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For Immediate Release

December 29, 2008

CIVIL COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST SOUDERTON BEEF PLANT FOR CLEAN WATER ACT VIOLATIONS THAT LED TO FISH KILLS

PHILADELPHIA - Acting United States Attorney Laurie Magid today announced the filing of a civil complaint¹ against JBS Souderton, Inc., a beef processing plant located in Souderton, Pennsylvania, for violations of the Clean Water Act. The complaint alleges that the Souderton plant unlawfully discharged pollutants from its operations into the Skippack Creek, a waterway that runs along the facility. According to the complaint, on several occasions the plant exceeded limits in its clean water act permit on discharge of fecal coliform, phosphorus, and ammonia, and had unallowable discharges that caused several fish kills over a five year period. The complaint goes on to allege that the plant's "operation and maintenance" program did not ensure compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations, specifically clean water requirements.

"Industries that discharge pollutants as a part of doing business, particularly those adjacent to our waterways, must be especially conscious of the potential for inflicting harm on the environment," said Magid. "This company had numerous opportunities as well as the financial resources to correct the problem. The government standards that are in place are there to protect our natural resources and must be respected."

The Souderton plant employs over 1,500 people. The facility includes a beef processing operation and a rendering operation. It is the largest such operation in the United States east of Chicago. The slaughter operation processes upwards of 2,000 head of cattle per day. As of 2004, the facility produced approximately 180 million pounds of boxed beef and 120 million pounds of ground beef each year. The rendering operation processes the inedible and leftover material from the slaughter operation.

JBS Souderton, Inc. is a Pennsylvania corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of JBS Packerland, Inc. The former corporate name of JBS Souderton, Inc. is Smithfield Beef Group –

¹A civil complaint alleges a violation of federal law and is not an indication of any finding by the court. The defendant has the right to contest those allegations.

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Souderton, Inc. JBS Souderton, Inc. is part of JBS, SA, a Brazilian company that is the largest beef processing organization in the world.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael Blume.

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