IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TIMOTHY C. PIGFORD, <u>et al.</u> ,)
Plaintiffs,)
V.	Civil Action No. 97-1978 (PLF)
MIKE JOHANNS, Secretary, The United States Department of Agriculture,	/))
Defendant.))
CECIL BREWINGTON, <u>et al.</u> ,)
Plaintiffs,)
V.	Civil Action No. 98-1693 (PLF)
MIKE JOHANNS, Secretary, The United States Department of Agriculture,)))
Defendant.)))

MONITOR'S PROGRESS REPORT ON AMENDED ADJUDICATOR DECISIONS

I. Purpose of Report

On August 7, 2006, the Court directed the Monitor to investigate and report to the Court regarding certain Track A Adjudicator decisions that were amended outside of the Consent Decree's Monitor review process. On December 14, 2006, the Monitor filed the Monitor's Interim Follow-Up Report on Amended Adjudicator Decisions describing the informationgathering process the Monitor had initiated to comply with the Court's August 7, 2006 Order. On

December 15, 2006, the Court issued a Minute Order directing the Monitor to file a progress

report on the Monitor's continued investigation by January 17, 2007. This report is being filed to comply with that Order.

II. Information Regarding the Reasons for Amendments

The Monitor asked the Facilitator to provide a letter to explain the circumstances that led to the amended decisions that are the subject of this report. The Facilitator's letter and its Appendices A through E are attached to this report as Exhibit 1.

III. Review of Affected Claims

The Monitor requested information from the Facilitator and from USDA regarding eighty-four amended Track A decisions that the Monitor is investigating in response to the Court's August 7, 2006 Order. Both the Facilitator and USDA have complied with the Monitor's initial information requests and with all follow-up information requests.

At present, both the parties and the Monitor are reviewing the information provided by the Facilitator and USDA. For most of the amended decisions, the information that the parties and the Monitor are reviewing includes: the original Adjudicator decision, the amended Adjudicator decision(s), any petition documents that were "closed" by the Facilitator as a result of the amendment(s), records from USDA regarding each claimant's USDA loan history, records from USDA regarding what debt relief USDA implemented for each claimant, and payment status information for each claimant's cash relief.

The Monitor expects the parties to complete their review of the documents regarding the eighty-four claims within about a month. Once the review process is complete, the Monitor will work with the parties to attempt to resolve any problems regarding the effect of the amendments on class members' relief.

2

IV. Recommendations

The Monitor recommends that the Court order the Monitor to file a progress report regarding the Monitor's continued investigation and work with the parties by March 29, 2007. The Monitor anticipates that by that date the Monitor will have significant further progress to report regarding the tasks assigned to the Monitor in the August 7, 2006 Order.

Dated: January 16, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

s/Randi Ilyse Roth Randi Ilyse Roth Monitor Post Office Box 64511 St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0511 877-924-7483

Exhibit 1

R

Poorman-Douglas Corporation 10300 SW Allen Blvd. Beaverton, OR 97005

Tel: 503.350.5800 Toll Free: 800.547.4407 Fax: 503.350.5221 www.poorman-douglas.com

January 15, 2007

Ms. Randi Ilyse Roth Office of the Monitor P.O. Box 64511 St. Paul, MN 55164-0511

Re: Facilitator's Second Letter to Monitor on Amended Decisions

Dear Ms. Roth:

I submit this letter to provide additional background about the circumstances that gave rise to issuing amended Adjudication decisions early in the *Pigford* claims process. I also refer you to my letter dated April 6, 2006, which you filed with your April 7, 2006 Court Report; that letter provided information about a group of 46 claims referred to as the "Conservation Loan Group."

This letter addresses 84 other claims that have amended decisions that affected or could have affected class members' relief but that were not part of the Conservation Loan Group. Of the 84 amendments, my April 6, 2006 letter categorized 23 as "substantive" amendments and 61 as "technical" amendments.

These 84 amended decisions, the 46 amendments in the Conservation Loan Group, and the group of clerical corrections to correct identifying information (such as social security number, spelling of name, gender salutation and address) referenced in my April 6th letter constitute the entire universe of claims for which an amended decision was issued other than through the Monitor petition process.

I. Background

A. General Background

Pursuant to paragraph 1(i) of the Consent Decree, Poorman-Douglas is the Facilitator in this case. Pursuant to paragraphs 1(a), 3, and 5 of the Consent Decree, the Facilitator's duties include screening claim sheets for eligibility and issuing the Track A decisions, which are made by JAMS-Endispute, Inc. (JAMS).¹

The job of issuing Track A decisions was accomplished in two steps. After JAMS reviewed the record for each claim and wrote a decision narrative (page 2 of the Track A

¹ JAMS-Endispute, Inc. is now known as JAMS.

Ms. Randi Ilyse Roth January 15, 2007 Page 2 of 8

decision), the Facilitator assembled the decision package by adding a cover sheet (page 1) and a relief page (page 3). This process produced a Track A decision containing three pages:

Page of Track A Decision	Description	Produced By
Page One	Cover Sheet	Facilitator
Page Two	Narrative of Decision	Adjudicator
Page Three	Relief	Facilitator

To create page three (the relief page), the Facilitator used a programmatic system that has "check boxes" for the loan program and year in which the Adjudicator found discrimination. When a box is checked on the computer, the program translates that into long-form text that prints on the relief page. A screen shot that illustrates this function is attached as Appendix A.

Some of the amendments that will be discussed in this letter were made by the Adjudicator to page two of the decision; some of the amendments were made by the Facilitator to pages one and/or three of the decision. To understand the amendment process, some background about the Facilitator's decision coding process may be helpful.

B. Background About Decision Coding: Cash Payment (CP) and Debt Waiver (DW)

The Facilitator began issuing Track A decisions in 1999, prior to the appointment of the Monitor and prior to the Court's February 7, 2001 Stipulation and Order ("Debt Relief Order"), which clarified the scope of the Consent Decree's debt relief provisions for prevailing class members.²

Until February 7, 2001, there were two different types of decisions issued for class members who prevailed on a credit claim. One type was called "Cash Payment Only" (CP). The other type was called "Debt Waiver" (DW). If a claimant's allegations led the Facilitator to believe that no loan was ever funded -- for example, the claimant's allegations focused on a loan denial or on a county office refusing to provide a loan application -- then a "Cash Payment Only" (CP) decision was issued. This meant that the relief would consist of \$50,000 plus tax relief and injunctive relief, but no debt relief was granted because there was no debt to write off. A DW decision was issued when the claimant's allegations led the Facilitator to believe that the finding of discrimination involved USDA debt that was still outstanding -- for example, allegations that focused on late funding or on the use of a supervised bank account. Relief for DW decisions consisted of \$50,000 plus tax relief, injunctive relief, and debt relief. Since the issuance of the February 7, 2001 Order, all credit decisions are now coded as "DW."

The decision type of "CP" or "DW" appears as a code in the footer of the printed decision. There are other codes that were also used when a non-credit award was granted. "NC" is a non-credit only award, "CN" is a cash payment for a credit program and a non-credit award,

² The February 7, 2001, Stipulation and Order provided that prevailing credit claimants would generally receive debt relief for the debt that was found to have been affected by discrimination and for any subsequent debt within the class period in the same loan programs. Monitor Update number 10 explains this in detail. It is available on the Monitor's web site at www.pigfordmonitor.org.

Ms. Randi Ilyse Roth January 15, 2007 Page 3 of 8

and "DN" is debt waiver, a cash payment for a credit program and a non-credit award. These codes are artifacts of the early implementation of the process for publishing Track A decisions. The codes are summarized in the table below.

Code	What it Means
CP	Credit Cash Payment Only Award
DW	Credit Cash Payment and Debt Waiver Award
NC	Non-Credit Only Award
DN	Credit Cash Payment, Debt Waiver and Non-Credit Award
CN	Credit Cash Payment and Non-Credit Award
DE	Denial

C. Background About Affect of Debt Relief Order on Decisions Already Issued

By February 7, 2001, when the Debt Relief Order was signed, a substantial number of Track A decisions had already been issued: 20,118 claimants had received an Adjudication decision and only 1,138 eligible claims were pending an Adjudication decision. Of the 20,118 decisions, 11,947 were Track A credit decisions in which the claimant prevailed.

The February 7, 2001 Order made the debt relief language on page three of all of those decisions 11,947 decisions incorrect.³

D. USDA Re-Review of Debt Relief

My understanding is that after the issuance of the February 7, 2001 Debt Relief Order, USDA re-reviewed all prevailing credit decisions and implemented debt relief based on the text of the adjudication narrative (page two of the decision) rather than on the then-obsolete relief page (page three). My understanding is that USDA granted additional debt relief based on that re-review. Finally, I understand that since February 7, 2001, on an ongoing basis USDA implements debt relief based on page two of Track A decisions (the Adjudicator's decision narrative), not based on page three (the computer-generated relief page).

II. Reasons for Amended Adjudication Decisions

With this background in mind, I will now describe reasons why certain claimants received Amended Adjudication Decisions.

A. Technical Amendments

³ Before the issuance of the Debt Relief Order, the language used to describe debt relief on page three of Track A decisions was drafted to forgive only the debts that the Adjudicator believed to be affected by discrimination. The Debt Relief order required debt relief for debts found to be affected by discrimination and also for all subsequent loans within the class period in the same loan programs. This latter type of debt relief is called "forward sweep" debt relief. None of the relief pages issued prior to February 7, 2001, contained "forward sweep" debt relief language.

Ms. Randi Ilyse Roth January 15, 2007 Page 4 of 8

There are two general circumstances that prompted the Facilitator to issue an amended decision: a request from an outside source, including a claimant, class counsel, or the government, or an internal quality control review.

1. Contacts from Outside Sources

Some amendments were triggered by the Facilitator's review of a decision in response to a contact from an outside source. For example, a claimant would call or send a letter requesting a change to the text of a decision or to the relief page of a decision. Examples of these requests include correcting the county the claimant lived in, correcting the size of the claimant's farm, or correcting the relief provided on the relief page so that it complied with the text of the Adjudicator's decision.

The government also sent letters requesting that the relief provided on page three be changed to comply with the Adjudicator's decision text. For example, the decision narrative may have found discriminatory treatment in the funding of a 1990 Operating Loan, but page three of that decision mistakenly granted debt waiver for a 1990 Farm Ownership Loan.

Many of these mistakes were caused by the wrong box being checked in the software application or a box being missed in the software. These mistakes resulted in relief pages that did not comport with the Adjudicator's decision narrative on page two.

A similar programmatic issue arose if the claim was erroneously coded as a denial (a DE code) when the decision was actually a grant (for example a DN) or vice versa. In those instances, the decision printed in the "wrong jacket." For example, this might mean that the text on page two informed the claimant he had lost but pages one and three had the template verbiage for a prevailing claim (or vice versa). When the Facilitator identified those discrepancies, an amended decision was issued with the correct jacket.

2. Internal Quality Controls

Throughout the implementation of the Consent Decree claims process, the Facilitator has conducted various quality assurance audits to verify the accuracy of its work product. If a discrepancy is identified or an issue arises, an audit population may be expanded to ensure no further problems exist. This can range from something as trivial as reviewing all mailing addresses in an area where a zip code has been changed by the U.S. Postal Service to something more complex such as the conservation loan issue that was the basis of the Conservation Loan Group discussion. Each time a staff member reviews a file for a quality assurance audit, other issues may be noted. In some instances, such a review was the basis for the identification of a discrepancy between the narrative of the decision and the relief granted on page three.

3. Closed Petitions

In some cases, the Facilitator received written documents from a claimant or the government that were classified by the Facilitator as a petition for Monitor review. The Facilitator determined that some of these written submissions described problems with the relief

Ms. Randi Ilyse Roth January 15, 2007 Page 5 of 8

page coding that had been used for a claim. For example, if a claimant described a scenario in which he had debt outstanding but was issued a "cash payment only" decision, the Facilitator would review the Adjudicator's decision narrative (the written decision on page two). In this situation, the Facilitator would generally issue an amended decision to add debt relief to the list of relief on page three. These were considered technical amendments because the Adjudicator changed nothing, and the text of the decision on page two remained exactly the same. An administrative correction to the relief page was made by checking the box to show the year and name of the loan program for which the discrimination finding was made.

In these instances, if the letter from the claimant had been sent to the Monitor's office, the document was set to a "closed" status after the amended decision was issued, and the document was not routed as a Petition for Monitor Review. Under the Court's September 11, 2000 Order, the Facilitator receives and routes Petitions for Monitor Review.

All amended decisions issued as a part of this process afforded the claimants a new opportunity to petition for Monitor review. And, in fact, there are claimants in this situation who filed Petitions and proceeded through the Monitor review process and the Adjudicator Re-Examination processes.

There were 61 decisions that were amended as a result of the "technical" situations described in this section. I will now move on to a discussion of amendments categorized as "substantive."

B. Substantive Amendments

There are an additional 23 decisions that had changes to the text of the Adjudicator's decision on page two. In general, the substantive amendments were triggered by the same type of circumstances as the technical group in that an outside party contacted the Facilitator about a requested change. Requests were received from claimants, the government, class counsel, and the Adjudicator.

In a few instances, the government requested an amendment related to conservation program allegations where a credit award was granted for a conservation loan and the government believed it should have been a non-credit award for a benefit program.

There were also a few instances in which a claim had been inadvertently assigned out to more than one Adjudicator. In the cases in which decisions were written by two different adjudication panelists for the same claim, the Chief Adjudicator reviewed the claim to make a judgment about which decision should have been issued for the claim. In some cases, the Chief Adjudicator's choice required amending the decision to substitute one panelist's decision narrative for another panelist's decision narrative.

C. Documents Provided

In order to permit you to make a full assessment of the impact of the amended Adjudication decisions, under separate cover I have provided a list of the claim numbers of all Ms. Randi Ilyse Roth January 15, 2007 Page 6 of 8

cases in which decisions were amended, along with copies of the original and amended decisions and copies of all documents that were set to a "closed" status as a result of relief corrections.

III. Eligibility Re-Screening

You have also requested information about whether any "amended" decisions were issued in the eligibility screening process. "Screening" is the Facilitator's process to review the Claim Sheet and Election Form ("Claim Sheet") to determine whether all elements are met to establish class membership. To fully understand this discussion, it may be helpful to review the Claim Sheet; a blank Claim Sheet is attached to this letter as Appendix B.

By agreement of the parties, the Facilitator began to mail Claim Sheets to putative class members in January 1999. The Facilitator began eligibility screening immediately because the Consent Decree required the Facilitator to issue a determination about eligibility within 20 days of receipt of a Claim Sheet. The Court did not issue final approval of the settlement until April 14, 1999. In late April the parties met at the Facilitator's office for an implementation meeting ("the April 1999 meeting"). One subject of that meeting was a review of the claims that had been processed to date.

A. Old and New Screening Procedures

As a result of those April 1999 discussions, the parties agreed to procedures for the screening process that were different from the procedures that had been used up to that point. The new rules, which were finalized in late May 1999, were more onerous to claimants than the original procedures.

The main difference between the old procedures (used from January to April of 1999) and the new procedures (used after April 1999) concerns the treatment of categories of information that are requested on the Claim Sheet but are not required by the text of the Consent Decree.⁴ Prior to the April 1999 meeting, we thought of information required by the text of the Consent Decree as "critical" to the establishment of eligibility, and we thought of the additional information requested by the Claim Sheet as "non-critical." Examples of elements we thought of as critical include: a statement that the claimant is African-American, a statement that the claimant farmed or attempted to farm between the correct dates, and evidence that a discrimination complaint had been filed. Examples of elements that we thought of as non-critical include: date of birth, a second attorney signature, and a date of signature.

Under the new procedures, every field on the Claim Sheet had to be complete. Therefore, if the date of birth, or second attorney signature, or a signature date was missing, the Claim Sheet was deemed defective. If time remained before the claims filing deadline, the claimant would be given a chance to cure the defect. If the defect could not be timely cured, the claim would remain ineligible.

Another difference between the old procedures and new procedures involves situations in which the claimant answered question three by checking a box (box 3a, 3b, 3c, or 3d), but

⁴ The Claim Sheet was attached to the Consent Decree as Exhibit A to the Decree. See Consent Decree, par. 1(d).

Ms. Randi Ilyse Roth January 15, 2007 Page 7 of 8

provided documentation that would be consistent with the checking of a different box. Under the old procedures, the Facilitator deemed the claim valid if the documentation showed that a valid complaint had been filed with the USDA even if it was not the type of complaint indicated in the check-box section. Under the new procedures, those claims were deemed incomplete and would remain ineligible unless the claimant was able to correct the problem before the deadline.

As a result of the agreement about the new procedures, the Facilitator re-screened the first 4,600 claims and sent a new Acknowledgment letter or a new Defect letter to each claimant. The Acknowledgment letter advised claimants that their claim had been deemed eligible and that it would be referred to the USDA for response. The Defect letter outlined any aspects of the Claim Sheet filing that were insufficient or incomplete, and set a deadline for the claimant to respond. This situation is slightly different from the other types of amended decisions in that a cover letter or written communication explaining the reason for the change was sent to the claimant. However, it does involve instances in which the Facilitator initially notified a claimant that he or she was eligible to participate in the process but then later notified the claimant that the eligibility decision had been amended.

The new screening procedures created numerous instances of claims that had been deemed eligible that were later deemed deficient. The re-screening process began in late May 1999 and was completed for the 4,600 claims on July 7, 1999. The final batch of Acknowledgment letters for the re-processed claims was mailed on July 8, 1999. The Facilitator then continued screening claims using the revised protocols going forward.

The Facilitator did not track eligibility "flips" in the database. An eligibility flip occurred when a claim was originally screened and found either eligible or ineligible, but then was subsequently re-screened and found to be the opposite. We did not make a special notation in the database to record that a change had occurred. The database is dynamic and updated based on the person's current situation. At the time the claim was deemed eligible, we would have set a status field to "Valid." When the claim was re-screened and deemed insufficient, we would have set the status to "Defective." As soon as the defect was remedied, the status was updated again to "Valid." We do not have a discrete field that we can query to ascertain how many were eligible at one time but then later found to be defective. So, at this stage of the process, I am only able to report on the final outcome for the claims that were part of the re-screening.

B. Results After Re-Screening

There are 122 claims in the group of 4,600 that have a final determination of not eligible. Of those, not one resulted from an original determination of eligibility that flipped to not eligible. We know this because we were able to manually review the history of each file and ascertain by copies of letters in the claim record and comments entered in the claims application that no rescreening letters were sent. The re-screening and notifications were complete in early July 1999; therefore, claimants had three months in which to correct deficiencies before the October 12, 1999 claims filing deadline. Further, the July 14, 2000, Stipulation and Order allowed any claimants who cured their claim late (after October 12, 1999, but on or before July 14, 2000) to be deemed timely.

Ms. Randi Ilyse Roth January 15, 2007 Page 8 of 8

C. Petition Rules

In general, eligibility denials based on an incomplete Claim Sheet cannot form the basis for a valid petition for Monitor review. Eligibility denials based on an adverse finding regarding a complete Claim Sheet can form the basis for a valid petition for Monitor review.⁵

D. Notification Letters

Attached are copies of the Acknowledgment letter (See Appendix C) and Secondary Notice letters, (See Appendix D) as well as a more specific breakdown of counts by defect code (See Appendix E).

IV. Conclusion

I realize these are complex issues that date back in time. I have attempted to provide sufficient background and details to help you and the Court understand what led to the issuance of amended decisions. If there is any additional information that the Facilitator can provide to assist in this process, please let me know. We are happy to cooperate with the Court, the parties and the Monitor in this regard.

Sincerely,

Vicele Hamann

Nicole Hamann Director, Client Services

⁵ See Court Order dated October 29, 2002 which defined who could or could not file a petition for Monitor review pertaining to the Facilitator's class membership screening decisions. Of the 122 claims that were denied eligibility from the initial group of 4,600, 46 applied for permission to file late through the Late Claim Affidavit process under paragraph 5(g) of the Consent Decree. All of these 46 late claim requests were denied. Of the 76 remaining claims, 54 were denied on technical grounds that could not form the basis of a Monitor petition (for example, an attorney signature was missing) and 22 were denied on non-technical grounds and could petition to the Monitor (for example, boxes 1, 2 or 3 were marked NO on the Claim Sheet).

APPENDIX A

Relief Section			Approved for relief in this / these categorie(s):	
Cash payment only	ylno	Year	81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96	
T Non-Credit Loan Type:	Type:	Operating Ownership Emergency Conservation		
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Non-Credit	Ň			
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APPENDIX B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Pigford, et al., v. Glickman; Civil Action No. 97-1978 D.D.C. (PLF) Brewington, et al., v. Glickman; Civil Action No. 98-1693 D.D.C. (PLF)

CLAIM SHEET AND ELECTION FORM

Do not submit a photocopy of this form.

If you need another form, please call 1-800-646-2873.

Sample

Please type or print clearly.

PART I: CLAIMANT INFORMATION

Far	mer's Nar	ne [First,	Middle, Last] (Area Code) Home Number	r
Spo	ouse's Nan	ne [First,	Middle, Last] (Area Code) Business Num	ber
Str	eet Addres	S	(Area Code) Fax Number	
Cit	y		State Zip	
Far	mer's Soc	al Securi	ty Number / / / / / Farmer's Date of Birth	
			laim on behalf of an estate or a decrased person, check this box, and	
PAR	T II:	CLAS	S MEMBER QUALIFICATION	
1.	Yes	No	Are you an African American who farmed, or attempted to farm, at anytime betwee January 1, 1981, and December 31, 1996?	n
2.			Between January 1, 1981, and December 31, 1996, did you apply to participate in a federal farm program with USDA?	ŝ
3.			Between January 1, 1981, and July 1, 1997, did you file a complaint of discrimination against USDA concerning treatment that you received in that applica process?	ition
With	Formost to		rd quanties allow (1979)	

With respect to this third question, place an "X" next to each category below which describe(s) the proof that you have that you filed a complaint of discrimination.

You must attach to this Claim Sheet documentation ("proof") for each item you check. If you do not attach proof, your claim may be rejected.



3A.	A copy of the discrimination complaint the claimant filed with USDA, or a copy of a USDA document referencing the discrimination complaint.
3B.	A declaration executed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 by a person who is not a member of the claimant's family and which (1) states that the declarant has first-hand knowledge that the claimant filed a discrimination complaint with USDA; and (2) describes the manner in which the discrimination complaint was filed.
3C.	A copy of correspondence from the claimant to a member of Congress, the White House, or a state, local, or federal official averring that the claimant has been discriminated against.
3D.	A declaration executed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 by a person who is not a member of the claimant's family, which states that the person has first-hand knowledge that, while attending a USDA listening session, or other meeting with a USDA official or officials, the claimant was explicitly told by a USDA official that the official would investigate that specific claimant's oral complaint of discrimination.

PART III: ELECTION OF TRACK A OR TRACK B

Please check one box below to elect the form of settlement you wish to pursue. Once you have elected a form of settlement, your decision will be final and not subject to change. Because this decision has important consequences, you may wish to discuss your options with a lawyer.

TRACK A – ADJUDICATION

You establish by substantial evidence that discrimination occurred and receive a liquidated settlement (injunctive relief, debt relief, \$50,000 cash, and tax payment).

TRACK B – ARBITRATION

Your case will be determined at a future hearing by an arbitrator in a one-day binding arbitration.

PART IV: AGREEMENT TO SET LEAD DECLARATION OF STATEMENTS

I understand that the answers to the questions above are being relied upon by the United States Government in determining my right to relief under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and/or the Administrative Procedure Act. I elect to settle my claim in the manner indicated above and consent to allow the government to audit my file. I declare under penalty of perjury that the above answers are true and correct.

Signature of Farmer

Date

I have assisted the farmer whose name is stated above in filling out this Claim Sheet and Election Form. I declare under penalty of perjury that: (1) I believe the statements contained herein to be true; and (2) I have not and will not require the farmer to compensate me for assisting him/her.

Signature of Attorney

Date

If you have elected the Track A Adjudication process, you must complete the Track A – Adjudication Claim Affidavit part of this Claim Package.

If you have elected the Track B Arbitration process, you do <u>not</u> need to complete the rest of this Claim Package. You will receive a notice soon from the arbitrator's office on what to do next.

To be eligible to participate in the settlement, you must send this Claim Package postmarked no later than 180 days from the date on which the Court approves the Consent Decree to:

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390

If you have questions on how to complete your Claim Package or how to obtain the services of a lawyer at no cost to you, please call the Claims Facilitator toll free at 1-800-646-2873.

White - Facilitator Yellow - Attorney Pink - Farmer

PART V: TRACK A – ADJUDICATION CLAIM AFFIDAVIT

Only complete this affidavit if you have elected to settle your claim under the Track A – Adjudication option.

The Consent Decree requires that you meet the following requirements in order to be entitled to relief under Track A:

- A. In cases in which a class member's discrimination complaint concerns an Equal Credit Opportunity Act (meaning credit or loan) matter, the class member must show that:
 - (1) he owned, leased, or attempted to own or lease farm land;
 - he applied for a specific credit transaction at a USDA office between 1/1/81 and 12/31/96;
 - (3) the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, encumbered by restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide appropriate loan service, and such treatment was less favorable than that accorded specifically identified, similarly situated white farmers; and
 - (4) USDA's treatment of the loan application led to economic damage to the class member.
- B. In cases in which a class member's discrimination complaint concerns a non-credit program benefit, the class member must show that:
 - he applied for a specific non-credit benefit program at a USDA county office between 1/1/81 and 12/31/96 and
 his application was denied or approved for a lesser amount than requested, and that such treatment was different than the treatment received by specifically identified, similarly situated white farmers who applied for same non-credit benefit.

In order to qualify for settlement benefits, you must answer the following questions and complete the personal narrative at the end of the package. For some answers, additional written explanations are required. These answers are followed by blank lines for you to use.

	If you Clearly mark	need additional space, please attain your own paper. A all attachments with your name and social security number.
1.	Between January 1, 1981, and D	ecember 31, 096 when of the following apply?
		eased farm land? Attempted to own or lease farm land?
State	the location and size of the land you	owned, leased, or attempted to own or lease.
2.	Between January 1, 1981, and De	ecember 31, 1996, for what type of specific federal farm program did you apply?
	Operating Loan	Farm Ownership Loan
	Emergency Loan	Conservation Loan
	Non-credit Benefit Program	(identify the specific program):
3.	Complete only the sections below	w that describe the treatment you received from USDA between 1/1/81 and 12/31/96.
A)	benefit was for Less I nan Keg	nied; Loan or Benefit Was Approved, but Funds Were Provided Late; or Loan or uested benefit you applied and what USDA decided on your application.
	1	content you applied and what OSDA decided on your application.
		1

USDA Did Not Provide Appropriate Loan Services Explain in detail.	B)	Loan Encumbered by Restrictive Conditions Explain the conditions/restrictions applied to your loan or program benefit. (For example, excessive collateral requested, supervised loans, etc.)
) USDA Did Not Provide Appropriate Loan Services		
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) USDA Did Not Provide Appropriate Loan Services Explain in detail.		5
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)	USDA Did Not Provide Appropriate Loan Services Explain in detail.

D) Disparate Treatment

Identify, with respect to each type of treatment described in paragraphs (A), (B), and (C) above about which you complain, the name and address of each white farmer who was situated similarly to you; and state in detail the specific manner in which your treatment was different from the treatment accorded each such white farmer.

For (A). sample For (B). ____ For (C)._____

4. NARRATIVE STATEMENT

If you are asserting an ECOA claim, explain below, in your own words, the relationship between the act or acts of discrimination which you allege above and how you suffered economic damages.

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I understand that this affidavit, any statement made herein, and the answers to these questions are being relied upon by the United States Government in determining my right to relief under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and/or the Administrative Procedure Act. I declare under penalty of perjury that the above answers are true and correct. I elect to settle my claim in the manner indicated above and consent to allow the government to audit my file.

Signature of Farmer

Date

I have assisted the farmer whose name is stated above in filling out this affidavit. I state, under penalty of perjury, that: (1) I believe the statements contained herein to be true; and (2) I have not and will not require the farmer to compensate me for assisting him/her.

Date

Signature of Attorney

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Pigford, et al., v. Glickman; Civil Action No. 97-1978 D.D.C. (PLF) Brewington, et al., v. Glickman; Civil Action No. 98-1693 D.D.C. (PLF)

DECLARATION

TO BE FILLED OUT BY A PERSON WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE CLAIMANT'S FAMILY

You are being asked to fill out this form in support of a farmer who is filing a claim as part of the Black Farmers' Instructions: class action lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Please make sure that the name in the space below is the name of the person whose claim you are supporting. Step One:

I submit this declaration in support of the claim of ("claimant") under the settlement agreement of Pigford v. Glickman, the Black Farmers' class action lawsuit, and hereby declare that:

You need only complete ONE of the two SECTIONS below. Please look carefully at the top of page 2 of the Step Two: Claim Sheet and Election Form of the person whose claim you are supporting. If he/she checked Box 3B, please complete "SECTION 1" below only. If he/she checked Box 3D, please complete "SECTION 2" only. If you need additional space, please attach your own paper. Clearly mark all attachments with your name and SSN.

SECTION 1: TO SUPPORT NUMBER 3B ON THE CLAIM SHEET

- I am not a member of the claimant's family; AND (a)
- I have first-hand knowledge that the claimant filed a discrimination complaint with USDA; AND (b)
- The manner in which the discrimination complaint was filed was as follows: (c)



-OR-

SECTION 2: TO SUPPORT NUMBER 3D ON THE CLAIM SHEET

- (a) I am not a member of the claimant's family; AND
- I have first-hand knowledge that the claimant, while attending (check at least one box) (b)

	City, State)	
a meeting in	with a	USDA official or officials
(City, State)		o so the official of officials,
was explicitly told by a USDA officia	ıl,	
	(Name(s) of Official(s))	(Title(s) of Official(s))

I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Signature	Date	
Printed Name	Social Security Number	
Street Address	City, State	Zip

Zip

APPENDIX C

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Acknowledgement Letter

DATE

Claim #«Claim_»

«Name_1» «Name_2» «Address_1» «Address_2» «City», «State» «Zip»

Dear Claimant:

We received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. After preliminary review, we found that <u>your claim has met all eligibility</u> <u>criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A) or Arbitration (Track B)</u> and has been assigned the claim number listed above.

- If you have chosen Track A, a decision by the Adjudicator will be made within 60-90 days.
- If you have chosen Track B, you will receive a letter from the Arbitrator within 10 days regarding the date of your evidentiary hearing.

If you have any questions, you may call a Customer Service Representative at the abovementioned toll-free number.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

APPENDIX D

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Acknowledgement Letter

DATE

«CLAIM»

«NAME1» «NAME2» «ADDRESS1» «ADDRESS2» «CITYSTATEZP»

Dear Claimant:

We have received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. Your claim has previously been assigned the claim number listed above.

On June 1, 1999, we began a secondary review of all claims filed to date. This secondary review followed an evaluation by Class Counsel and the Department of Justice of the claim form and the requirements for eligibility. After a secondary review process, we found that <u>your claim has met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A) or Arbitration (Track B)</u>.

Please disregard our previous Acknowledgement Letter. Based upon whether you have chosen Track A or Track B, the timeframes listed below are effective as of the date of this Acknowledgement Letter.

• If you have chosen Track A, a decision by the Adjudicator will be made within 60-90 days.

You will receive a written decision from the Adjudicator shortly after the 90 day review period.

• If you have chosen Track B, you will receive a letter from the Arbitrator within 10 days regarding the date of your evidentiary hearing.

If you have any questions, you may call a Customer Service Representative at the abovementioned toll-free number.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip» Claim #«Claim»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you have submitted the required copy of a discrimination complaint or copy of a USDA document referencing the discrimination complaint but did not mark 3A in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you have submitted the required copy of a discrimination complaint or copy of a USDA document referencing the discrimination complaint but did not mark 3A in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you have submitted the required copy of correspondence to a member of Congress, the White House, or a state, local, or federal official, but did not mark 3C in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you have submitted the required declaration executed by a non-family member, but did not mark 3D in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that the Declaration that you attached to your Claim Sheet and Election Form did not identify you as the claimant.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

You indicated on your Claim Sheet and Election Form that you are filing a claim on behalf of an estate or a deceased person. The deficiency we have discovered is that the Declaration that you attached to your Claim Sheet and Election Form did not identify the estate or deceased individual as the claimant.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that the Declaration is not signed by a non-family member, but rather, a person who is listed as deceased. A living witness must sign the Declaration under the penalty of perjury.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you marked box 3B in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form, but the person completing Section 1 of the Declaration did not describe the exact manner (written or oral) in which the discrimination complaint was filed.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip» Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you marked box 3A in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form, but did not submit a copy of the discrimination complaint filed with USDA or a USDA document referencing the discrimination complaint. Instead, you submitted a declaration corresponding to the proof required for claimants who mark box 3B in Section II. To correct the deficiency, you must either submit a copy of the discrimination complaint or USDA document referencing the discrimination complaint that was filed with USDA, or mark box 3B in Section II of your claim form.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip» Claim #«Claim»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you marked box 3A in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form, but did not submit a copy of the discrimination complaint filed with USDA or a USDA document referencing the discrimination complaint. Instead, you submitted a declaration corresponding to the proof required for claimants who mark box 3D in Section II. To correct the deficiency, you must either submit a copy of the discrimination complaint or USDA document referencing the discrimination complaint that was filed with USDA, or mark box 3D in Section II of your claim form.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator
Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip» Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you marked box 3C in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form, but did not submit a copy of correspondence from the claimant to a member of Congress, the White House, or a state, local, or federal official averring that the claimant has been discriminated against. Instead, you submitted a declaration corresponding to the proof required for claimants who mark box 3B in Section II. To correct the deficiency, you must either submit copy of correspondence from the claimant to a member of Congress, the White House, or a state, local, or federal official averring that the claimant has been discriminated against, or mark box 3B in Section II of your claim form.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you marked box 3C in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form, but did not submit a copy of correspondence from the claimant to a member of Congress, the White House, or a state, local, or federal official averring that the claimant has been discriminated against. Instead, you submitted a declaration corresponding to the proof required for claimants who mark box 3D in Section II. To correct the deficiency, you must either submit a copy of the discrimination complaint or USDA document referencing the discrimination complaint that was filed with USDA, or mark box 3D in Section II of your claim form.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that the person who signed the Declaration that you attached to your Claim Sheet and Election Form did not supply his/her address on the bottom portion of the Declaration.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you have marked 3A in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form, but did not submit the required copy of a discrimination complaint or copy of a USDA document referencing the discrimination complaint.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you have marked 3B in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form, but did not submit the required Declaration executed by a non-family member.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you have marked 3C in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form, but did not submit the required copy of correspondence to a member of Congress, the White House, or a state, local, or federal official.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you have marked 3D in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form, but did not submit the required Declaration executed by a non-family member.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip» Claim #«Claim»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that a non-family member did not sign the Declaration that you have provided.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you and/or your attorney did not sign Page Six of the Claim Sheet and Election Form.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you marked box 3D in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form, but the person completing Section 2 of the Declaration stated that the person you met with was not a USDA official.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you did not provide your Social Security Number and/or your Date of Birth on Page One of the Claim Sheet and Election Form.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that the name of the claimant supplied on the Declaration that you attached to your Claim Sheet and Election Form is neither your name nor the name of an estate or deceased person on whose behalf you are submitting the claim.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip» Claim #«Claim»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you marked box 3B in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form, but the person completing the supporting Declaration filled out Section 2 of the Declaration, which corresponds to box 3D in Section II of the Claim Sheet and Election Form.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

Claims Facilitator P.O. Box 4390 Portland, OR 97208-4390 1-800-646-2873

Notice of Deficiency

DATE

Claim #«Claim»

«Name1» «Name2» «Address1» «Address2» «CityStateZip»

Dear Claimant:

On «DateRecd», we received the Claim Sheet and Election Form submitted by you in the Black Farmers' Settlement. On «AcknDate», we sent you an Acknowledgment Letter, informing you that your claim had been preliminarily approved and met all eligibility criteria to proceed to Adjudication (Track A). Upon further review, we have identified a deficiency in your claim and, therefore, we are required to withdraw the Acknowledgment Letter. As a result, you will not be eligible to have your claim resolved under the Track A or Track B procedures established by the Consent Decree. Unless and until the deficiency described below is corrected, you cannot qualify for membership in the <u>Pigford</u> - <u>Brewington</u> class.

The deficiency we have discovered is that you marked box 3D in Section II of your Claim Sheet and Election Form, but the person completing the supporting Declaration filled out Section 1 of the Declaration, which corresponds to box 3B in Section II of the Claim Sheet and Election Form.

You must provide the information necessary to correct the deficiency in your claim to the address above, postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, in order for us to determine if you are eligible to participate in this settlement. If you do not respond to this letter or do not provide the necessary information postmarked on or before October 11, 1999, you may be forever barred from any recovery in this settlement.

Enclosed is a schedule of meetings with class counsel to obtain assistance should you wish to obtain class counsel's assistance in correcting the deficiency in your claim. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about what you must submit to eliminate the deficiency in your claim, do not hesitate to call our office at the toll-free number above.

Sincerely,

Claims Facilitator

APPENDIX E

	Count of Claims (note:
	most claims have more
Rejection Reason Code and Description	than one Reject Code)
AA = Not A frican-American - claimant checked no to	
Question 1 (if this is the only deficiency, claim is	
automatically rejected. Claimant is eligible to petition	
the Monitor).	2
PA = No Program Applied – claimant checked no to	
Question 2 (if this is the only deficiency, claim is	
automatically rejected. Claimant is eligible to petition	
the Monitor).	6
TR = Tolling Rejected – claimant checked no to	
Question 3. Claimant then returned a Supplemental	
Information form and claim was rejected either for	
checking no to Question 1 on the Supplemental	
Information form, or because the adjudicator did not	
find the reason on the Supplemental Information form	
to be sufficient. Claimant is eligible to petition the	
Monitor.	14
	17
DC – No Document Complaint – Claimant checked box 3A or 3C on the claim form, but did not provide	
supporting documentation.	8
DD – No Document Declaration – Claimant checked	
box 3B or 3D on the claim form, but did not provide a	
declaration to support the selection.	6
IC – Incomplete Claim Form – any part of the claim	
form is missing or incomplete.	34
ID – Incomplete Declaration – any part of the	
declaration page is incomplete.	14
PM – Pages Missing – claimant did not return all pages	
of the claim form.	7
SA – No Signature Attorney – an attorney did not sign	
page 2 and/or 6.	37
SC - No Signature Claimant - the claimant did not sign	F
page 2 and/or 6.	5
SW – No Signature Witness – a witness did not sign the	<u> </u>
declaration.	2
TI Tolling Info plaimant should be to Orosti 2	
TI – Tolling Info – claimant checked no to Question 3	20
and did not provide a Supplemental Information form.	38
LT - If the claimant filed a claim form, and was	40
rejected under Late Claim Affidavit Process (5g)	43