



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

August 31, 2005

The Special Counsel

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Re: OSC File No. DI-04-0887

Dear Mr. President:

I received a disclosure from a whistleblower at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Pilgrim's Pride Plant, Marshville, North Carolina, regarding a threat to the safety of the nation's food supply. Specifically, Arthur Fields, Food Inspector, alleged that two of his coworkers are negligent in the performance of their job duties, and, as a result, they allow several chickens to pass their station every day without an adequate inspection. As discussed in the attached Analysis of Disclosures, an agency investigation partially substantiated Mr. Fields's allegations.

I required the Honorable Ann M. Veneman, former Secretary of Agriculture, to conduct an investigation into Mr. Fields's disclosures pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c) and (d). The former Secretary delegated authority to Elsa A. Murano, former Under Secretary for Food Safety, to conduct an investigation and to sign the agency report. The former Under Secretary submitted a report to this office on September 13, 2004. Mr. Fields commented on the agency report; his comments are attached. As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I am now transmitting the report to you.

We have reviewed the original disclosures and the agency report as well as Mr. Fields's comments. We have determined that the agency report contains all of the information required by statute and the findings appear to be reasonable.

As required by § 1213(e)(3), I have sent a copy of the report and Mr. Fields's comments to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the House Committee on Agriculture. We have also filed copies of the report and a copy of the whistleblower's comments in our public file and closed the matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott J. Bloch".

Scott J. Bloch

Enclosures