . . .

The regulations stipulate that an H-2B petition for temporary employment in the United States shall be accompanied by a labor certification determination that is either: (1) a certification from the Secretary of Labor stating that qualified workers in the United States are not available and that the alien's employment will not adversely affect wages and working conditions of similarly employed United States workers; or (2) a notice detailing the reasons why such certification cannot be made. 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(6)(iv)(A).

The Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker (Form I-129) was filed on November 3, 2008 without a certified temporary labor certification (ETA 750) or notice from DOL detailing the reasons why such certification cannot be made. Absent such DOL certification or notice detailing the reasons that certification cannot be made, the petition cannot be approved. The petitioner subsequently submitted a temporary labor certification that was certified on February 24, 2009, over three months after the present petition was filed.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(6)(iii)(E)(2009) states that:

After obtaining a determination from the Secretary of Labor or the Governor of Guam, as appropriate, the petitioner shall file a petition on I-129, accompanied by

the labor certification determination and supporting documents, with the director having jurisdiction in the area of intended employment.

Neither the statute nor regulations allow for the acceptance of a labor certification obtained subsequent to the filing of the petition. The petitioner must establish eligibility at the time of filing the nonimmigrant visa petition. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(1). A visa petition may not be approved at a future date after the petitioner or beneficiary becomes eligible under a new set of facts. *Matter of Michelin Tire Corp.*, 17 I&N Dec. 248 (Reg. Comm. 1978).

In addition, the director denied the petition because the petitioner failed to submit evidence requested by the director. Failure to submit requested evidence that precludes a material line of inquiry shall be grounds for denying the petition. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(14).

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. Here, the petitioner has not met that burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed. The petition is denied.