



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
New Orleans District
Southeast Region
6600 Plaza Drive, Suite 400
New Orleans, LA 70127

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HFI-35
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MB/DM

March 31, 2000

WARNING LETTER NO.2000-NOL-19

FEDERAL EXPRESS
OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Mr. James Barton, President
Mers Inc. d.b.a. Economy Boat Store
1926 River Road S.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-8063

Dear Mr. Barton:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspected your vessel watering point, located at 1926 River Road S., Baton Rouge, LA, on March 9, 2000.

The observations made during the inspection are in violation of the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act as promulgated in Title 21, *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Parts 1240 and 1250.

Discrepancies noted during the inspection of this vessel watering point included the following:

- 1) No backflow prevention devices were installed on the five potable water hydrant outlets;
- 2) No cap and keeper chains were installed for these five potable water hydrant outlets; and,
- 3) Two potable water hoses, on the potable water barge, had their openings unprotected when they were not in use.

Accordingly, we are classifying the watering point as PROVISIONAL for interstate carrier use for a period of thirty days. "Provisional" classification means that the watering point may continue to operate; however, significant corrections of deficiencies must be made by the expiration date. On or about that date, a reinspection of this facility will be conducted to assure that corrections meet FDA requirements.

If significant corrections are not made by the time of your next inspection, the vessel watering point will be reclassified as "Not Approved" for carrier use.

Please advise this office in writing, within ten (10) working days, of actions you have taken to correct the deficiencies and to assure that such violations will not recur. Your response should be directed to Dawn P. Hall, Compliance Officer, U. S. Food and Drug Administration, 6600 Plaza Drive, Suite 400, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70127, telephone number 504-253-4519. Should you have any questions concerning the contents of this letter, or if you desire a meeting with the agency staff, do not hesitate to contact Ms. Hall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence A. D'Hoostelaere".

Lawrence A. D'Hoostelaere, Ph.D.
Acting District Director
New Orleans District

Enclosure: FDA-483