

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:	)	[AWG]
	)	Docket No. <b>12-0347</b>
Maurice Peterson	)	
	)	<b>Hearing Cancellation and</b>
Petitioner	)	<b>Dismissal Without Prejudice</b>

1. Petitioner Maurice Peterson (“Petitioner Peterson”) represents himself (appears *pro se*).
2. Rural Development, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is the Respondent (“USDA Rural Development”). USDA Rural Development is represented by Michelle Tanner.
3. A Hearing by telephone was scheduled for June 29, 2012; the Hearing will NOT be held and is CANCELED, because Petitioner Peterson has filed a Chapter 13 bankruptcy petition.
4. Petitioner Peterson’s Chapter 13 bankruptcy filing has been confirmed by Michelle Tanner, by Request for Dismissal filed on May 15 and May 16, 2012. The filings show that Maurice Peterson, Petitioner, filed for Chapter 13 Bankruptcy on March 10, 2012, in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Georgia (Newnan), Petition #: 12-10724-whd.
5. As a result of Petitioner Peterson’s Chapter 13 bankruptcy filing, USDA Rural Development will not at this time pursue any type of collection on the debt owed to USDA. USDA Rural Development will recall the debt from Treasury and will monitor the bankruptcy to determine the outcome. If the debt is discharged in bankruptcy, USDA Rural Development will not pursue any collection effort; if the debt is not discharged in bankruptcy, USDA Rural Development may return the debt to Treasury for future collection efforts such as wage garnishment.
6. Accordingly, this case is DISMISSED, without prejudice to Petitioner Peterson to request a hearing timely, should garnishment be noticed.

Copies of this Hearing Cancellation and Dismissal Without Prejudice shall be served by the Hearing Clerk upon each of the parties. The Hearing Clerk shall not only serve Petitioner Peterson, but will also send a courtesy copy to Petitioner Peterson's bankruptcy attorneys, shown below.

Done at Washington, D.C.  
this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2012

s/ Jill S. Clifton

Jill S. Clifton  
Administrative Law Judge

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