

Charles M. English, Jr.
202.508.4159 Direct Dial
202.654.1842 Direct Fax
cenglish@thelen.com

October 1, 2007

VIA E-MAIL

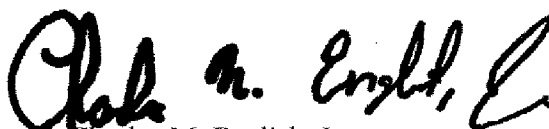
Ms. Dana Coale
Deputy Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Re: Request for Extension of Time to Submit Alternative Proposals
for Pacific Northwest Order Proposed Expansion

Dear Ms. Coale:

On August 29, I submitted a request for information to your office in order to assist Dean Foods in preparing and submitting any alternative proposals regarding the industry proposal to expand the marketing area of the Pacific Northwest milk marketing order (7 C.F.R. Part 1124). Unfortunately, through no fault of anyone, I have been informed that the data requested simply does not presently exist at USDA. The lack of information regarding handler overlapping competition is of course critical to any analysis of both the existing industry proposal and Dean's evaluation of alternatives. Without that critical information, Dean respectfully requests an extension of time to submit any alternative proposals while both Dean and others consider options, if any, for obtaining this data.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles M. English, Jr.

cc: Gino Tosi (via e-mail)
Evan Kinser (via e-mail)
James R. Daugherty (via e-mail)
Robert Vander Linden (via e-mail)