

**In The Matter Of:**  
*PARKS E-7 LIVESTOCK FACILITY v.*  
*RIDGE FARM, IL - VERMILION COUNTY*

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*PUBLIC HEARING*  
*October 10, 2019*

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8                   PUBLIC HEARING  
9  
10                  October 10th, 2019, 6:00 PM  
11                  David S. Palmer Arena  
12                  100 West Main Street, Danville, IL  
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19                  Reported By:  
20  
21                  Deann K. Parkinson: CSR 84-002089  
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1                   (The time is 6:00 p.m.)  
2                   **MR. COLL:** Good evening. On behalf of  
3   John Sullivan, the director of the Illinois  
4   Department of Agriculture, we thank you very much  
5   for the invitation to come to Vermilion County  
6   today. My name is Albert Coll. I'm with the  
7   Illinois Department of Agriculture, and I will be  
8   serving as the hearing officer for tonight's  
9   public informational meeting.  
10                  Also with me on behalf of the department  
11   are Warren Goetsch, the deputy director of the  
12   Illinois Department of Agriculture, and Doug  
13   Owens, the chief of the department's bureau of  
14   environmental programs.  
15                  This meeting is being conducted pursuant  
16   to Section 12 of the Livestock Management  
17   Facilities Act. The informational meeting is  
18   being held at the request of the Vermilion County  
19   board, and is to afford members of the public an  
20   opportunity to ask questions and present oral and  
21   written testimony regarding the proposed  
22   construction of a new 1,800 animal unit swine  
23   facility by Parks Livestock.  
24                  My task this evening is to insure the

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1   meeting is conducted in an orderly fashion and to  
2   insure that all comments and testimony received  
3   are entered into the record.  
4                  Tonight's meeting is being transcribed.  
5   The transcript of the meeting will be sent to the  
6   Vermilion County Board, as well as used by the  
7   Department of Agriculture in making its  
8   determination regarding the proposed construction  
9   of the facility.  
10                  In order to insure that we have an  
11   orderly process, I will quickly explain how the  
12   meeting will proceed this evening. First,  
13   following my comments, Warren Goetsch will provide  
14   an overview of the provisions of the Livestock  
15   Management Facilities Act as it relates to this  
16   particular project, specifically outlining the  
17   current status of the project and how the process  
18   will proceed following tonight's meeting.  
19                  Following Mr. Goetsch, representatives  
20   for the proposed construction project will be  
21   given an opportunity to describe the project and  
22   demonstrate how they believe it meets the siting  
23   criteria of the Livestock Management Facilities  
24   Act.

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1 After their presentation, I will provide  
2 an open -- I will open the meeting to questions.  
3 Anyone wishing to ask questions of the facility  
4 representatives or the department will be given an  
5 opportunity to do so. During the question and  
6 answer session, I will ask that you state your  
7 name and spell your last name for the court  
8 reporter. You then may ask your question.  
9 Depending on the number of people who wish to  
10 testify in the oral testimony phase of the  
11 meeting, which is after the question phase, there  
12 may be a time limit placed on the questioning  
13 phase.  
14 Following the question and answer phase,  
15 I will ask for your written testimony. If anyone  
16 has written testimony that is not part of your  
17 oral testimony, I will accept it and enter it into  
18 the record for this proceeding.  
19 If you have written materials that you  
20 will be using as part of your oral testimony, it  
21 can be entered into the record following your oral  
22 testimony. Then, depending on the amount of time  
23 that has elapsed at this point in the meeting, we  
24 may take a short break.

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1 Following the written testimony, I will  
2 ask for oral testimony from the public. A sign-in  
3 sheet was placed at the door as you came in, and  
4 you can still go back there and sign your name if  
5 you'd like to provide oral testimony.  
6 One sheet is for attendance at tonight's  
7 meeting and a second sheet is for those who wish  
8 to provide oral testimony.  
9 People who wish to provide comments  
10 during this oral testimony phase are asked to sign  
11 the oral testimony sheet. People providing oral  
12 comments will be sworn in. Each person will be  
13 given three minutes to provide his or her  
14 comments. Legal counsel present this evening  
15 speaking on behalf of multiple clients will be  
16 given a total of 15 minutes for all clients, and  
17 will be asked to state the names of all of the  
18 persons on whose behalf he or she is speaking.  
19 Deferring time to other speakers will  
20 not be allowed. If you signed the oral testimony  
21 sheet, you may either speak, or if you have  
22 changed your mind, you may pass. You may not give  
23 your time to someone else.  
24 The meeting will then conclude with

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1 closing comments from the facility and the  
2 Department of Agriculture.  
3 So, in summary, tonight we will have  
4 comments from the department. Comments from the  
5 facility. Questions directed to the department  
6 and the facility. Remember to state your name and  
7 to spell your name. Written testimony will be  
8 accepted. Oral testimony from the public. People  
9 will be sworn in. And then we will have closing  
10 comments.  
11 Please keep in mind that we are not here  
12 this evening to discuss or debate the merits or  
13 perceived inadequacies of the existing regulations  
14 or laws. We are here tonight to receive  
15 information on this particular proposed livestock  
16 facility, to assist with determining compliance  
17 with the existing regulations.  
18 This is a public informational meeting  
19 and not a court proceeding. The purpose is to  
20 share information and provide an opportunity for  
21 the department, members of the county board, and  
22 you, the public, to learn about this proposed  
23 facility.  
24 Again, we very much appreciate your

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1 hospitality for inviting us here to consider the  
2 proposed construction of the Parks E7 swine  
3 facility. Please remember to confine your  
4 comments and questions to that subject as we  
5 continue.  
6 And before the department's remarks this  
7 evening, I'd like to ask, are there any members of  
8 the county board here this evening that would like  
9 to introduce themselves? Feel free to stand and  
10 introduce yourself if you'd like.  
11 **A VOICE:** My name is Nancy O'Kane, I'm on  
12 the County Board District 8.  
13 **MR. COLL:** Could you please give us your  
14 last name for the court reporter.  
15 **A VOICE:** It's O' K-A-N-E.  
16 **MR. COLL:** Thank you so much. Was there  
17 anyone else?  
18 **A VOICE:** Steve Fourez, District 3.  
19 F-O-U-R-E-Z.  
20 **MR. COLL:** Thank you so much. Are there  
21 any other public officials that would like to  
22 identify themselves and make comment this evening?  
23 **A VOICE:** I'm Leigh Busby, B-U-S-B-Y.  
24 I'm the mayor of Ridge Farm. I will be asking

1 questions during that portion.  
 2 **MR. COLL:** Thank you so much, Mayor. I  
 3 will now turn the proceeding -- pardon me.  
 4 **A VOICE:** Richard Haga, Carol Township  
 5 road commissioner. H-A-G-A.  
 6 **MR. COLL:** Thank you so much. I will  
 7 now turn the proceeding over to Warren Goetsch for  
 8 remarks from the Illinois Department of  
 9 Agriculture.  
 10 **MR. GOETSCH:** Thank you and good  
 11 evening. As was just mentioned, my name is Warren  
 12 Goetsch. I currently serve as the deputy director  
 13 for the Illinois Department of Agriculture. One  
 14 of our responsibilities at the department is the  
 15 administration of various provisions of the  
 16 Livestock Management Facilities Act.  
 17 On behalf of the department, let me  
 18 welcome you to this public informational meeting.  
 19 Before we hear from the proposed facility's  
 20 representatives, I'd like to say a few words  
 21 regarding the applicable provisions of the  
 22 Livestock Management Facilities Act and the  
 23 current status of this proposed project.  
 24 The Livestock Management Facilities Act

1 was originally passed and became law on May 21st  
 2 of 1996. Since that time, the act has been  
 3 amended seven times, three of which have been  
 4 substantive. The act can be generally described  
 5 as covering the following -- covering five major  
 6 areas; those being facility design standards,  
 7 waste management planning requirements, facility  
 8 operator training and testing, anaerobic lagoon  
 9 financial responsibility demonstration, and  
 10 facility setback requirements.  
 11 Each of these provisions impacts various  
 12 types of facilities in different ways depending  
 13 upon their size expressed in animal units, and  
 14 whether the proposed facility is considered as a  
 15 new facility, a modified facility, or the  
 16 expansion of an existing site.  
 17 The Livestock Management Facilities Act  
 18 provisions are quite complicated and specific  
 19 facility designs and situations certainly can  
 20 differ. It is, however, the department's  
 21 intention to always fairly and equitably apply  
 22 these requirements to the livestock industry in  
 23 this state.  
 24 Now, regarding the current status of

1 this project. The department received a formal  
 2 notice of intent to construct application for the  
 3 proposed construction of a swine facility on July  
 4 26th of 2019. The proposed project is to consist  
 5 of the construction of one, 108 feet -- or excuse  
 6 me, 101 feet 8 inches by 341 feet swine finishing  
 7 building, with concrete slats and an eight foot  
 8 deep under building concrete livestock waste  
 9 holding facility.  
 10 The project is proposed to be located  
 11 approximately 2.23 miles west of Ridge Farm,  
 12 Illinois, in southeastern Vermilion County. The  
 13 application was submitted by Frank & West,  
 14 environmental engineers incorporated on behalf of  
 15 Parks Livestock. The maximum design capacity of  
 16 the proposed facility is 1,800 animal units, or  
 17 4,500 head of swine greater than 55 pounds.  
 18 As I mentioned earlier, the department  
 19 received the notice of intent to construct  
 20 application on July 26th and reviewed it for  
 21 compliance with the applicable provisions of the  
 22 act.  
 23 On August 15th the department determined  
 24 that the notice was complete and forwarded a copy

1 of the completed application to the Vermilion  
 2 County Board. Notice of that application was also  
 3 published in the appropriate newspaper as required  
 4 by the statute.  
 5 The design capacity of the proposed  
 6 facility requires compliance with a residential  
 7 setback distance of not less than 1,320 feet and a  
 8 populated area setback distance of not less than  
 9 2,640 feet.  
 10 On September 19th the department  
 11 received official notice from the Vermilion County  
 12 Board requesting that a public informational  
 13 meeting be scheduled regarding the proposal.  
 14 After further consultation with the  
 15 county board, the department scheduled this  
 16 meeting and caused notice of the meeting to be  
 17 published in the appropriate newspapers. An  
 18 additional requirement of the Livestock Management  
 19 Facilities Act deals with the design and  
 20 construction plans of the livestock waste handling  
 21 facility.  
 22 The department has received a formal  
 23 submittal of detailed engineering design plans and  
 24 specifications for the proposed project's under

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1 building livestock waste handling facility.  
2 However, a detailed review of the aforementioned  
3 plans has not yet been completed at this time. As  
4 such, the department is currently unable to  
5 comment as to the compliance of those plans with  
6 the statutory provisions of the act.  
7 We are here this evening to receive  
8 testimony regarding the proposed livestock  
9 management facility's compliance with eight siting  
10 criteria as defined in section 12, paragraph D, of  
11 the Livestock Management Facilities Act.  
12 In general, information regarding the  
13 following would be appropriate for this evening's  
14 meeting. Manure management planning. Potential  
15 impact of the proposed facility on the surrounding  
16 area's character. Whether the proposed facility  
17 is located within any floodplains or other  
18 sensitive areas. Odor control plans. Possible  
19 impact of the proposed facility on existing area  
20 traffic patterns. And possible impact of the  
21 proposed facility on community growth, tourism and  
22 recreation, or the economic development of the  
23 area.  
24 Copies of the specific criteria were

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1 available at the table with the sign-in sheets at  
2 the rear of the room. If anyone would like to  
3 have a copy of the criteria, but didn't have an  
4 opportunity to pick it up, or pick one up, if you  
5 would just raise your hand, identify yourself,  
6 we'll make sure that you receive a copy. Does  
7 anyone need a copy that didn't get one?  
8 Finally, the process that will be  
9 followed after this evening's meeting is as  
10 follows: The county board will have up to 30  
11 business days from today's meeting to submit to  
12 the department a nonbinding recommendation  
13 relative to the proposed siting of this facility.  
14 Thus, a recommendation from the Vermilion County  
15 Board is due at the department on or before  
16 November 25th.  
17 After the close of the county's 30  
18 business day comment period, the department will  
19 have 15 calendar days or until December 10th to  
20 review all of the information submitted to date,  
21 including the notice of intent to construct,  
22 construction plans, transcripts from this  
23 evening's meeting, the county board's  
24 recommendation, and any other additional

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1 information submitted by the owners at the request  
2 of the department. Based on that review, the  
3 department will determine whether the eight siting  
4 criteria have been met by the application.  
5 Once that determination has been made,  
6 the department will notify both the county board  
7 and the applicant of the department's decision.  
8 Mr. Hearing Officer, at this time I'd  
9 like to submit the completed notice of intent to  
10 construct application, and its associated  
11 correspondence file for formal entry into the  
12 record as an exhibit.  
13 While I have the microphone, I would  
14 also like to provide a copy of the power point  
15 presentation from the department to be  
16 incorporated into the record as well. And this  
17 concludes my remarks. Again, like to thank you  
18 for your attention, and I certainly look forward  
19 to hearing your comments regarding this proposal,  
20 and I'll now turn the meeting back over to the  
21 hearing officer.  
22 **MR. COLL:** Thank you, Mr. Goetsch.  
23 Department's marked Exhibit 1, the notice of  
24 intent to construct, and Department's marked

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1 Exhibit 2, the department's power point  
2 presentation, are entered into the record.  
3 At this time we will hear comments from  
4 the facility. Before you begin, of those who will  
5 be presenting information, please state your name  
6 and spell your last name for the court reporter.  
7 And then I will swear you in all together.  
8 **MR. WEST:** Chris West.  
9 **MR. JAMES:** David James. J-A-M-E-S.  
10 **MR. COLL:** Mr. West and Mr. James, can  
11 you please raise your right hand.  
12 (Witnesses sworn. )  
13 **MR. COLL:** Thank you. You may proceed  
14 with your testimony.  
15 **MR. JAMES:** Good evening. Can you hear  
16 me all right? My name is David James. And I'm  
17 the finishing construction and production manager  
18 for the Parks companies.  
19 I have worked for the Parks companies  
20 for the last 11 years. I'd like to share a bit of  
21 information on the Parks companies.  
22 The Parks family has deep roots in  
23 Vermilion County. Lawrence, president of the  
24 Parks companies, learned how to buy and sell

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1 livestock from his grandfather, Lloyd Parks, and  
2 father, Gary Parks, as a young boy and has been  
3 doing so ever since. This inspired him to create  
4 his own swine marketing business. Lawrence and  
5 his wife, Deanna, have five children, including  
6 Lauren, Hayden, Hailey, Marissa and McKenzie.  
7 With their involvement in the business, they are  
8 the fourth generation to serve the livestock  
9 industry.

10 Lawrence's focus has always been on  
11 integrity and doing the right thing to build his  
12 family-owned business. Parks currently works with  
13 more than 30 farm families who raise pigs with us.  
14 The Parks companies currently offer several  
15 services all related to the swine industry.

16 These services include cole swine  
17 marketing, butcher hog marketing, roaster pig  
18 harvest and processing, transportation, trailer  
19 wash facilities, early weans and feeder pig  
20 marketing, finishing buildings, consulting,  
21 forward pricing, and orderly liquidations.

22 All of these services are accomplished  
23 with a team of over 150 dedicated employees. The  
24 pig barn we propose to construct is a wean to

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1 finish barn that has a capacity of 4,500 pigs.  
2 Weaned pigs at about 12 pounds weight and about  
3 three weeks of age will be placed in the barn, and  
4 then approximately six months later they will be  
5 market weight of 280 to 300 pounds. At that time,  
6 the barn is completely emptied and completely  
7 cleaned and sanitized.

8 Effingham Equity will own the pigs that  
9 are in the barn. Alan Chestnut will utilize the  
10 manure produced from the barn on his crop ground.  
11 The pigs will be fed a corn soy ration produced at  
12 Effingham Equity, Horace, Illinois, feed mill.  
13 The pigs in the barn will consume 100,000 to  
14 120,000 bushels of corn and 3,000 to 4,000 bushels  
15 of soybean meal annually.

16 The pigs will drink an average of one  
17 and a half gallons of water per day. The barn  
18 represents an investment of 1.2 to 1.4 million  
19 dollars. Local tax revenues will be more than 15  
20 to 20 thousand per year, with over nine to ten  
21 thousand going to the Georgetown Ridge Farm School  
22 District.

23 As was said earlier, the barn will be  
24 101 feet 8 inches by 341 feet, and will comply

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1 with all Illinois Department of Agriculture  
2 requirements as it relates to construction and  
3 containment according to engineered plans prepared  
4 by Frank & West and approved by the Illinois  
5 Department of Agriculture.

6 The Illinois Department of Agriculture  
7 makes inspections during the preconstruction and  
8 construction process. Chris West, from our  
9 engineering firm, Frank & West, will now share the  
10 eight siting criteria requirements.

11 **MR. WEST:** Thank you, David. Again, my  
12 name is Chris West. I'm president of Frank &  
13 West, environmental engineers out of Springfield.  
14 I'm here tonight to go over the eight siting  
15 criteria, and demonstrate how the farm has met  
16 each of those eight criteria.

17 So tonight we're going to, in my  
18 presentation, going to go over a quick  
19 introduction of the farm and the layout, and then  
20 go through each of the eight sitting criteria.

21 Again, the farm location is  
22 approximately two and a quarter miles west of  
23 Ridge View, Ridge Farm, excuse me. And the  
24 building will lay out like this; 341 feet long,

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1 101 feet 8 inches in width.

2 The eight sitting criteria laid out  
3 through the Livestock Management Facilities Act  
4 deal with the registration and certification  
5 requirements, design, location and operation  
6 standards. Location compatibility. Floodplain  
7 and aquifer protection. Minimize environmental  
8 impact. Odor control and/or reduction. Traffic  
9 patterns that minimize impacts. And is the farm  
10 consistent with area development.

11 So, starting with siting criteria one,  
12 the registration and certification. Registration  
13 of the farm and the livestock waste management  
14 plan certification. As Mr. Goetsch mentioned  
15 earlier, the Notice of Intent was filed July 26th  
16 of this year. It was deemed complete on August  
17 15th of this year. According to the LFMA, the  
18 Livestock Management Facilities Act, any proposed  
19 farm which exceeds 1,000 animal units but less  
20 than 5,000 animal units shall prepare and maintain  
21 a nutrient management plan within 60 days after  
22 commencing operation.

23 This farm will prepare, maintain and  
24 implement a comprehensive nutrient management

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1 plan.  
2 The farm will submit to the Department  
3 of Agriculture the nutrient management plan  
4 certification form, certifying that the plan has  
5 been prepared. The farm will keep the management  
6 plan, as well as all records of livestock waste  
7 disposal on the farm, and it will be available for  
8 inspection to the Department of Agriculture.  
9 The goal of a comprehensive nutrient  
10 management plan is to utilize the manure that's  
11 produced by the pigs on the farm in an approved  
12 agronomic loading rate to meet the nutrient needs  
13 of the locally grown crops in an environmental  
14 sound fashion.  
15 So what does that mean? So, what we  
16 will do, and when we're developing this plan, is  
17 we will take the total annual manure volume that  
18 is produced by the farm. We will take  
19 historically proven yields from the farm ground  
20 where we're planning to apply this manure. We  
21 will analyze the manure. Take an analysis of the  
22 manure before it's applied so we will know the  
23 exact nutrient content. We'll know the  
24 phosphorus, the nitrogen, the potassium levels in

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1 that, and then we will develop agronomic loading  
2 rates.  
3 So, what that means is we will know  
4 which crop is going to be applied, is going to be  
5 planted in that field, then we will know what the  
6 -- how much that crop is going to produce, what  
7 the yield is, the expected yield, based on the  
8 historic yields in that farm itself. And then  
9 we'll be able to determine what the nutrient needs  
10 of that crop will be. How much nitrogen it needs?  
11 How much phosphorus it's going to need? So then  
12 we can determine how many gallons per acre of this  
13 manure we can put on to meet that need.  
14 In addition, there will be setbacks put  
15 in place in the nutrient management plan.  
16 Setbacks from water bodies. From houses. From  
17 wells. All of those are included by regulation,  
18 all of those are included in this nutrient  
19 management plan. And then documentation of all  
20 phases.  
21 So what that means is, all of the  
22 analysis that we do, all of the manure analysis,  
23 the soil analysis, all of the applications, all of  
24 that is documented through record keeping and is

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1 maintained within this plan. And as I mentioned  
2 earlier, is available for the department to review  
3 at any time.  
4 Siting criteria two; design and  
5 operation standards. So we're talking about the  
6 design, the location and the proposed operation of  
7 the farm.  
8 So, start with the design. This is a  
9 reenforced concrete structure designed according  
10 to the Midwest Plan Service Concrete Manure  
11 Storage handbook guidance. The Midwest Plan  
12 Service is a University-based publishing  
13 cooperative dedicated to publishing and  
14 disseminating research based and peer-reviewed  
15 publications.  
16 So, within this document we have all of  
17 our specifications for the concrete, the  
18 reenforcement requirements, and the water stop  
19 requirements.  
20 The design for the proposed farm we're  
21 talking about tonight is one finishing barn. We  
22 will give you an example of what that finishing  
23 barn will look like.  
24 This is a finishing barn approximately

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1 the same size here in Illinois. This is the  
2 inside of that same finishing barn. And this is a  
3 typical cross-section of that barn. So if we were  
4 to take a knife and cut right down through the  
5 center of that, this is what it would look like  
6 from at least a drawing perspective.  
7 So starting with the roof at the top,  
8 and then you can see the pig standing on the  
9 concrete floor. The concrete floor is slotted.  
10 It's called a concrete slat so there are holes in  
11 that, that the manure falls through into the  
12 storage pit below. The storage pit is eight feet  
13 deep, and -- well, it's eight foot deep. We will  
14 go over more of that a little bit later.  
15 Location. As Mr. Goetsch mentioned  
16 earlier as well, we have setback distances that we  
17 are required to meet or exceed for the farm. We  
18 have an occupied residence setback. A populated  
19 area setback. And all of those were met and  
20 deemed complete by the Department of Agriculture  
21 in August of this year.  
22 Part three of siting criteria two is the  
23 proposed operation. The manager of the farm will  
24 be a certified livestock manager. So, what that

1 is, that's a program developed by the Department  
2 of Agriculture to educate livestock managers on  
3 manure management handling and systems. Managers  
4 of farms over 1,000 animal units are required to  
5 attend a training course and pass an exam.

6 The livestock waste management plan as  
7 well will detail the operation at the farm so all  
8 manure applications will be based on site specific  
9 information.

10 Siting criteria three deals with zoning  
11 and setbacks. The proposed farm location is not  
12 zoned, so when we look at an Illinois county map  
13 with adapted zoning laws, you can see that the  
14 farm from the Illinois Association of County  
15 Zoning Officials, this county has no zoning. So  
16 that that -- the farm then would be compatible  
17 with the surrounding area, in that it is a rural  
18 agricultural area.

19 Setbacks. 4,500 animals. The design  
20 capacity of the proposed facility at greater than  
21 55 pounds is equal to 1,800 animal units, which  
22 provides an occupied residence setback of 1,320  
23 feet or a quarter of a mile. And a populated area  
24 setback of 2,640 feet, or a half a mile. And

1 again, the setbacks have been met by the farm.

2 Siting criteria four. Floodplain and  
3 aquifer. So we're looking at the 100 year  
4 floodplain in this area. Karst areas. Are there  
5 any known karst areas in the area where the farm  
6 was proposed? And aquifer material?

7 So when we look at a floodplain map  
8 provided by FEMA, you can see the location of the  
9 farm. Right in here. And if you look at the top  
10 of the map, in the legend you see like a light  
11 blue area. If a floodplain were present, this  
12 light blue would be hatched throughout this area,  
13 which basically means there's nothing within the  
14 picture here that falls within a 100 year  
15 floodplain.

16 Karst area. Karst is considered an area  
17 with a land surface containing sink holes, large  
18 springs, disrupted land drainage, and underground  
19 systems associated with karstified carbonate  
20 bedrock and caves or a land surface without these  
21 features. If we look at a state map from the  
22 Illinois Geological Survey, the hatched areas, the  
23 areas that are outlined through these lined areas,  
24 those are all known karst areas within the state.

1 And as you can see, the proposed  
2 location in Vermilion County is no where near any  
3 of those locations.

4 Aquifer material. So another part of  
5 this is considered aquifer material. Does the  
6 proposed farm fall over sandstone that is five  
7 feet or more in thickness or fractured carbonate  
8 that is ten feet or more in thickness? Or sand,  
9 gravel or sand and gravel mixture, such that there  
10 is at least two feet present within any five foot  
11 section of a soil boring?

12 So, what we do is we go out to the site  
13 within the footprint of the proposed barn, and we  
14 conduct a soil boring, and we advance that soil  
15 boring a minimum of five feet below the proposed  
16 bottom of that structure to look for aquifer  
17 material. And this is something that is required  
18 within the LMFA.

19 We conducted that soil boring just last  
20 week, October 4th, and there was no aquifer  
21 material present within that boring.

22 Minimize the environmental impact. Do  
23 the plans for operation minimize spills, run-off  
24 or leaching from the farm?

1 Spills or runoff. The most important  
2 aspect of this is proper sizing. Is the barn big  
3 enough to hold the manure that these animals are  
4 going to produce? Is there adequate storage  
5 capacity? The LMFA requires that the farm  
6 maintain a minimum of 150 days of storage. We  
7 designed the barns. We built them large enough  
8 that they will have in excess of 365 days of  
9 storage.

10 And why is that important? If you have  
11 150 days worth of storage, every five months  
12 you're applying manure somewhere. We all know  
13 what can happen, we saw the spring this year.  
14 There are seasons when it's just not a great time  
15 to be putting manure on the field. You can't get  
16 out there, for one thing. Having this type of a  
17 storage allows us to utilize exactly the best time  
18 to apply that, so that there are no environmental  
19 impacts.

20 This is also a closed system. What I  
21 mean by that is the animals are within the barn.  
22 The manure is within the barn. There is no manure  
23 that gets outside of the barn unless we are  
24 applying it at an agronomic rate on to those farm

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1 fields.  
2 A clean water diversion will be  
3 installed to allow for rain water to be directed  
4 away from the buildings. What makes this  
5 important is, I mentioned earlier, the 365 days.  
6 If we are to get a lot of fresh water coming into  
7 the barn from a rain event, then that would  
8 obviously lessen the storage period that we would  
9 have. So, when we build a building, we slope the  
10 ground away from the top of the pit so that any  
11 rain water falling on that would be diverted away  
12 from the barns and then not into the pits.  
13 Leaching. As I mentioned earlier, the  
14 farm is designed according to the Midwest Plan  
15 Service Specifications. It's designed to prevent  
16 a release of livestock manure. Solid rebar, solid  
17 concrete construction reenforced with grade 60  
18 steel rebar. Water stop placed at every joint to  
19 provide a water tight seal. All surfaces that  
20 come in contact with manure meet the required  
21 permeability standards.  
22 Siting criteria six. The odor control  
23 plan. The proposed farm will implement a  
24 comprehensive odor control plan detailing the

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1 controlled land application of the manure, routine  
2 maintenance, feed, management and the location of  
3 the barn.  
4 When I talk about the controlled  
5 application of manure, we are proposing to utilize  
6 injection to apply all of the manure from the barn  
7 based on nitrogen and phosphorus loading rates  
8 from actual on-site data.  
9 So again, we're taking the information  
10 from this barn from these animals to come up with  
11 our application rates. The farm intends to  
12 utilize injection as the application method for  
13 the livestock manure. It minimizes contact with  
14 the air, so you're taking that manure directly  
15 from the tank or the hose and putting it right  
16 into the ground so it does not have an opportunity  
17 to come in contact with the air. It's widely  
18 accepted as the best available technology for the  
19 application of manure.  
20 All livestock manure will be applied by  
21 a custom applicator, so there will be a  
22 professional out there applying the manure.  
23 Someone who does this for a living. They have  
24 emergency safety controls, equipment will be

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1 visually monitored continuously. There are  
2 emergency shutoffs in the cab of the piece of  
3 equipment that will be doing the injection. And  
4 communication between personnel available at all  
5 times.  
6 And to give you an example of what this  
7 may look like, I've got a couple of slides here  
8 showing different types of injection equipment.  
9 This one is a manure tanker. And then a close up  
10 of a similar piece of equipment. And then an  
11 example of injection with a drag line system.  
12 The farm has approximately at least 600  
13 acres locally per year available for livestock  
14 manure application. Utilizing the expected yields  
15 combined with area soil types, it is anticipated  
16 that the farm would utilize approximately 450 to  
17 500 acres of a corn/corn rotation annually.  
18 The farm will also utilize regular  
19 maintenance to minimize dust originating from the  
20 facility. This regular maintenance will include a  
21 routine visual walk through of the barns to insure  
22 there is no manure built up above the floor and  
23 walkways. And the regular cleaning of fans to  
24 prevent the accumulation of dust.

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1 The farm will be thoroughly pressure  
2 washed and sanitized between each production  
3 cycle. This will minimize the amount of odor  
4 causing particles that are able to leave the  
5 facility through the ventilation fans. The farm  
6 will insure that the building's fans operate  
7 efficiently, thus again minimizing dust buildup.  
8 Regular maintenance is known to reduce odor  
9 concentrations and odor intensity.  
10 The farm has also incorporated an animal  
11 diet formulated to allow for the most efficient  
12 utilizations of proteins and nutrients in the  
13 field. This dietary practice aids in the  
14 reduction of overall odors from the farm by  
15 reducing extra nutrients excreted by the animals.  
16 And with location, the farm complies and exceeds  
17 the facility setback distances established in the  
18 LMFA.  
19 A comprehensive odor control plan, again  
20 going over the farm location and regular  
21 maintenance, routine, maintenance, proper  
22 nutrition, and the injection of the manure.  
23 The farm has diligently planned an  
24 overall odor control strategy by incorporating

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1 numerous odor control plan techniques and  
2 technologies. The farm will also continue to look  
3 for and incorporate other technologies as they  
4 become available. This strategic plan  
5 incorporates reasonable and innovative  
6 technologies that will allow the farm to operate  
7 with minimal odor impact to the surrounding area.  
8 Siting criteria number seven. Traffic  
9 patterns, whether the traffic patterns from the  
10 farm minimize the effect on existing traffic  
11 flows. So, from the farm, the traffic pattern  
12 will be as follows: So north on 1220 East Road.  
13 East on the Indianola Ridge Farm Road. And then  
14 north or south on US 150.  
15 So utilizing data from the Illinois  
16 Department of Transportation, the Indianola Ridge  
17 Farm road west of Ridge Farm has a weekly average  
18 of 1,925 vehicles. And then US Route 150 north of  
19 Ridge Farm has a weekly average of 24,000 vehicles  
20 and 2,380 trucks. US Route 150 south of Ridge  
21 Farm, 17,500 vehicles and 2,380 trucks. And  
22 again, this data is from the Illinois Department  
23 of Transportation.  
24 The farm itself will average about three

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1 trucks weekly. These will consist of feed  
2 transportation trucks and animal transportation  
3 trucks.  
4 The Parks Livestock E7 farm traffic will  
5 consist of less than .16 percent of the average  
6 weekly vehicle traffic on the Indianola Ridge Farm  
7 road, and then .02 percent of the average weekly  
8 traffic on US 150 both north and south.  
9 As far as the truck traffic, the farm  
10 will consist of less than .13 percent of the  
11 weekly truck traffic on the US 150 road.  
12 The farm traffic will comply with the  
13 same seasonal posted weight limits as all other  
14 traffic in the area.  
15 Siting criteria eight. The construction  
16 of the new farm is consistent with the economic  
17 community growth, tourism, recreation and economic  
18 development.  
19 The farm is consistent with the existing  
20 and planned community development of this rural  
21 agricultural area by demonstrating compliance with  
22 both zoning and setback requirements. The farm  
23 will meet each and every one of the requirements  
24 within the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

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1 I appreciate the opportunity to  
2 demonstrate tonight how the farm has met each of  
3 the eight siting criteria. Again, thank you for  
4 your attendance, and we will look forward to any  
5 questions. And hearing officer, I would like to  
6 submit a copy of the presentation for the record.  
7 **MR. COLL:** Thank you. Entered into the  
8 record as Exhibit 3 is the presentation from the  
9 facility representatives.  
10 We will now open the meeting for any  
11 questions that you may have of the facility or the  
12 department. If you have a question you would like  
13 to ask, please raise your hand and when called  
14 upon, please state your name and spell your last  
15 name for the benefit of the court reporter.  
16 Please indicate to whom you are directing your  
17 question, be it to the facility or to the  
18 department.  
19 I will remind you that this portion of  
20 the meeting will be limited to questions only.  
21 After the question and answer session, there will  
22 be another opportunity dedicated to public  
23 testimony where you can provide your oral  
24 comments. And if you haven't done so already, and

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1 you would like to provide oral comments, please  
2 sign in at the sign-in sheet at the back table.  
3 So please limit this session to  
4 questions only. Also, keep in mind that questions  
5 need to pertain to this particular facility. And  
6 now at this time I'd like to ask, does anyone here  
7 tonight have any questions?  
8 **MR. RIFE:** I do. Rick Rife, R-I-F-E.  
9 You said each hog will take one and a half gallons  
10 of water a day, 4,500, that's 7,000 gallons of  
11 water, correct, a day?  
12 **MR. WEST:** Correct.  
13 **MR. RIFE:** Think that's going to affect  
14 the water? This bothers me more than anybody  
15 because I'm going to tell you what, I think I'm  
16 closer than that on my property line to that  
17 facility; from my deck I am under 500 yards with  
18 my range finder to that facility. My property  
19 line I think falls even closer to that, and that  
20 is my property. My kids, grandkids, everything  
21 else are on that property. And I think that falls  
22 under your limit. From my deck, I'm just a hair  
23 under 500 yards. Just a little under 1,500 feet  
24 to my property line. I think I fall less than

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1 what you've got there, if it was actually  
2 measured. And that's my kids out there riding on  
3 their four wheelers and my grandkids.  
4 That's where I bought that property, and  
5 have been there for 16 years. If this goes on --  
6 you're right, that wasn't a question. I  
7 understand that.  
8 But, the water, that's going to affect  
9 our water I think. It has to. And the odor. You  
10 said --  
11 **MR. COLL:** I'm sorry, can you please  
12 limit the commentary and ask a question?  
13 **MR. RIFE:** This concerns me because I'm  
14 the person that lives the closest.  
15 **MR. COLL:** I understand. And I do  
16 respect that.  
17 **MR. RIFE:** They said they can contain the  
18 odor.  
19 **MR. COLL:** You're going to have an  
20 opportunity to provide oral testimony at the oral  
21 testimony section.  
22 **MR. RIFE:** How are they going to keep  
23 that odor -- I get a southerly breeze at my house  
24 all year long. How are you going to limit that

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1 odor? I'm asking, how are you going to limit that  
2 odor?  
3 **MR. COLL:** So what's your question?  
4 **MR. RIFE:** He told me for a fact that  
5 I'll have to get used to it.  
6 **MR. COLL:** Sir, please limit this to  
7 questions only at this time.  
8 **MR. RIFE:** He told me -- okay. Answer  
9 then. How are you going to limit that odor?  
10 **MR. WEST:** It's exactly what I went  
11 through during the presentation. All of those  
12 factors will minimize the odor.  
13 **MR. RIFE:** Minimize. You're not doing  
14 away with it.  
15 **MR. WEST:** Here's what I would tell you.  
16 I grew up next to a farm. I live by one now.  
17 **MR. RIFE:** I lived out there because I  
18 didn't want to live next to a hog farm; I bought  
19 that property for my kids.  
20 **MR. WEST:** If you wouldn't mind, let me  
21 answer your question. And I'm saying, we'll  
22 minimize the odor. It is a farm. And am I going  
23 to sit up here and say, and a farmer would say the  
24 same thing, are you never going to smell it? No.

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1 **MR. RIFE:** That's something you wanted to  
2 live with. I bought that not to live with it.  
3 **MR. WEST:** I'll be happy to answer your  
4 question. I'm not going to go back and forth with  
5 you right now.  
6 **MR. RIFE:** I'm asking how to minimize  
7 that. You're telling me about your life-style,  
8 your farm and how you are. I'm asking you, how are  
9 you going to minimize this odor? You can't.  
10 **MR. WEST:** Regular maintenance of the  
11 farm. That is the number one way to control  
12 odors.  
13 **MR. RIFE:** It's going to be there.  
14 **MR. WEST:** If we have a good manager,  
15 which we do --  
16 **MR. RIFE:** The odor is going to be there,  
17 correct? Is the odor going to be there?  
18 **MR. WEST:** I can't answer that.  
19 **MR. COLL:** Next question, please. Thank  
20 you, sir.  
21 **MS. HITT:** My name is Twyla Hitt. I am  
22 a rural carrier in a rural area that has --  
23 **MR. COLL:** I'm sorry, can you please  
24 spell your last name, and explain who the question

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1 is directed to.  
2 **MS. HITT:** H-I-T-T, to the Parks  
3 facility. I deliver to a swine farm, and -- two  
4 of 'em, and a turkey farm. How are you going to  
5 control odor better than they do?  
6 **MR. WEST:** I don't know who you're  
7 referring to. I can't answer questions about  
8 random places that I don't know or that I've not  
9 worked with. We went through the odor control  
10 technologies that will be implemented on the farm  
11 that will minimize the odor impact of the area.  
12 **MR. COLL:** Are there any other  
13 questions?  
14 **MR. INGRAM:** My name is Mike Ingram.  
15 I-N-G-R-A-M. This question is for Mr. West. You  
16 explained what you're going to do with the manure,  
17 but you didn't explain what you're going to do  
18 with the dead animals? Are you going to dig a  
19 pit, and just throw the animals in a pit? Are you  
20 going to throw them in the manure pile and let the  
21 acid eat the animals up? You never explained  
22 that.  
23 **MR. WEST:** No, no, there is a law in  
24 Illinois, the Dead Animal Disposal Act, and both

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1 of those things that you talked about, burial is  
2 allowed, not going to be done here.  
3 And the other option that you talk about  
4 is not allowed by state law. The farm is  
5 proposing to use rendering. So, someone will come  
6 regularly as when they are called, they will come,  
7 pick up the animals, and they will take them  
8 somewhere else. So they're not going to be  
9 disposed of through burial at the farm.  
10 **MR. COLL:** Next question.  
11 **MR. MORELAND:** Yes, Jack Moreland,  
12 M-O-R-E-L-A-N-D. What time frame is your manure  
13 applications going to be? Because it's my  
14 understanding that if the ground is frozen you are  
15 not allowed to put it on top. And with the way  
16 our weather has been, you could have a short  
17 window in the fall, a short window in the spring.  
18 **MR. WEST:** And you're absolutely  
19 correct. And that's when the applications would  
20 occur, and the size of our farm allows us to do  
21 both or one or the other as needed. Because we  
22 are hiring a professional to come in here to do  
23 this, it doesn't take that long. So, that short  
24 window is more than enough time to, from once the

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1 crops get out until the weather doesn't allow us  
2 to get back in, that's more than enough time for  
3 them to come in and inject all of the manure on to  
4 the farm ground.  
5 **MR. MORELAND:** So you expect the 600  
6 acres to be able to absorb that much, or are you  
7 going to look for other area farmland?  
8 **MR. WEST:** That's more than enough  
9 acres.  
10 **MR. COLL:** Any other questions? Yes, in  
11 the back.  
12 **MR. CRIST:** My name is Joe Crist,  
13 C-R-I-S-T. To the facility. I want to know where  
14 you're going to get the water? And Mr. Rife says  
15 like 7,000 gallons a day? Are you drilling wells?  
16 **MR. WEST:** There are two wells on the  
17 farm. And let me -- we talk about a gallon and a  
18 half a day. The rule of thumb for a person uses  
19 100 gallons per day, per person. So, it's not --  
20 we're not talking about a great amount of water,  
21 comparable to what a person uses.  
22 So, but to answer your question, there  
23 are two wells that have been drilled on the farm  
24 that will be used to provide the water for the

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1 animals.  
2 **MR. CRIST:** How many other facilities do  
3 you have and operate?  
4 **MR. JAMES:** Excuse me?  
5 **MR. CRIST:** How many other facilities do  
6 you have?  
7 **MR. JAMES:** We have three facilities in  
8 Illinois that we operate, two near Fithian and one  
9 near Rossville. Those facilities are two barn  
10 sites, where this is going to be a one barn site.  
11 We have other facilities in Iowa and in Missouri.  
12 **MR. CRIST:** Because I've never hauled  
13 water before, I've never run dry, and I'm not  
14 looking to start.  
15 **MR. WEST:** I can understand your  
16 concern. It will not be an issue.  
17 **MR. RIFE:** Back to the water issue too.  
18 Same comparison, you're comparing 100 gallons for  
19 a person of an average household, say five people.  
20 **MR. COLL:** Can we start with a question?  
21 **MR. RIFE:** Seven thousand gallons, this  
22 has never been done there with seven (sic) gallons  
23 of water before. How do you know you can get  
24 7,000 gallons a day out there without hurting

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1 anybody else around there and their water supply?  
2 How do you know that?  
3 **MR. WEST:** Because I've been doing this  
4 for 21 years.  
5 **MR. RIFE:** You just compared it to  
6 people, a 100 gallons. How can you compare an  
7 average household of five, that's 500 gallons if  
8 every person uses 100, compared to 7,000 gallons?  
9 **MR. WEST:** My goal was to give you a  
10 frame of reference. For the town, two and a  
11 quarter miles away --  
12 **MR. RIFE:** They work off a water tower.  
13 We work off wells on our property. I've never  
14 hauled water in my life, just like Joe. What  
15 happens if you guys run out of water?  
16 **MR. WEST:** We won't run out of water.  
17 **MR. RIFE:** How do you know that? When  
18 you run out, we run out. We've never hauled  
19 water. You're going to affect us.  
20 **MR. WEST:** Because if you do some  
21 research through the State Water Survey, you will  
22 know what type of water is available in this area.  
23 And we've already got two wells there.  
24 **MR. COLL:** Hold your question, please.

1       **MR. GOETSCH:** What is the well depth of  
2 the two wells that you've drilled?  
3       **MR. JAMES:** Hold on just a second; 160  
4 feet on one, on both of them. Both wells it's 160  
5 feet depth.  
6       **MR. RIFE:** That's three times what you  
7 need for a residence.  
8       **MR. COLL:** Before asking a question, can  
9 you please -- is it Mr. Crist?  
10       **MR. CRIST:** Yep.  
11       **MR. COLL:** Can you please stand and  
12 allow us to --  
13       **MR. CRIST:** You said that's three times  
14 what you need for a residence.  
15       **MR. COLL:** Mr. Crist, do you have a  
16 question?  
17       **MR. CRIST:** That was my question. How  
18 deep was the well?  
19       **MR. COLL:** All right. Are there any  
20 other questions? Yes.  
21       **MS. CRIST:** I'm Amy Rushing Crist. You  
22 said that this one is tourism. How in the heck do  
23 you think this is going to provide tourism other  
24 than the trucks coming through? Who is going to

1 want to move to the area? How is that going to  
2 affect our property values and everything else?  
3 It's going to negatively impact us as residential  
4 community. It's not going to positively impact  
5 us.  
6       **MR. COLL:** Mrs. Crist, if you have a  
7 question.  
8       **MS. CRIST:** My question is, how do you  
9 think it's going to affect our tourism? You  
10 brought that up in the slide about the tourism  
11 piece of this. I'm wanting to hear the positive  
12 part of this tourism that you think we're going to  
13 have from this.  
14       **MR. WEST:** In no way did I mean to say  
15 that this was going to bring tourism.  
16       **MS. CRIST:** But it's going to impact our  
17 tourism.  
18       **MR. WEST:** It will not impact the  
19 tourism of this area. This is farm rural  
20 agricultural area. This is a farm fitting into  
21 that farm area.  
22       **MS. CRIST:** But if the city wanted to  
23 grow, it is going to negatively impact.  
24       **MR. COLL:** Okay. That question has been

1 asked and answered. Next?  
2       **MR. ANDERSON:** Nick Anderson,  
3 A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. Chris, in your research with  
4 Ridge Farm, are there future plans of growth for  
5 the city of Ridge Farm that would affect the  
6 growth of this farm and its placement?  
7       **MR. WEST:** I know of none.  
8       **MR. COLL:** Additional questions?  
9       **MR. RIFE:** I got another one. What are  
10 you going to do with the property values of our  
11 properties? They're going to decrease, how are  
12 you guys going to handle that? Who do I ask?  
13       **MR. COLL:** Can we reserve that for the  
14 comments section?  
15       **MR. RIFE:** That's a question. It's a  
16 question.  
17       **MR. COLL:** Do you have an answer?  
18       **MR. RIFE:** You're making money off this.  
19 I'm losing money. Everything I've invested in my  
20 property. How can you guys make this up to me?  
21       **MR. WEST:** Here's how I will answer your  
22 question. There are as many studies that show  
23 property values either stay the same or increase  
24 as there are that say they will decrease. And you

1 can look up that information. It is out there.  
2 It's publicly available.  
3       **MR. RIFE:** I just put my property up for  
4 sale because of you guys. I'm going to tell you  
5 what? I had an offer of 140, and they said it's  
6 because the hog facility is coming. They wouldn't  
7 buy it for 140. I owe more than that on my  
8 property. I got way more than that invested in my  
9 property. It's where I was going to --  
10       **MR. COLL:** Sir, I'm sorry, the question  
11 has been asked and answered. Behind you.  
12       **MR. BUSBY:** My name is Tim Busby,  
13 B-U-S-B-Y. Chris, you talked about the real  
14 estate taxes; could you mention again what the  
15 anticipated tax benefit is?  
16       **MR. WEST:** That was not in my  
17 presentation. I will let Mr. James.  
18       **MR. JAMES:** The local tax revenues will  
19 be more than 15 to 20 thousand per year in new  
20 money.  
21       **MR. BUSBY:** Do you know off the top of  
22 your head, how much are they at Shepherds and  
23 Clarks?  
24       **MR. JAMES:** I don't know that off the

1 top of my head.  
 2 **MR. BUSBY:** Because I was told 72,000 at  
 3 Shepherds, but I believe they had two barns,  
 4 right?  
 5 **MR. JAMES:** There's two barns, yeah.  
 6 **MR. BUSBY:** So 72 divided by two.  
 7 **MR. WEST:** Shepherds has other farms as  
 8 well. I don't know what that number comes from.  
 9 **MR. BUSBY:** I'm just talking about the  
 10 hog facilities. I'm just trying to figure out, it  
 11 seems like there's a wide discrepancy there, and I  
 12 didn't go over to the courthouse and look up the  
 13 taxes. But it seems like your tax estimate on  
 14 this facility for one barn, and I'm just taking  
 15 half of Shepherds, and since the school district  
 16 is going to get 61, 62 percent, I'm just trying to  
 17 figure out what the tax benefit to the school  
 18 would be.  
 19 **MR. JAMES:** I don't know that number.  
 20 **MR. COLL:** Are there other questions?  
 21 Mr. Crist?  
 22 **MR. CRIST:** Mr. Crist, C-R-I-S-T. How  
 23 long do you propose for this barn to be? What's  
 24 the life span as we drive around other rural areas

1 and see broken down ones? Falling apart ones?  
 2 How long is this going to last?  
 3 **MR. JAMES:** We expect the facility to  
 4 have a life of at least 30 years.  
 5 **MR. COLL:** Next question?  
 6 **MR. SHEPHERD:** Gabe S-H-E-P-H-E-R-D.  
 7 There's some concerns obviously about water. I'm  
 8 just curious, maybe put it in perspective for  
 9 people, you said there was two wells on the  
 10 property. Approximately how many gallons a minute  
 11 are each one of those wells producing in relation  
 12 to the demands anticipated by the facility?  
 13 **MR. JAMES:** We have two wells. One is  
 14 39 gallons per minute. And one is 20 gallons per  
 15 minute. And at maximum usage, we would be using  
 16 30 gallons per minute. And that would be a rare  
 17 occasion where we would be that high.  
 18 **MR. COLL:** Next, any questions? Last  
 19 call for questions?  
 20 **MR. BUSBY:** I've got one more. Is there  
 21 a land, along Don's question, is there a land  
 22 reclamation process at the end of the term,  
 23 whatever it would be, to reclaim the land and put  
 24 it back like it would be, like there is in this

1 county with wind turbines and soon to be solar  
 2 facilities?  
 3 **MR. JAMES:** No, there's not.  
 4 **MR. BUSBY:** Do you think there should  
 5 be?  
 6 **MR. WEST:** We're kind of looking at that  
 7 question backwards though. Our intent is not to  
 8 only operate this for 30 years. Our intent is to  
 9 operate this in perpetuity.  
 10 **MR. CRIST:** Somehow it's not reassuring.  
 11 **MR. JAMES:** When I say 30 year life, I'm  
 12 talking about 30 years before we would have to do  
 13 anything major to the facility. Not that we would  
 14 walk away. I mean, there's facilities right now  
 15 that are 25 years old that are still being used.  
 16 **MR. BUSBY:** But there isn't a land  
 17 reclamation process or procedure by the State of  
 18 Illinois.  
 19 **MR. WEST:** There's nothing in the  
 20 regulation.  
 21 **MR. GOETSCH:** There is the requirement  
 22 for all of the manure to be removed from the  
 23 structures for the facility to be -- if it were to  
 24 be abandoned, any facility, they are required to

1 remove all of the manure from the structure. At  
 2 that point they are allowed, like any farm  
 3 building, you can push the concrete in and then  
 4 fill it with soil.  
 5 So yes, there are requirements in the  
 6 Livestock Management Facilities Act for the  
 7 cessation of a facility's use. They're not as  
 8 extensive as for wind turbines. There's no  
 9 monetary requirement for them to put money up with  
 10 the county, for example. A bond or something like  
 11 that. That requirement is not in the LMFA. You  
 12 got to remember the LMFA was written back in the  
 13 mid-nineties. The solar legislation, or excuse  
 14 me, the wind power legislation, the AIMARs, the ag  
 15 impact mitigation agreement requirements, those  
 16 only went into effect, what, last year or two  
 17 years ago?  
 18 So, I think the thought process has  
 19 changed somewhat. But, there are abandonment  
 20 requirements in the LMFA on how to take a facility  
 21 out of service.  
 22 **MR. BUSBY:** One last question, if I may.  
 23 I'll make it quick. Are there any plans for  
 24 expansion of another barn at this site or anywhere

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1 on that Chestnut property?  
2 **MR. JAMES:** We don't have any plans to  
3 expand beyond the one barn.  
4 **MR. BUSBY:** But you're looking at two  
5 more sites in the area, correct? You've got a  
6 contract with Effingham Equity to build X number  
7 of sites in this area. You've got two more to be  
8 built?  
9 **MR. JAMES:** Sure.  
10 **MR. BUSBY:** So you don't know where  
11 those are going?  
12 **MR. JAMES:** One of them is probably  
13 going to go in Edgar County. And I'm not sure  
14 where the other one will go. We don't have any  
15 site.  
16 **MR. BUSBY:** But it couldn't go right  
17 next to this one?  
18 **MR. JAMES:** We don't have any plans to  
19 do that. We're not sizing anything for it.  
20 **MR. BUSBY:** But you're not really  
21 answering my question. You say you don't have any  
22 plans.  
23 **MR. GOETSCH:** There are requirements,  
24 again, in the LMFA. If they propose to build a --

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1 if they wanted to add a building, if they did it  
2 within or if they proposed to do it within two  
3 years, am I correct, Doug? Of this process, then  
4 the whole site would be -- we'd start all over.  
5 And it would be treated as a new site. Would have  
6 to go through public informational meeting. Their  
7 setback distances would be increased  
8 proportionately with the number of animals that  
9 would be proposed. There are requirements in the  
10 statute for that. There is also a provision in  
11 the statute that allows you to expand a facility  
12 as long as you do not expand it to beyond --- the  
13 expansion value would have to be less than 50  
14 percent of the fixed capital cost of a comparable  
15 entirely new facility for them to be able to  
16 expand.  
17 The process is included in the statute.  
18 **MR. BUSBY:** So the answer is yes, you  
19 can build another barn there in the future if you  
20 decide as long as you comply with the Illinois  
21 Department of Agricultural regulations?  
22 **MR. GOETSCH:** That's correct.  
23 **MR. JAMES:** With this farm though, with  
24 the wells that we have, it pretty well limits it

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1 to one barn.  
2 **MR. BUSBY:** Well, you can drill more  
3 wells.  
4 **MR. WEST:** Before we get too deep into  
5 this, the main restriction that we run into is  
6 farm ground. You can only put so many animals on  
7 one piece of property because we want to use the  
8 manure for the crop ground. If we've got to go  
9 five miles away for the farm ground, then it no  
10 longer makes any sense to do so. So, that's the  
11 reason that there's one barn here.  
12 **MR. BUSBY:** I got you.  
13 **MR. RIFE:** Can I bring up a question?  
14 **MR. COLL:** We're going to go to you and  
15 then to you. And then back to Mr. Crist.  
16 **MR. RIFE:** You said, why do you put all  
17 these facilities in the same place, you said  
18 because of water source, correct?  
19 **MR. WEST:** I didn't say that.  
20 **MR. RIFE:** Let me ask you this. Where do  
21 all these hogs come from? They're not local.  
22 These come from all over the country, correct? Is  
23 that correct?  
24 **MR. JAMES:** Effingham Equity supplies

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1 the pigs  
2 **MR. RIFE:** Comes from all over the  
3 country, correct?  
4 **MR. JAMES:** I don't know about all over  
5 the country.  
6 **MR. RIFE:** What happens if you get an  
7 infected hog?  
8 **MR. COLL:** Can you please let the  
9 response --  
10 **MR. JAMES:** I don't know if all over the  
11 country. But, most -- like the pigs we've got  
12 right now are coming out of Arkansas.  
13 **MR. RIFE:** That's not local, correct?  
14 **MR. JAMES:** They're just not produced  
15 local.  
16 **MR. RIFE:** What happens if you get an  
17 infected hog with this disease they're talking  
18 about? Will you explain that? What happens?  
19 I've looked into this. In a large area what  
20 happens and for how long? Can you explain that?  
21 You're the expert.  
22 **MR. JAMES:** I don't know what you're  
23 referring to.  
24 **MR. RIFE:** This disease that these hogs

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1 carry, all it takes is one hog, what happens? You  
2 know what happens. You don't want to explain, is  
3 that correct?  
4 **MR. COLL:** Sir --  
5 **MR. RIFE:** I've looked into it --  
6 **MR. JAMES:** What disease are you talking  
7 about?  
8 **MR. RIFE:** I've looked into diseases hogs  
9 can carry. You have to shut that facility down  
10 for three years, correct, until --  
11 **MR. COLL:** One person talking at a time,  
12 please.  
13 **MR. WEST:** First of all, I don't know  
14 which disease you're referring to.  
15 **MR. RIFE:** Let's say a swine flu; swine,  
16 swine flu, whatever. Is it swine flu? I don't  
17 know. Everybody comes to me and tells me things.  
18 I'm asking you. You're the expert.  
19 **MR. WEST:** That disease is not in the  
20 United States.  
21 **MR. RIFE:** What disease comes into this  
22 facility? What happens?  
23 **MR. COLL:** One person at a time. Okay.  
24 We've got a question.

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1 **MR. WEST:** First, that disease is not in  
2 the United States, period. It's not in the United  
3 States. There are protocols set in the industry  
4 and within the Government if a foreign disease  
5 outbreak occurs. There's nothing anywhere that  
6 says you have to shut any farm down for three  
7 years.  
8 **MR. COLL:** Next question.  
9 **MR. ANDERSON:** Nick Anderson,  
10 A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. To the department, and on a  
11 broader spectrum with the Department of  
12 Agriculture and regulations, do you have indemnity  
13 for other farm structures like grain bins,  
14 abandoned rural structures, are any of those  
15 requirements in place through the Department of  
16 Agriculture?  
17 **MR. GOETSCH:** No.  
18 **MR. COLL:** Now, Mr. Crist.  
19 **MR. CRIST:** C-R-I-S-T. You covered it in  
20 the power point, but I didn't absorb it all. How  
21 far are you hauling the manure?  
22 **MR. WEST:** I don't know the exact  
23 distance. It's all right there around the farm.  
24 It's all on Mr. Chestnut's ground. So all local

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1 ground.  
2 **MR. CRIST:** So when you talk about the  
3 traffic pattern though, you're not leaving that  
4 road or you're going on the Indianola Ridge Farm  
5 Road? Can we go back to the power point picture  
6 or not?  
7 **MR. WEST:** Well, there is two options in  
8 those pictures. I showed a tanker and I showed a  
9 drag line. So, typically it's not efficient to  
10 run up and down the road with either of those.  
11 It's a lot of trips for not a lot of volume.  
12 So, normally what occurs is we have the  
13 line, it's pumped from the building to the field,  
14 and then it's applied. So you're not talking  
15 about extra trips up and down the road with that  
16 equipment.  
17 **MR. COLL:** All right. Are there any  
18 further questions?  
19 **MS. SHELTON:** I have one. My name is  
20 Valerie Shelton. I have lived in Ridge Farm most  
21 of my life and I'd like to ask you two gentlemen,  
22 do either one of you live close to one of these  
23 facilities that you're talking about? You live  
24 that close?

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1 **MR. WEST:** Yes.  
2 **MS. SHELTON:** How close do you live?  
3 **MR. WEST:** I live less than half a mile  
4 **MS. SHELTON:** Half a mile? How long have  
5 you lived there?  
6 **MR. WEST:** I have lived there for 14  
7 years.  
8 **MS. SHELTON:** 14 years.  
9 **MR. WEST:** The farm that I live next to  
10 is a lagoon farm. So everything is kept outside.  
11 All the manure is kept outside. And my point is  
12 on this, when we talk about odor, there's not a  
13 day that that farm keeps me indoors.  
14 **MS. SHELTON:** You probably are used to  
15 it.  
16 **MR. RIFE:** That's your choice.  
17 **MS. SHELTON:** Anyway, the other  
18 gentlemen, do you live close?  
19 **MR. JAMES:** I do not live close.  
20 **MS. SHELTON:** How come?  
21 **MR. JAMES:** It's just not where I live.  
22 **MR. COLL:** Are there further questions?  
23 **MR. INGRAM:** I have one; Ingram. This is  
24 for you, Mr. West. You're going to be traveling

1 semis past my house. Manure will escape from  
2 those semis probably. It's a known fact that it  
3 will. Who do I contact to get this cleaned up?  
4 EPA? Or do I call the hog farm? I want to know  
5 what's going to happen.

6 **MR. WEST:** Again, the trucks that I'm  
7 referring to are not manure hauling trucks.

8 **MR. INGRAM:** But the hogs are in the  
9 truck.

10 **MR. WEST:** Okay. I see where you're  
11 going. I thought we were going back to the  
12 conversation we were having with Mr. Crist.

13 **MR. INGRAM:** They're not going by my  
14 house.

15 **MR. WEST:** The first thing that I would  
16 offer is to call the farm. Call Parks. Call Mr.  
17 James.

18 **MR. INGRAM:** I just want to know who I'm  
19 going to call. I know it's going to happen.

20 **MR. WEST:** That is what I would offer  
21 up. I know Parks is always willing to work with  
22 the community, with their farms.

23 **MR. INGRAM:** But if I can't get ahold of  
24 Mr. Parks, then EPA?

1 you have written testimony that is not referred to  
2 in your oral testimony, I will accept it now, and  
3 enter it into the record. If you have written  
4 testimony that you will reference during your oral  
5 testimony, it can be entered into the record after  
6 your oral testimony.

7 Following the written testimony phase, I  
8 will take a ten-minute break. Is there any  
9 written testimony to be offered at this time? All  
10 right. At this time we will now take a ten-minute  
11 break.

12 (A break was taken at 7:15 p.m.)

13 (The time is 7:25 pm.)

14 **MR. COLL:** We're going to resume  
15 tonight's public informational meeting. We are  
16 now on to the oral testimony part of tonight's  
17 public informational meeting. I have with me the  
18 sign-up sheets that were at the entrance to the  
19 room listing the people who wish to provide oral  
20 testimony.

21 I will call the names of those who wish  
22 to testify. When called upon, please step up to  
23 the microphone, which I will place at the podium,  
24 state your name, spell your last name for the

1 **MR. WEST:** That would be the option.  
2 Yes.

3 **MR. INGRAM:** Thank you.

4 **MR. COLL:** Ms. Crist in the back.

5 **MS. CRIST:** Amy Rushing Crist, so when  
6 the roads eventually get broke down from all the  
7 semis coming through, who is going to be  
8 responsible for the road repairs? Us local  
9 residents and our taxes? We're going to be the  
10 ones responsible for their business profit.

11 **MR. COLL:** Are there any further  
12 questions?

13 **MS. CRIST:** You can answer my question,  
14 if I'm incorrect in my answer in that. I would  
15 like to know who's going to pay for the road  
16 repairs?

17 **MR. WEST:** The taxes, the road  
18 commission taxes pay for those.

19 **MS. CRIST:** Exactly.

20 **MR. WEST:** The township. It's the same  
21 taxes that the farm is paying into.

22 **MS. CRIST:** Exactly.

23 **MR. COLL:** Last call for questions? All  
24 right. I will now accept written testimony. If

1 benefit of the court reporter. I will then swear  
2 you in. Remember, you will have three minutes to  
3 speak. Are there any attorneys present tonight  
4 representing clients? Please raise your hand. I  
5 see none.

6 Is there anyone who hasn't signed the  
7 oral testimony sheet who would like to do so now?  
8 Please raise your hand. I see none.

9 All right. First to testify tonight  
10 will be Leigh Busby, mayor.

11 **MS. BUSBY:** Thank you very much. I'm  
12 going to spell my first and last name for the  
13 court reporter. It's L-E-I-G-H. B-U-S-B-Y.

14 (Witness sworn. )

15 **MS. BUSBY:** And I don't know if this  
16 actually qualifies as testimony or not. But, when  
17 we heard about the hog confinement, I felt as  
18 mayor of Ridge Farm that it was my fiduciary  
19 responsibility to circulate the petitions and have  
20 this meeting this evening.

21 And I would like to thank the Department  
22 of Agriculture, the people that were here from  
23 Parks, and all of you for showing up tonight. I  
24 really appreciate it. I think there's been some

1 good back and forth here tonight.  
 2 I also want to thank our board  
 3 representatives, Steve Fourez for being here this  
 4 evening for District 3, which Ridge Farm falls in.  
 5 **MR. NESBIT:** Chuck Nesbit is here too.  
 6 **MS. BUSBY:** Oh, hi. Chuck Nesbit is  
 7 here as well from District 3. And I know we got a  
 8 couple others. We have the attorney for the  
 9 county board and a couple of other representatives  
 10 from the county board here this evening.  
 11 I just want to thank everybody for  
 12 coming. My concerns that were voiced to me when  
 13 we heard about this hog confinement were the  
 14 limited amount of the setbacks. I think those  
 15 should be revisited. That's my personal opinion.  
 16 I don't think a half a mile from a town or a  
 17 quarter of a mile from a residence is far enough.  
 18 And I realize that this one is two plus miles away  
 19 from town. But, I also don't feel that's enough.  
 20 I just wish that the Department of Agriculture  
 21 would consider revisiting those setbacks.  
 22 We have a lot of residents in Ridge Farm  
 23 that have respiratory problems and other health  
 24 problems. And I'm just hoping that this doesn't

1 adversely affect them. We also have some concerns  
 2 that were voiced this evening about droppings as  
 3 the trucks go through town. That could affect the  
 4 health and welfare and quality of life of our  
 5 citizens as well.  
 6 And I just felt like as, it's my  
 7 responsibility to voice those concerns. I think  
 8 that's about all that I really wanted to say this  
 9 evening, except to thank everybody for showing up  
 10 tonight, and anybody else that has anything to  
 11 say, I'll turn it over to them. Thank you very  
 12 much.  
 13 **MR. COLL:** Thank you, mayor. Next this  
 14 evening I'd like to call Mr. Brad Brown.  
 15 **MR. BROWN:** Brad Brown, B-R-O-W-N.  
 16 (Witness sworn.)  
 17 **MR. BROWN:** I'm a Ridge Farm native. I  
 18 own the property directly west of the property  
 19 where this is being built. I'm going to be right  
 20 honest with you. I have no issues with this. I  
 21 see this as a pathway to keep a young man that's  
 22 growing up in our community, in our community.  
 23 A little background on me. I have a  
 24 degree in animal science, a four year bachelor's

1 degree. I worked in hog farms similar to this,  
 2 anywhere from a 120 animal pure bred operation  
 3 that they ran in wood lots to a 20,000 dollar --  
 4 or a 20,000 head a year operation down at Dana,  
 5 Indiana, which everybody has drove by. It's three  
 6 times that size now. You don't smell it.  
 7 I grew up on the farm where Mr. Rife  
 8 grew up. I understand some of Rick's issues.  
 9 Things have changed immensely over the years. I  
 10 don't think that it's going to be a major down  
 11 fall like he's portraying, or the negativity  
 12 that's being thrown out about this. Also, the  
 13 Chestnut family are my neighbors where I  
 14 personally live which is no where near this  
 15 property, by the way. Just to get that out front.  
 16 I found the Chestnuts to be very good stewards of  
 17 the farm. They watch what they do. They don't  
 18 abuse the ground. They are very good stewards of  
 19 the farm. That's been my observation. So, other  
 20 than that, thank you.  
 21 **MR. COLL:** Thank you, Mr. Brown. Next  
 22 I'd like to call Mr. Dennis Smith.  
 23 **MR. SMITH:** My name is Dennis Smith,  
 24 S-M-I-T-H.

1 (Witness sworn. )  
 2 **MR. SMITH:** Good evening. As I said, my  
 3 name is Dennis Smith, I'm from Ridge Farm. I  
 4 serve as Vermilion County Farm Bureau president.  
 5 And I would like to thank the department for the  
 6 opportunity to speak this evening. And the  
 7 subject of livestock development in Vermilion  
 8 County.  
 9 I'm also a sixth generation farmer  
 10 raising grain and livestock in Ridge Farm and  
 11 Georgetown area.  
 12 Today's farms have changed over the last  
 13 few decades. Just as many of our homes and  
 14 businesses have evolved through the years,  
 15 although the size of farms has grown for some, the  
 16 values we hold dear are just as strong today.  
 17 Same as they were generations ago.  
 18 We too want safe food, quality care of  
 19 animals and protection for our environment. The  
 20 Livestock Facilities Management Act governs the  
 21 siting, construction, and certain aspects of  
 22 operating livestock farms in our state and insures  
 23 the livestock farms are sited on scientific  
 24 objective criteria.

1 The rules are applied uniformly  
2 throughout the state. Tonight this meeting is  
3 provided for the neighbors and community members  
4 and giving them an opportunity to ask questions or  
5 comment on a proposed construction of a new barn  
6 in Vermilion County.

7 The testimony presented outlines plans  
8 for this proposed barn for each of them to meet a  
9 set of criteria in the LMFA, including  
10 environmental protections, manure management, and  
11 odor mitigation.

12 Farm Bureau supports all aspects of  
13 agriculture, including the development of  
14 livestock farms. Animal agriculture plays a vital  
15 role in the economies of Illinois including  
16 counties such as Vermilion. As an organization,  
17 our policy encourages the growth and enhancement  
18 of livestock in Illinois, provided these farms  
19 comply with statutory and regulatory requirements.  
20 In the testimony tonight, the information  
21 contained within the application and inspections  
22 of the proposed barn shows this project has the  
23 ability to meet the standards set forth in the  
24 LMFA, then it should be allowed to proceed

1 through the LMFA process to the next phase.  
2 Bringing more livestock production into  
3 Illinois, and specifically Vermilion County,  
4 allows future generations an opportunity to become  
5 involved in animal agriculture. The prospects  
6 available to newer farmers can be limited, but  
7 expanding a farm to include livestock allows those  
8 interested a place in the agriculture industry.

9 On behalf of Vermilion County Farm  
10 Bureau, I appreciate the opportunity to speak  
11 tonight. Thank you.

12 **MR. COLL:** Next I'd like to call Tammy  
13 Halterman.

14 **MS. HALTERMAN:** Tammy, H-A-L-T-E-R-M-A-N.  
15 (Witness sworn.)

16 **MS. HALTERMAN:** Good evening. I am  
17 Tammy Halterman, district director for Illinois  
18 Farm Bureau. I would like to thank the Department  
19 of Ag for the opportunity to speak this evening on  
20 the proposed hog farm in Vermilion County.

21 My family and I raise livestock and farm  
22 in Grundy County, and through my involvement with  
23 the organization I have worked with farmers  
24 throughout the state on matters relating to

1 livestock.

2 Agriculture is a key industry in  
3 Vermilion County contributing to nearly 40 percent  
4 of local economy and almost 38,000 jobs.  
5 Livestock farms create demand for local products  
6 and services, including a market for grain. Pork  
7 producers are one of the largest consumers of corn  
8 and soybeans, creating demand in markets for grain  
9 farmers throughout the area. The LMFA insures  
10 farms like this are designed to be protective of  
11 the environment; in fact, according to the most  
12 recent data available from the Illinois EPA, fewer  
13 than one percent of livestock farms in Illinois  
14 have any environmental issues.

15 Through these regulations and industry  
16 efforts the performance of today's livestock farms  
17 have been greatly improved. The testimony  
18 presented here tonight shared evidence on how this  
19 farm intends to meet the eight siting criteria as  
20 outlined in the LMFA. If the department  
21 determines all eight criteria for siting the farm  
22 have been met, this farm should be able to  
23 continue through the provisions of the act.  
24 Vermilion County needs the benefit of livestock

1 farms. Because of the regulation in place for  
2 livestock, I am confident hog farms can be safe  
3 and beneficial for this county. Thank you.

4 **MR. COLL:** Thank you. Next I'd like to  
5 call Mr. Rick Rife.

6 (Witness sworn. )

7 **MR. RIFE:** Rick Rife, R-I-F-E. I'm not  
8 against this hog facility's location. And  
9 everybody here would probably be in my position.

10 I'm not a farmer. I bought my property because  
11 it's in the country. It was quiet. Peaceful. If  
12 there had been a hog farm there, I would have  
13 never bought it. Never been there. This seems  
14 like I'm getting run out of my property, is what  
15 it is. Anybody, even a farmer, I'm listening to  
16 all these agriculture. I'd like to know all of  
17 these agriculture people that are speaking here  
18 actually live next to this smell. I bet you none  
19 of 'em do. I bought -- not all of them. Some of  
20 you probably do.

21 But, like I said, I'm not a farmer. I  
22 bought this place because it was peaceful. I put  
23 all my time, effort, I'm a business owner, I own  
24 properties, I keep all my properties, I mean

1 immaculate is what I do. And I built this for my  
 2 family. My property. I put a lot of time,  
 3 effort, money into it. And it just seems like I'm  
 4 getting ran out.  
 5 I mean, I didn't -- there wasn't a hog  
 6 facility there when I moved there. Why does have  
 7 there to be one there now? There's other places  
 8 it could go, and Chestnuts know it. I don't know  
 9 why they're doing this. If you would actually  
 10 measure from my property lines, I think, which I'm  
 11 going to try to get them, I'm right on the border,  
 12 if not under the measurements you're talking  
 13 about.  
 14 And I'm just against it. I think  
 15 anybody else would be against it if they was in my  
 16 position. I don't care who they are, farmer or  
 17 not. But, that's all I got to say I guess.  
 18 **MR. COLL:** Thank you. Next I'd like to  
 19 call Mr. Nick Anderson.  
 20 **MR. ANDERSON:** Nick Anderson,  
 21 A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N.  
 22 (Witness sworn. )  
 23 **MR. ANDERSON:** Thanks everyone for being  
 24 here. Thank you for the department. The county

1 about road impacts, and I know the road  
 2 commissioner is here, and trying to work on  
 3 agreements on a different traffic pattern that  
 4 might be out there. But try to consider a farm of  
 5 this size will equal the amount of truck traffic,  
 6 semi traffic, that we move grain throughout the  
 7 country on to around 800 acre grain field is going  
 8 to pull the same amount of trucks out on that  
 9 township road that we're using already.  
 10 Now, typically those are seasonal so we  
 11 do have to make some arrangements to address those  
 12 seasonal issues. But, if we can't use our rural  
 13 roads that we pay taxes on, what good are they?  
 14 And this farm has to use those roads. And it's in  
 15 their best interests to maintain them and work  
 16 cooperatively in the community.  
 17 And I think they expressed that, whether  
 18 you believe it or not. But I think there's great  
 19 people involved in this project that are going to  
 20 stand up to do that.  
 21 Property values in rural America have  
 22 skyrocketed. We got an example in DeKalb County  
 23 of an existing swine farm of a similar size where  
 24 an urban development of a 300 housing development

1 board for calling the meeting. And the Parks  
 2 group and Frank & West for giving that  
 3 presentation.  
 4 My take on this tonight is that they  
 5 will meet all of the siting criteria of the act.  
 6 There are some concerns that community people  
 7 have, that's not unlike other communities.  
 8 Fortunately, in Vermilion County we have some  
 9 other good examples to highlight and show impacts.  
 10 And even though this barn is smaller, just up at  
 11 Fithian, and there was controversy there too, but  
 12 people can exist, and I know there will continue  
 13 to be livestock barns built around the country and  
 14 we hope Vermilion County.  
 15 I think knowing the Chestnuts, the Parks  
 16 group tonight being a Vermilion County company,  
 17 those concerns can be addressed. And if issues do  
 18 arise, I think we're all a phone call away. I  
 19 mean, they built their business in this community.  
 20 The Chestnuts want to reinvest in that for the  
 21 future generations.  
 22 I believe their integrity will show  
 23 through if there should be some challenges. I  
 24 would also like to put in perspective if you think

1 moved to his -- towards his farm, within a half a  
 2 mile. DeKalb County is one of the biggest  
 3 metropolitan areas that we have in this state.  
 4 And it is also one of the biggest livestock farms,  
 5 counties, in the state. And they can co-exist.  
 6 And through their county zoning, and  
 7 urbanization, they have pretty strict laws to do  
 8 that. But they can co-exist, especially with 300  
 9 neighbors next to a 5,000 head finisher. It can  
 10 happen and it does happen.  
 11 The department has permitted over 1,700  
 12 livestock farms in the state, not all of this  
 13 size, but a lot comparably. We've got good  
 14 success stories out there. And if there are  
 15 issues that need to be addressed, the industry and  
 16 the farms that are on them, we support that  
 17 communication and that cooperation.  
 18 On the water consumption, if you take  
 19 the city of Ridge Farm, and I will finish up real  
 20 quick. 800 some odd people are going to use over  
 21 200,000 gallons of water daily. It really doesn't  
 22 compare to this farm's consumption. And the cone,  
 23 I hope you can go to the Illinois State Water  
 24 Survey and look up water consumption and water

1 depreciation. There's some good examples for you  
2 to educate yourself about how water moves and how  
3 you maintain that. Thank you again tonight and  
4 thanks for the efforts. Appreciate it.

5 **MR. COLL:** Thank you, Mr. Anderson. And  
6 finally this evening, I'd like to call Gabe  
7 Shepherd.

8 **MR. SHEPHERD:** Gabe Shepherd,  
9 S-H-E-P-H-E-R-D.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 **MR. SHEPHERD:** As I said, Gabe Shepherd.  
12 My family has raised livestock for generations in  
13 the Fithian and Oakwood area.

14 Personally, I'm up here in support with  
15 the Chestnut family and the Parks family, and also  
16 I'm personal friends with David James, who is  
17 their employee.

18 We have a facility similar to this, as  
19 it was talked about earlier. Ours is twice as  
20 large as what is being proposed in Ridge Farm. I  
21 could sit up here and tell you, this isn't a big  
22 deal. Don't worry about it. To people in your  
23 community, it is a big deal. We let fear drive  
24 our emotions so many times. And all you got to do

1 bigger. Schools are bigger. Churches are bigger.  
2 Livestock has largely left this community 20, 30,  
3 40 years ago. And so this is kind of a shock.

4 It's not like oh, yeah, they still have hogs,  
5 they're just adding on. This is new. And I get  
6 folks concerns.

7 So, like I said, I don't want to beat a  
8 dead horse. I just would encourage everyone to  
9 try to keep an open mind. Communicate, and I  
10 guess that's it. I will be around if anybody  
11 would like to talk to me about our experience. I  
12 would be more than happy to share it with them.  
13 Thank you, guys.

14 **MR. COLL:** This concludes the oral  
15 testimony portion of the meeting. Are there any  
16 closing remarks from the facility? And now the  
17 department will provide some closing remarks.

18 **A VOICE:** Is there a time to add written  
19 testimony or is that closed? Never mind. We will  
20 send it in.

21 **MR. COLL:** We can accept written  
22 testimony now if there's anyone else who has  
23 written testimony. Anyone else have any written  
24 testimony at this time? Okay. And now we will

1 is go to the Internet. I'm sure some you have  
2 done this. You go to Google, you type in animal  
3 confinement, and it takes several websites to ever  
4 get to anything that is positive.

5 And I challenge you guys tonight to try  
6 and keep an open mind to this. Parks and the  
7 Chestnut family are extremely responsible  
8 operators. And it has been mentioned that I can  
9 certainly guarantee they will go the extra mile to  
10 keep relations good in the community.

11 So, like I said, I'm not going to tell  
12 Rick that it's never going to smell at his house  
13 because it's a hog barn, folks. It's gonna smell  
14 at times. It's -- I'm up here, our family has  
15 livestock. I have 800 head of cattle at my house.  
16 I grew up on a farm where my parents live.  
17 There's 1,000 head of hogs there. We're actually  
18 in the process of building a 2,400 head facility.  
19 And these barns are literally within 300 feet of  
20 my parents house and my barns are within 300 feet  
21 of my house, and I'm a mile and a quarter from the  
22 Parks facility that we partnered with Parks two,  
23 two-and-a-half years ago.

24 So, just like anything, Wal-Marts are

1 have remarks from the department.

2 **MR. GOETSCH:** I just want to say that on  
3 behalf of Director Sullivan and the Department of  
4 Agriculture I'd like to thank you all for coming  
5 out tonight and participating in this public  
6 informational meeting.

7 Let me assure you that the department  
8 does appreciate the time and effort that you've  
9 put forward to provide us with your comments. I'm  
10 sure that the Vermilion County board will consider  
11 those comments as they develop their  
12 recommendation to the department, and I certainly  
13 will assure you that we will take those comments  
14 into consideration as we complete our evaluation  
15 process. Thank you again and have a safe trip  
16 home this evening.

17 **MR. COLL:** As I mentioned earlier, a  
18 copy of the transcript will be provided to the  
19 county board. For others desiring a copy, the  
20 transcript will be available by contacting the  
21 court reporter. Thank you for your attendance  
22 tonight. This public informational meeting is  
23 hereby closed.

24 (The time is 7:48 p.m.)

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
2 COUNTY OF CHAMPAIGN ) SS

3 I, DEANN K. PARKINSON, a Notary Public  
4 in and for the County of Champaign State of  
5 Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
6 hearing was taken on October 10, 2019.

7 That said hearing was taken down in  
8 stenographic notes and afterwards reduced to  
9 typewriting under my instruction and said  
10 transcription is a true record of the testimony  
11 given.

12 I do hereby certify that I am a  
13 disinterested person in this cause of action; that  
14 I am not a relative of any party or any attorney  
15 of record in this cause, or an attorney for any  
16 party herein, or otherwise interested in the event  
17 of this action, and am not in the employ of the  
18 attorneys for either party.

19 In witness whereof, I have hereunto set  
20 my hand and affixed my notarial seal October 18th,  
21 2019.

22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 DEANN K. PARKINSON, CSR  
24 NOTARY PUBLIC

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