



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 22, 2010

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, YUSILL SCRIBNER,
JANICE OH, EDELI RIVERA
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(914) 993-1900, (212) 637-2600

**U.S. OBTAINS ORDER REQUIRING SPRING VALLEY, NEW YORK,
POULTRY PRODUCER TO IMPLEMENT SAFETY MEASURES**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that the United States (the "Government") has settled a civil lawsuit against a poultry slaughtering and processing plant, doing business as EZRAS YISRAEL, NEW SQUARE MEATS, INC., and ADIR POULTRY, INC., for violations of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (the "Act").

The settlement agreement, in the form of a Consent Decree and Judgment (the "Decree"), permanently enjoins EZRAS YISRAEL, which is located in Spring Valley, Rockland County, New York, from slaughtering and processing poultry and poultry products in unsanitary conditions, and from selling poultry products that have not passed required federal inspection. The Decree also requires EZRAS YISRAEL to repair and improve its poultry facility, and to implement a number of safeguards designed to ensure that poultry and poultry products are prepared in a sanitary environment. The settlement was approved today by United States District Judge STEPHEN C. ROBINSON.

In its Complaint, filed on December 8, 2009, the United States accused EZRAS YISRAEL of repeatedly violating federal poultry laws by slaughtering, processing, and selling poultry and poultry products that had not been inspected by federal inspectors. In addition, the Complaint charged EZRAS YISRAEL with conducting their slaughtering and processing operations in unsanitary conditions, thereby increasing the risk that the public would consume contaminated poultry.

Specifically, according to the Complaint, during a visit to the facility in April 2009, federal investigators observed pools of stagnant water, foul order, rusted and flaking storage racks, exposed insulation, and poultry residue on the walls, lighting fixture and phone of the manager's office. The Complaint also

charged EZRAS YISRAEL with ignoring requests of federal investigators to provide records necessary to enforce the federal poultry laws. If the USDA determines that EZRAS YISRAEL continues to violate the PPIA or its regulations, the agency may summarily terminate EZRAS YISRAEL's exempt status or withdraw the grant of federal inspection.

On January 5, 2010, the United States obtained a court order preliminarily enjoining EZRAS YISRAEL from conducting poultry operations in violation of the Act. Under the settlement approved by the Court, EZRAS YISRAEL is now permanently enjoined from slaughtering, preparing, or processing poultry and poultry products that have not passed federal inspection. The Decree provides that EZRAS YISRAEL will give the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") full access to its business to review its compliance with federal law.

In addition, the Decree requires EZRAS YISRAEL to repair and improve its facility to ensure sanitary conditions, develop and submit to USDA for review and approval the procedures and monitoring activities EZRAS YISRAEL will perform to ensure its operations are conducted under sanitary conditions, and complete training in the requirements of federal law, labeling, sanitation, food safety, and product handling. The Decree also mandates that EZRAS YISRAEL maintain business records of all transactions of poultry or poultry products, and make those records available to USDA upon request.

Mr. BHARARA praised the assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture-Food Safety and Inspection Service in investigating the case.

Assistant United States Attorney TARA M. La MORTE is in charge of the case.

10-226

###