

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION OF ACCREDITATION

July 22, 2019

Jana Vanderhaar
Basin and Range Organics
1365 Corporate Blvd., Suite 200
Reno, Nevada 89403

Dear Ms. Vanderhaar:

On June 20, 2019, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) issued a formal Administrator's Decision denying BARO's appeals of Notices of Proposed Suspension of accreditation to the National Organic Program (NOP). On July 19, 2019 the NOP received via email BARO's acceptance of its accreditation suspension.

BARO's USDA accreditation is suspended from July 22, 2019 through July 22, 2020. Beginning on July 22, 2019 BARO must cease all USDA organic certification activities.

BARO must immediately notify its certified operations and applicants for certification of the following:

- a. BARO will no longer provide USDA organic certification services as of July 22, 2019.
- b. Operations listed as certified by BARO in the Organic Integrity Database will appear as "[---] Transitioning to New Certifier" beginning on July 25, 2019.
- c. All operations certified by BARO must inform the NOP (AIAInbox@usda.gov) **within 60 days of the notification date** whether they have applied with a new certifier or are surrendering their certification. An operation applying for certification with another certifier must also provide the name of the certifier and the date of application.
- d. If an operation does not inform the NOP that it has applied for certification with another certifier or surrendering certification **within 60 days of the notification date**, the NOP will issue the operation a noncompliance, which may lead to suspension or revocation of the operation's certification.
- e. Operations applying for certification with another certifier must inform the NOP (AIAInbox@usda.gov) once they have received their new organic certificate.
- f. Operations that have applied for certification with another certifier may use their existing inventory of labels approved by BARO identifying BARO as the certifying agent if the use-up is approved by the new certifier according to the NOP's instructions for label use-up approval.

Additionally, BARO must submit to the NOP the following by **July 25, 2019**:

1. A copy of the notification sent to applicants and certified operations as outlined above.
2. A current list of new applicants for certification, if applicable, and certified operations, including operation name, physical and mailing addresses, email address, phone number, and name of primary contact.

Please be advised that BARO may seek reinstatement of its accreditation after the suspension period by submitting a request to the Secretary for reinstatement of its accreditation. The request must be accompanied by evidence demonstrating correction of each noncompliance and corrective actions taken to comply with and remain in compliance with the Organic Food Productions Act and the USDA organic regulations (7 C.F.R. 205).

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Penny Zuck at (202) 380-8423 or Penelope.zuck@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



Cheri Courtney
Director, Accreditation and International Activities
National Organic Program