

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
24000 Avila Road, 2nd Floor
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 11, 2011

Northern Rockies Regional Center, LLC
c/o Arnold E. Sherman
7310 Broken Bow
Missoula, MT 59808

Application: Request for Designation as a Regional Center
Applicant: Arnold E. Sherman, Principal

Re: Northern Rockies Regional Center, LLC
RCW1033650027 (Formerly W09003040)

Pursuant to Section 610 of the Appropriations Act of 1993, as amended, on November 17, 2010, Arnold Sherman submitted a proposal seeking approval and designation by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of Northern Rockies Regional Center, LLC.

USCIS hereby designates Northern Rockies Regional Center, LLC (NRRC) as a Regional Center within the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program and approves the request as described below:

GEOGRAPHIC AREA:

The Northern Rockies Regional Center, LLC shall have a geographic scope which includes the entire State of Montana.

FOCUS OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITY:

As depicted in the economic model, the general proposal, business plan and associated economic analysis, the Regional Center will engage in the following economic activities: Loans to 3rd party enterprises, equity investments, construction and management, construction and development of infrastructures, manufacture, securing equipment for new and existing businesses and paying salaries for start-up businesses.

The Regional Center shall focus on offering EB-5 compliant capital investment opportunities into new commercial enterprises, in the following target industry economic clusters (industry categories):

A. NAICS 230000 – Mixed-Use Real Estate Development

1. NAICS 562910 - Remediation Services
2. NAICS 236115 – New Single-Family Housing Construction
3. NAICS 236116 – New Multi-Family Housing Construction
4. NAICS 236220 - Commercial and Institutional Building Construction
5. NAICS 623320 - Senior Living
6. NAICS 713940 – Health & Fitness

A. NAICS 220000 – Clean/Green/Sustainable Energy Technologies

1. NAICS 335911 - High-efficiency Battery Technology
2. NAICS 221121 - Power Grid Storage Technology
3. NAICS 221119 - Wind, Solar and Other Alternative Energy

Note: If any investment opportunities arise that are beyond the scope of the approved industry categories, then an amendment would be required to add that category.

Aliens seeking immigrant visas through the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program may file individual petitions with USCIS for capital investments in new commercial enterprises located within and affiliated with the approved Regional Center area.

The geographic focus of the regional center may contain an area that is ultimately determined to qualify as a Targeted Employment Area (TEA), either as a rural area or an area of high unemployment as defined in 8 CFR 204.6(e). The area must qualify as a TEA at the time of the individual alien investor's capital investment or at the time of filing of his or her Form I-526 petition. TEA determinations are part of the adjudication of the individual Form I-526 petition, not in the adjudication of regional center applications.

The minimum capital investment threshold for any EB-5 capital investment into an approved commercial enterprise throughout the regional center shall be not less than \$500,000, if the investment target is located within a TEA, or \$1,000,000 if it is located outside of a TEA. No debt arrangement will be acceptable unless it is secured by assets owned by the alien entrepreneur. A full capital investment must be made and placed at risk.

For any alien requesting the reduced threshold of \$500,000 based upon an investment in a Targeted Employment area, the alien must establish at the time of filing of the I-526 petition that either the investment will be made in a TEA designated area or was made in a TEA designated area at the time of the alien's initial investment into the enterprise.

EMPLOYMENT CREATION

Immigrant investors who file petitions for capital investments in new commercial enterprises located within and affiliated with the Regional Center area must fulfill all of the requirements set forth in INA 203(b)(5), 8 CFR 204.6, and 8 CFR 216.6, except that the petition need not show that the new commercial enterprises created ten new jobs directly as a result of the immigrant investor's investment. The determination whether the alien investor has met the job creation requirements will be established by a review of the required initial evidence at 8 CFR 204.6(j) and 8 CFR 216.6(a)(4) for the Form I-526 and Form I-829 petitions, respectively. The capital investment and job creation activities outlined in the individual petitions must fall within the bounds of the final economic analysis that is contained as part of the approved Regional Center proposal and its indirect job creation model and multipliers contained within the final approved Regional Center application.

package. The immigrant investor must show at the time of removal of conditions that they performed the activities described in Form I-526 petition, and the activities must be based on the approved regional center methodology for demonstrating job creation. In this case, the IMPLAN methodology was used.

Multiplier based on underlying new "direct jobs"

In addition, where job creation or preservation of existing jobs is claimed based on a multiplier rooted in underlying new "direct jobs", the immigrant investor's individual I-526 petition affiliated with your Regional Center, should include as supporting evidence: A comprehensive detailed business plan with supporting financial, marketing and related data and analysis providing a reasonable basis for projecting creation of any new direct jobs for "qualifying employees" to be achieved/realized within two years pursuant to 8 CFR 204.6(j)(4)(B).

An alien investor's I-829 petition to remove the conditions which was based on an I-526 petition approval that involved the creation of new direct jobs or the creation of new indirect jobs based on a multiplier tied to underlying new direct jobs needs to be properly supported by evidence of job creation. To support the full number of direct and indirect new jobs being claimed in connection with removal of conditions, the petition will need to be supported by probative evidence of the number of new direct full time (35 hours per week) jobs for qualified employees whose positions have been created as a result of the alien's investment. Such evidence may include copies of quarterly state employment tax reports, Forms W-2, Forms I-9, and any other pertinent employment records sufficient to demonstrate the number of qualified employees whose jobs were created directly.

Additional Guidelines for Individual Immigrant Investors Visa Petition (I-526)

Each individual petition, in order to demonstrate that it is associated with the Regional Center, in conjunction with addressing all the requirements for an individual immigrant investor petition, shall also contain as supporting evidence relating to this Regional Center designation, the following:

1. A copy of this letter, the Regional Center approval and designation.
2. A copy of the USCIS approved Regional Center narrative proposal and business plan.
3. A copy of the job creation methodology required in 8 CFR 204.6(j)(4)(iii), as contained in the final Regional Center economic analysis which has been approved by USCIS, which reflects that investment by an individual immigrant investor will create not fewer than ten (10) full-time employment positions, either directly or indirectly, per immigrant investor. If the approval of the plan for capital investments in a given industry economic cluster is based upon an exemplar capital investment project, then the immigrant investor petition must also be supported by an analysis and evidence that shows that the actual capital investment in the Form I-526 petition comports to the exemplar capital investment project approved in the regional center designation and that it is otherwise EB-5 compliant.
4. A legally executed copy:
 - a. Operating Agreement (Dated May 30, 2010)
 - b. Offering Memorandum (None submitted, Not required for Regional Center)
 - c. Subscription Agreement; and (Sample submitted November 17, 2010)
 - d. Limited Partnership Agreement. (Sample dated March 15, 2011)
 - e. Escrow Agreement (Sample submitted April 1, 2011)

DESIGNEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES INHERENT IN CONDUCT OF THE REGIONAL CENTER:

The law, as reflected in the regulations at 8 CFR 204.6(m)(6), requires that an approved Regional Center in order to maintain the validity of its approval and designation must continue to meet the statutory requirements of the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program by serving the purpose of promoting economic growth, including increased export sales (where applicable), improved regional productivity, job creation, and increased domestic capital investment. Therefore, in order for USCIS to determine whether your Regional Center is in compliance with the above cited regulation, and in order to continue to operate as a USCIS approved and designated Regional Center, your administration, oversight, and management of your Regional Center shall be such as to monitor all investment activities under the sponsorship of your Regional Center and to maintain records, data and information in order to provide the information required on the Form I-924A supplement. Form I-924A, Supplement to Form I-924 is available in the "Forms" section on the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov.

Effective November 23, 2010, the failure to timely file a Form I-924A Supplement for each fiscal year in which the regional center has been designated for participation in the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program will result in the issuance of an intent to terminate the participation of the regional center in the Pilot Program, which may ultimately result in the termination of the approval and designation of the regional center.

Note: The requirement for the filing of Form I-924A Supplement commences in fiscal year 2011. Each regional center that remains designated for participation in the pilot program as of September 30, 2011 must submit the Form I-924A Supplement with the required supporting documentation on or before December 29, 2011.

If you have any questions concerning the Regional Center approval and designation under the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program, please contact the USCIS by Email at USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Rosemary Langley Melville
Director
California Service Center