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**Religious Organizations Request Expedited
Treatment for Religious Worker Adjustments**

In light of the impending sunset of the non-minister religious worker special immigrant provisions, a group of religious organizations sent a letter to USCIS' Acting Director Jonathan Scharfen urging expedited treatment so applicants in this category can adjust status prior to the 9/30/08 sunset.

In previous years when the sunset date has approached, legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service took the position that the entire adjudicatory process must be completed by September 30 for a religious worker to qualify for adjustment of status under the Religious Worker Visa Program (RWVP). In other words, the Permanent Resident Card, Form I-551 must be issued by that date. Should USCIS continue the same regulatory practice, religious workers with pending adjustment of status applications will not be able to obtain permanent residency if their applications are not adjudicated by September 30, 2008.

To avoid this severe consequence for religious organizations and workers who have followed all the rules and are merely waiting for their applications to be processed, religious organizations requested expedited adjudication of pending adjustment of status cases for the affected religious workers.

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