

33039d



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
New Orleans District Office
6600 Plaza Drive, Suite 400
New Orleans, LA 70127 JFJ

January 24, 2002

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Joseph W. Terrell, Assistant Director
City of Florence Parks & Recreation
2500 Chisholm Road
Florence, AL 35630

Warning Letter No. 02-NSV-11

Dear Mr. Terrell:

On December 19, 2001 our investigators conducted an inspection of a vessel watering point facility located at McFarland Park beneath the Highway 13 bridge across the Tennessee River. It was determined that the Delta Queen and Mississippi Queen riverboats use this watering point as a potable water source.

Our investigator provided Mr. William A. Holden, Maintenance Leader, with a Form FDA 483, Inspectional Observations, stating that "no backflow prevention device can be located to potable water hydrant" resulting in a PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION for this potable water source. To ensure a safe, sanitary supply of water to interstate vessels, we strongly suggest that action be taken to correct the deficiency listed on the Form FDA 483.

This finding was previously noted during an inspection on April 8 & 10, 1998, and addressed in Warning Letter 98-NSV-13 dated May 26, 1998, from this office. In the response to the warning letter dated June 9, 1998, an adequate backflow prevention device was installed on the hydrant and this was confirmed by an inspection by this office on June 19, 1998.

The hydrant in McFarland Park must have adequate water pressure, a suitable backflow prevention device properly installed in-line to the hydrant, have no connections to any water system of lower quality, have supply lines above the normal high water line, and have a suitable cut-off valve.

Hydrant outlets must be directed horizontal or downward and must be protected by caps with keeper chains when not in use. If a ground-level box is provided, adequate drainage must be employed.

These and other requirements are outlined in the Inspection Summary -- Vessel Watering Point Sanitation, form FDA 2521, issued to Mr. Holden by our investigators.

Please notify this office in writing within fifteen (15) working days of the receipt of this letter of the actions you intend to take to ensure compliance with these sanitation requirements. Your reply should be addressed to the attention of Joseph E. Hayes, Compliance Officer, Food and Drug Administration, 297 Plus Park Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37217.

Sincerely,



Patricia K. Schafer
Acting Director, New Orleans District

PKS:JEH:man

cc: William A. Holden
Maintenance Leader
City of Florence Parks & Recreation
2500 Chisholm Road
Florence, AL 35630

Joseph Scott Young, President
Delta Queen Steamboat Co.
30 Robin Street Wharf
New Orleans, LA 70130-1890