

August 19, 2021

Complaint Desk
North Carolina Department of Labor
Division of Occupational Safety and Health
1101 Mail Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1101

VIA Email (Kevin.Beauregard@labor.nc.gov) and Facsimile (919-779-8559)

Dear Mr. Beauregard:

I am representing an individual who works at Mountaire Farms in Lumber Bridge, North Carolina. Attached is an OSHA complaint on behalf of my client regarding chemical use at Mountaire that has sickened multiple workers. Some workers have reported recent deaths at the plant that they attribute to chemicals, though I have not been able to substantiate those reports at this time.

Please note that many of the people working at Mountaire Farms are jointly employed by a staffing company. I am aware of Labor Solutions and AOG Source, but there may be others.

Given the urgency of the situation, I hope that the OSH Division will investigate immediately and make an onsite inspection.

My client is willing to talk with investigators, but would like their name to be kept confidential from the employer. Please contact me if you would like to speak with them.

Sincerely,



Carol Brooke
Attorney

NC Department of Labor
 Division of Occupational Safety and Health

Notice of Alleged Safety or Health Hazards

		Complaint Number	
Establishment Name	Mountaire Farms, Inc., Labor Solutions, AOG Source		
Site Address	17269 NC-71 Lumber Bridge, NC 28357		
	Site Phone	910-843-5942	Site FAX
Mailing Address	same as above		
	Mail Phone		Mail FAX
Management Official			Telephone
Type of Business	poultry processing		
HAZARD DESCRIPTION/LOCATION. Describe briefly the hazard(s) which you believe exist. Include the approximate number of employees exposed to or threatened by each hazard. Specify the particular building or worksite where the alleged violation exists.			
<p>Mountaire recently increased or changed its use of chemicals in response to a salmonella issue. There is a strong odor of ammonia in many areas of the plant, including the debone lines (especially lines 1-4), wings, chicken breast room, and evisceration. There are some days when the odor is better and others days when it is apparent from the moment you enter the plant. People are having symptoms that include sore throat, persistent cough, chest pain, swollen tongue, dizziness, headaches, and fainting. One worker got a lung infection and was out of work for a couple of weeks. He was tested for COVID three times and it was negative each time. Multiple people have quit because the problem is not improving. Some workers have reported the problem to the plant nurse and have been given medications that have not helped. At least one worker has gone to the hospital. Many have reported the problems to the contractors and/or Mountaire supervisors.</p>			
Has this condition been brought to the attention of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer • Other Government Agency(specify) Yes, Mountaire and the contractors know, as does the USDA.		
Please Indicate Your Desire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do NOT reveal my name to my Employer X • My name may be revealed to the Employer 		
The Undersigned believes that a violation of an Occupational Safety or Health standard exists which is a job safety or health hazard at the establishment named on this form.	(Mark "X" in ONE box) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee • Representative of Employees X • Federal Safety and Health Committee • Other (specify) _____ 		
Complainant Name	Carol Brooke	Telephone	919-856-2144
Address(Street, City, State, Zip)	P.O. Box 28068, Raleigh, NC 27611		
Signature	<i>Carol L. Brooke</i>	Date	08/19/2021
If you are an authorized representative of employees affected by this complaint, please state the name of the organization that you represent and your title:			
Organization Name:	Your Title:		
North Carolina Justice Center	Senior Staff Attorney		