

Media Statement

Columbia Packing Co. Inc is a fifth generation, family owned company in the pork processing business, a highly regulated industry. We have four USDA inspectors in our plant every day of operation. We have regular USDA inspections, and we are required to keep detailed records of all pork processed in our plant. We have an excellent record of safety and quality.

Our first knowledge that there was a complaint about a discharge of our industrial waste process flow was on January 19th when we were notified by public officials. We immediately cooperated with officials and conducted our own investigation of the situation.

We discovered that a clog in the sewer line had caused the flow to backup into an overflow vent pipe in the creek drainage area. We were extremely disappointed that the city was aware of this backup for 41 days before notifying us of the problem. If we had known about it, we would have taken immediate remedial action. Since then the clog has been removed, and the lines are flowing cleanly into the city's sewer main in compliance with city code.

Columbia Packing is a 99-year-old company with a proud history in this community as a good corporate citizen. This incident was an accident that the entire Ondrusek family and our employees deeply regret. We are proud of our record of compliance. We are continuing to work with City officials to address any and all remaining concerns.