U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2675 Prosperity Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

October 24, 2005

Public Statement about Relocation of Cases

As part of the backlog elimination efforts of Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Washington District Office has relocated certain pending I-485 cases to a service center for adjudication. Please note that no naturalization cases, including N-565 and N-600 applications, have been or will be relocated as part of the backlog elimination efforts at this time.

Phase one of the relocation, which occurred on October 14, 2005, included relocating to the California Service Center certain I-485 cases that were continued at the time of the interview. Phase two, which will occur at a date in the future, will include relocating certain employment-based I-485 cases that currently awaiting interview scheduling or rescheduling.

I. Information About Case Relocation

Phase One: Certain Continued I-485 Cases

The Washington District Office relocated to the California Service Center some, but not all, of its I-485 continued cases. The Washington District Office is currently maintaining for adjudication a population of cases that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Pending a name check or Fingerprint Response;
- Awaiting only a visa number before approval may be given; and
- Awaiting for the submission of documents, as the response time has not yet elapsed.

Any cases that have been sent to the California Service Center will be adjudicated by the service center, not the Washington District Office. If you have an I-485 case that was continued at the time of interview, and you would like to know whether your case was sent to the California Service Center or remains at the Washington District Office, you should make an InfoPass appointment online at www.infopass.uscis.gov. At the time of your InfoPass appointment, the Information Officer will be able to inform you whether your case remains at the Washington District Office or has been relocated to the California Service Center for adjudication. Presently, we do not have an estimated timetable on how long the California Service Center will take to process your case.

Phase Two: Employment-Based I-485 Applications

Phase two of the relocation project, which has not yet occurred, involves all of the employment-based I-485 applications that:

- were transferred to this district for adjudication;
- have not yet been scheduled for an initial or rescheduling of an interview; and
- were filed with the service center prior to the 2005 calendar year.

Although the Washington District Office has not yet sent these files to the service center, they have been boxed and are ready to be shipped at any time. Therefore, if you have a pending employment-based I-485 application that fits into the three criteria listed above, please do not make an InfoPass appointment to check the status of your case. Any cases that are scheduled for relocation will not be pulled for interview scheduling.

Once the service center receives the cases, service center personnel will review them to see if service center personnel can complete the adjudication. Please note, however, that only those cases with a current visa number available will be processed. Cases where the visa number is not available will be held in abeyance.

II. Other Related Applications

A. I-765 Application for Employment Authorization

If you are filing an I-765 application based upon a pending ***employment-based*** I-485 application, please file the application with the applicable fees with the Vermont Service Center.

If you are filing an I-765 application base upon a pending ***family-based*** I-485 application, please file the application with the applicable fees with the Chicago Lockbox.

Please note that, effective October 26, 2005, the fee for an I-765 application will increase to $180.00. Any I-765 application that is postmarked on or after October 26, 2005 must include the new fee.

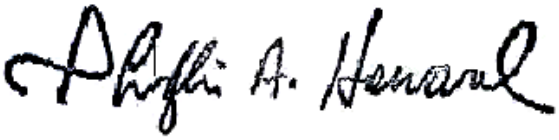
B. I-131 Application for an Advance Parole Document

If you are filing an I-131 application based upon a pending ***employment-based*** I-485 application, please file the application with the applicable fees with the Vermont Service Center.

If you are filing an I-131 application base upon a pending ***family-based*** I-485 application, please file the application with the applicable fees with the Chicago Lockbox.

Please note that, effective October 26, 2005, the fee for an I-131 application will increase to $170.00. Any I-131 application that is postmarked on or after October 26, 2005 must include the new fee.

Sincerely,



Phyllis A. Howard
District Director