1 (5:02 p.m.)

2 MR. SONDGEROTH: Good evening. On behalf of
3 Raymond Poe, Director of the Illinois Department of
4 Agriculture, we thank you very much for the invitation
5 to come to Vermilion County today.

6 My name is Craig Sondgeroth. I am with the
7 Illinois Department of Agriculture and I will be
8 serving as the hearing officer for tonight's public
9 informational meeting.

10 Also with me on behalf of the Department are
11 Warren Goetsch, Deputy Director of the Department, and
12 Doug Owens, manager of the Bureau's Livestock Program.

13 This meeting is being conducted pursuant to
14 Section 12 of the Livestock Management Facilities Act.
15 The informational meeting is being held at the request
16 of the Vermilion County Board and is to afford members
17 of the public an opportunity to ask questions and
18 present oral and written testimony regarding the
19 proposed construction of a new 3,360 animal unit swine
20 finishing facility by Parks-Livestock Radamacher.

21 My task this evening is to ensure that this
22 meeting is conducted in an orderly fashion and to
23 ensure all comments and testimony received are entered
24 into the record.

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

1 will ask that you state your name and spell your last
2 name for the court reporter. You then may ask your
3 question.
4 Depending on the number of people who wish to
5 testify in the oral testimony phase of the meeting,
6 which is after the question phase, there may be a time
7 limit placed on the questioning phase.
8 Following the question and answer phase, I
9 will ask for written testimony. If anyone has written
10 testimony that is not part of your oral testimony, I
11 will accept it and enter it into the record for this
12 proceeding.
13 If you have written material that you will be
14 using as part of your oral testimony, it can be entered
15 into the record following your oral testimony. Then
16 depending on the amount of time that has elapsed at
17 this point in the meeting, we may take a short break.
18 Following the written testimony, I will ask
19 for oral testimony from the public. Sign-in sheets
20 were placed in the back of the room as you came in; one
21 sheet for attendance and a second sheet for testimony.
22 People who wish to provide comments during
23 this oral testimony phase are asked to sign the oral
24 testimony sheet. People providing oral comments will

1 be sworn in and will be subject to questioning from the
2 public.
3 We have a great court reporter this evening
4 but you will need to speak so she can take down what
5 you say. She may ask you to slow down or repeat what
6 you said.
7 Each person will be given 3 minutes to
8 provide his or her comments. Legal counsel speaking on
9 behalf of multiple clients will be given a total of 15
10 minutes for all clients and will be asked to state the
11 names of all the persons on whose behalf he or she is
12 speaking. Deferring time to other speakers will not be
13 allowed.
14 If you signed an oral testimony sheet, you
15 may either speak or if you have changed your mind, you
16 may pass. You may not give your time to someone else.
17 Also please keep in mind if you do not wish
18 to be asked questions regarding your oral testimony, do
19 not sign the sheet or if you have signed it already,
20 indicate you would like to pass when I call your name.
21 The meeting will then conclude with closing comments
22 from the facility and Department of Agriculture.
23 To summarize the procedure tonight, we will
24 have comments from the Department, comments from the

1 facility, questions directed to the Department and the
2 facility.
3 Remember to state your name and spell it for
4 the record. Written testimony will be accepted and
5 there will be oral testimony from the public. People
6 will be sworn in and questions may be asked of the
7 testimony.
8 And then we will have closing comments.
9 Please keep in mind we are not here this evening to
10 discuss or debate the merits or perceive inadequacies
11 of the existing regulations or laws.
12 We are here tonight to receive information on
13 the particular proposed livestock facility to assist
14 with determining compliance with the existing
15 regulations.
16 This is a public informational meeting, not a
17 court proceeding. The purpose is to share information
18 and provide an opportunity for the Department, members
19 of the County Board, and you, the public, to learn
20 about this proposed facility.
21 Again, we very much appreciate your
22 hospitality for inviting us here tonight to consider
23 the proposed construction of the Parks-Livestock
24 Radamacher swine finishing facility.

1 Please remember to confine your comments and
2 questions to that subject as we continue. I will now
3 turn the proceedings over to Warren Goetsch for remarks
4 from the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
5 MR. GOETSCH: Good evening. As the hearing
6 officer indicated, my name is Warren Goetsch. I
7 currently serve as the Deputy Director for the Illinois
8 Department of Agriculture.
9 I also am the acting Bureau Chief of the
10 Bureau of Environmental Programs who is charged with
11 the administration of the Livestock Management
12 Facilities Act.
13 On behalf of the Department, let me welcome
14 you to this public informational meeting. Before we
15 hear from the proposed facility's representatives, I
16 would like to say a few words regarding the applicable
17 provisions of the Livestock Management Facilities Act
18 and the current status of this proposed project.
19 The Livestock Management Facilities Act was
20 originally passed and became law on May 21 of 1996.
21 Just short of 21 years ago. Since that time, the Act
22 has been amended three times: First during the General
23 Assembly's 1997 Fall Veto Session; second during the
24 General Assembly's 1999 Spring Session; and most

1 recently during the 2007 Spring Session of the General
2 Assembly.
3 The Act can be generally described as
4 covering five major areas: Livestock facility design
5 standards; waste management planning requirements;
6 facility operator training and testing; anaerobic
7 lagoon financial responsibility demonstration; and
8 facility setback requirements.
9 Each of these provisions impacts various
10 types of facilities in different ways depending upon
11 their size, expressed in animal units, and whether the
12 proposed facility is considered as a new facility, a
13 modified facility or an expansion of an existing site.
14 The Livestock Management Facilities Act's
15 provisions are quite complicated and specific facility
16 designs and situations certainly can differ. It is,
17 however, the Department's intention to always fairly
18 and equitably apply these requirements to the livestock
19 industry in this state.
20 Now regarding the current status of this
21 particular proposal, the Department received a formal
22 Notice of Intent to Construct Application for the
23 proposed construction of a swine facility on November
24 15, 2016.

1 The proposed project is to consist of the
2 construction of two finishing buildings each measuring
3 101 feet, 8 inches by 341 feet with an 8 foot deep
4 under building livestock waste handling structure.
5 The project is proposed to be located
6 approximately 2.9 miles northwest of Fithian, Illinois,
7 in western Vermilion County. The application was
8 submitted by Effingham Equity on behalf of
9 Parks-Livestock Radamacher of Fithian, Illinois.
10 The maximum design capacity of the proposed
11 facility is 3,360 animal units or 8,400 head of swine
12 each greater than 55 pounds in weight.
13 As I mentioned earlier, the Department
14 received the Notice of Intent to Construct Application
15 on November 15 and reviewed it for its compliance with
16 the applicable provisions of the Act.
17 On December 12, the Department determined
18 that the Notice was complete and forwarded a copy of
19 that completed application to the Vermilion County
20 Board. Notice of that application was also published
21 in the appropriate newspaper.
22 The design capacity of the proposed facility
23 requires compliance with a residential setback distance
24 of not less than 1,760 feet and a populated area

1 setback distance of not less than 3,520 feet.
2 On January 17, the Department received
3 official notice from the Vermilion County Board
4 requesting that a public informational meeting be
5 scheduled regarding the proposal.
6 After further consultation with the County
7 Board, the Department scheduled this meeting and caused
8 notice of the meeting to be published again in the
9 appropriate newspapers.
10 An additional requirement of the Livestock
11 Management Facilities Act deals with the design and
12 construction plans and specifications for a livestock
13 waste handling facility.
14 The Department has received a formal
15 submittal of detailed engineering design plans and
16 specifications for the proposed project's under
17 building livestock waste handling facility.
18 However, a detailed review of the
19 aforementioned plans has not been completed at this
20 time. As such, the Department is currently unable to
21 comment as to the compliance of those plans and specs
22 with the statutory requirements of the Act.
23 We are here tonight or actually this
24 afternoon to receive testimony regarding the proposed

1 livestock management facility's compliance with the
2 eight siting criteria as defined in Section 12,
3 paragraph (d) of the Livestock Management Facilities
4 Act.
5 In general, information regarding the
6 following would be appropriate for this meeting: Manure
7 management planning; potential impact of the proposed
8 facility on the surrounding area's character; whether
9 the proposed facility is located within any flood
10 plains or other sensitive areas; odor control plans;
11 possible impact of the proposed facility on existing
12 area traffic patterns; and possible impact of the
13 proposed facility on community growth, tourism and
14 recreation or economic development of the area.
15 Copies of the specific criteria were
16 available on the table with the sign-in sheets. If
17 anyone would like to have a copy of the criteria but
18 failed to pick one up, if you would just raise your
19 hand, we will be happy to get a copy to you. Keep your
20 hands up and Mr. Owens will get a copy to you.
21 Finally, the process that will be followed
22 after this evening's meeting is as follows: The County
23 Board will have up to 30 business days from today's
24 meeting to submit to the Department a nonbinding

1 recommendation relative to the proposed siting of this
2 facility.
3 Thus, a recommendation from the Vermilion
4 County Board is due at the Department on or before
5 March 15, 2017. After the close of the County's 30
6 business day comment period, the Department will have
7 15 calendar days or until March 30 to review the
8 information submitted to date including the Notice of
9 Intent to Construct, construction plans, transcripts
10 from this evening's meeting, the County Board's
11 recommendation, and any other additional information
12 submitted by the owners at the request of the
13 Department.
14 Based on that review, the Department will
15 determine whether the eight siting criteria have been
16 met. Once that determination has been made, the
17 Department will notify both the County Board and the
18 applicant of the Department's determination.
19 Mr. Hearing Officer, at this time I would
20 like to submit the completed Notice of Intent to
21 Construct Application and its associated correspondence
22 file for formal entry into the record as an exhibit.
23 MR. SONDGEROTH: Entered into the record as
24 Exhibit 1 with the completed Notice of Intent to

1 Construct.
2 MR. GOETSCH: I would also like to submit a
3 copy of the PowerPoint presentation that accompanied my
4 remarks as an exhibit as well. And with that, that
5 would conclude my formal remarks.
6 And again, I would like to thank you all for
7 your attention and I certainly look forward to your
8 comments regarding this proposal.
9 MR. SONDGEROTH: Exhibit 1 is not only the
10 Notice of Intent to Construct, it includes
11 correspondence between the Department and the
12 applicant, notice of informational meeting and
13 correspondence with Vermilion County officials, Exhibit
14 1.
15 Exhibit 2 is entered into the record as the
16 Department's PowerPoint presentation. At this time we
17 will hear comments from the facility.
18 Before you begin, for those of you that will
19 be presenting this evening, please state your name and
20 spell your last name for the court reporter and then I
21 will swear you in all together.
22 MR. HALSTEAD: My name is Art Halstead.
23 H-a-l-s-t-e-a-d. I am an operations manager for Parks
24 Livestock.

1 MR. NIMS: Jake Nims, n-i-m-s.
2 MR. KOLLMANN: Allen Kollmann,
3 k-o-l-l-m-a-n-n.
4 MR. SONDGEROTH: Will all of you please raise
5 your right hand.
6 (At this time they were duly sworn.)
7 MR. SONDGEROTH: Thank you. You may proceed.
8 MR. HALSTEAD: Thank you. Good evening. Once
9 again, my name is Art Halstead with Parks-Livestock.
10 And many of you know Lawrence Parks and his family have
11 deep roots here in the Oakwood area.
12 He learned how to buy and sell livestock,
13 mostly pigs, from his Grandfather Lloyd and his father,
14 Gary Parks. So as a very young boy he was buying and
15 selling livestock.
16 Through this guidance and support of Gary and
17 Phyllis's mom and his grandparents gave Lawrence the
18 ability to start the swine marketing business right
19 here in Vermilion County just east of Oakwood.
20 Lawrence's focus has always been on integrity
21 and doing things right for building the family
22 business. It has not always been an easy business, but
23 last year he celebrated 40 years in business that he
24 developed right out of high school.

1 Our main office is located in Henning on
2 Henning Road just on the east side of Danville and we
3 also continue to operate our original buying station on
4 Route 150 just east of Oakwood.
5 Lawrence and his wife Deanna have five
6 children; Lauren, Hayden, Haley, Marissa and McKenzie.
7 With ages ranging from 18 to 22 years old.
8 With their involvement in the business, they
9 are the 4th generation to serve the livestock industry
10 and their family looks forward to many more years of
11 continued success.
12 Our employees are like family to Lawrence.
13 He sincerely appreciates each and every one of them and
14 their contributions and support in what we do every
15 day.
16 Our employees are also active in their local
17 communities including Oakwood, Danville, Flatville, and
18 Veedersburg and others are engaged in roles and
19 volunteer activities in churches, schools and other
20 groups.
21 The Parks Company continues to be a generous
22 supporter at the national level for 4H and FFA and at
23 the local level at the Oakwood FFA chapter as well.
24 They also support the Oakwood Educational Foundation

1 each year as well.
2 We work with more than 20 farm families who
3 raise pigs. We are pleased to invest even more in our
4 home community and want to continue to support our
5 local area.
6 Lawrence is honored to have been raised in
7 this community and is beyond excitement and proud of it
8 that some of his children are planning on planting
9 their roots right here in Vermilion County just as he
10 did.
11 We understand the community is interested in
12 learning more about our project and we appreciate that
13 interest. We are pleased to have the opportunity to
14 explain more about the Parks Company and the plan for
15 this particular project.
16 With that, we want to assure everyone that we
17 will be good neighbors and good stewards of the
18 environment. Lawrence takes his responsibility very
19 seriously because of the reputation of his family
20 business and his children's future business depends
21 upon it.
22 The hog farm will add some additional tax
23 revenue to the school district and to the township.
24 Each year the hogs will consume approximately four to

1 five hundred acres of corn and 250 acres of soybeans.
2 That translates to about 150,000 bushels of corn on an
3 annual basis.
4 Each year the hogs will -- the proposed farm
5 has also met numerous regulations governed by the State
6 of Illinois under the Livestock Management Facilities
7 Act which contain provisions on how the facility is
8 designed.
9 And we have hired an engineer to ensure that
10 the barn meets and exceeds all the expectations of the
11 State. So with that being said, I will turn it over to
12 Jake and he will talk about those.
13 MR. NIMS: Good evening. My name is Jake Nims
14 with Frank and West Environmental Engineers out of
15 Springfield, Illinois. We will start off with an
16 introduction of the farm, give an overview and a layout
17 of the proposed barns and then also discuss the
18 conformance with the Livestock Management Facilities
19 Act and the eight criteria that Warren alluded to
20 earlier.
21 There is the yellow pin up here which is
22 where the facility is located in relation to Fithian
23 and the interstate overpass, just to give you a bearing
24 for the people that don't know that already.

1 The layout of the barns themselves, this
2 proposed farm consists of two buildings each measuring
3 341 feet by 101 feet, 8 inches with 75 feet in between
4 them.
5 The eight siting criteria that we have talked
6 about earlier, registration and certification
7 requirements, design location and operation standards,
8 location compatibility, flood plain and aquifer
9 protection, minimizing the environmental impact, odor
10 control, reduction, traffic patterns minimizing
11 impacts, and facility consistent with area development.
12 And as we get into each one of them, there is a little
13 more detailed definition.
14 Siting Criteria No. 1, Registration and
15 Certification. Whether the registration and livestock
16 waste management plan certification requirements if
17 required are met by the Notice of Intent to Construct.
18 The Notice of Intent to Construct was filed
19 with the Department of Ag on November 15, 2016 and
20 deemed complete by the Department on December 12.
21 According to the Livestock Management
22 Facilities Act, a farm which exceeds 1,000 animal units
23 but has less than 5,000 shall prepare, maintain and
24 implement a nutrient management plan within 60 working

1 days after commencing operation. This farm will
2 prepare, maintain and implement a comprehensive
3 nutrient management plan.
4 The farm will submit to the Department the
5 nutrient management plan certification form certifying
6 that the nutrient management plan has been prepared.
7 The farm will keep the comprehensive nutrient
8 management plan as well as records of livestock waste
9 disposal on file at the farm. And the comprehensive
10 nutrient management plan and associated records will be
11 available for Department of Ag inspections.
12 The goal of the comprehensive nutrient
13 management plan will be to utilize the manure at
14 approved agronomic loading rates that meet the nutrient
15 needs of locally grown crops in an environmentally
16 sound fashion.
17 This goal will be accomplished by developing
18 a CNMP which includes the following: Total annual
19 manure volume calculations, historically proven yields
20 and application areas, manure analysis to provide the
21 nutrient content of the manure, agronomic loading rates
22 of the manure, land application provisions for setbacks
23 and incorporation standards and documentation of all
24 phases of that plan.

1 Siting Criteria 2, Design and Operation
2 Standards. Whether the design, location or proposed
3 operation will protect the environment by being
4 consistent with the Livestock Management Facilities
5 Act.
6 The design of concrete structures. The
7 concrete structures are designed according to MidWest
8 Plan Service Concrete Manure Storage Handbook guidance.
9 Midwest Plan Service is a university based
10 publishing cooperative dedicated to publishing and
11 disseminating research based and peer reviewed
12 publications.
13 These include concrete specifications,
14 reinforcement requirements and water-stop requirements.
15 And again, the design for this proposed farm will
16 consist of construction plans for two finishing barns.
17 This is what a typical finishing barn of
18 approximately this size would look like from the
19 outside. And that would be a typical pen layout for
20 the inside.
21 Part 2 of Siting Criteria 2. Location and
22 setback distances have been met. Both the occupied
23 residence setback and the populated area setback and
24 again the farm location was deemed complete by the

1 Department of Ag on December 12.
2 Part 3 of Siting Criteria 2 deals with
3 proposed operation. The manager of the farm will be a
4 certified livestock manager.
5 And this is a program developed by the
6 Department of Ag to educate livestock managers on
7 manure management handling and systems.
8 Managers of farms over 1,000 animal units are
9 required to attend a training course and pass an exam.
10 In the livestock waste management plan, the plan will
11 detail the operation at the farm so that all manure
12 applications will be based on site specific data.
13 Siting Criteria 3. Location Compatibility.
14 Whether the location minimizes any incompatibility with
15 the surrounding area's character by being zoned for
16 agriculture where the county has zoning or when the
17 county is not zoned, the setback requirements
18 established by the Livestock Management Facilities Act
19 are complied with.
20 The proposed farm location is not zoned. And
21 the farm is compatible with the surrounding area in
22 that the area is a rural agricultural area.
23 The proposed farm consists of 8,400 animals
24 greater than 55 pounds which is equivalent to 3,360

1 animal units by Department of Ag definition. This
2 means in an occupied residence of 1,760 feet which is a
3 quarter mile plus 440 feet and a populated area setback
4 of 3,520 feet which is a half mile plus 880 feet. And
5 again the setbacks were deemed complete on December 12.
6 Siting Criteria 4, Flood Plain and Aquifer
7 Material. Whether the farm is located within a 100
8 year flood plain or an otherwise environmentally
9 sensitive area defined as an area of karst area or with
10 aquifer material within 5 feet of the bottom of the
11 livestock waste handling facility and whether
12 construction standards set forth in the Notice of
13 Intent to Construct are consistent with the goal of
14 protecting the safety of the area.
15 This is going to be difficult to see but what
16 we review when we are looking at flood plains are the
17 FEMA maps. And normally this is not the map I would
18 show but the particular area where the farm is located
19 is right there at that red dot.
20 And what you can't read there is this
21 particular panel is what they refer to it on their
22 website was not printed because there is not 100 year
23 flood plain areas within that particular location.
24 This site here is zoomed in. The outside you

1 can see that whole panel which is the panel that I am
2 referring to that was not, does not have any additional
3 detailed information on their website.
4 An area with a land surface containing
5 sinkholes, large springs, disrupted land drainage and
6 underground systems associated with karstified
7 carbonate bedrock and caves or a land surface without
8 these features but containing a karstified carbonate
9 bedrock unit generally overlain by less than 60 feet of
10 unconsolidated materials. That is a long definition of
11 a karst area.
12 I apologize, but again that isn't showing up
13 very well on the overall state map, but the farm's
14 location is right here. And the areas of karst are
15 these hashed areas over in the Northwest, West and
16 Southwest and South parts of the state.
17 And on the right side is just a blown-up
18 version. You can see the county and no karst areas
19 known in that region. And that map was taken from the
20 Illinois State Geological Survey Map of Karst Terrains
21 and Carbonate Bedrock in Illinois.
22 Still with Siting Criteria 4, Aquifer
23 Material. Sandstone that is 5 feet or more in
24 thickness or fractured carbonate that is 10 feet or

1 more in thickness or sand, gravel or sand and gravel
2 such that there is at least 2 feet or more present
3 within any 5 foot section of a soil boring.
4 A site investigation will be conducted as
5 soon as possible when the soil boring is taken within
6 the footprint of each building. It will be completed
7 to a depth of 5 feet below the planned bottom which
8 will most likely be 11 feet below the current grade.
9 Siting Criteria 5, Minimize Environmental
10 Impact. Whether the owner or operator has submitted
11 plans for operation that minimize the likelihood of any
12 environmental damage to the surrounding area from
13 spills, runoff and leaching.
14 This facility has proper sizing, has adequate
15 storage capacity in excess of the required 150 days by
16 the Department of Ag requirements.
17 This particular farm will have storage
18 capacity in excess of a year. And it is set up as a
19 controlled system so that there is no uncontrolled
20 release of livestock manure.
21 Runoff. There will be clean water diversions
22 that will allow for rainwater to be directed away from
23 the farm rather than into the pits themselves.
24 Leaching. The farm is designed as to prevent

1 a release of livestock manure. This consists of solid
2 concrete construction reinforced with Grade 60 steel
3 rebar and water-stop placed in all construction and
4 stoppage joints.
5 All surfaces in contact with the livestock
6 manure, in this concrete, will meet the required
7 permeability standards.
8 Odor Control and Reduction. Whether odor
9 control plans are reasonable and incorporate reasonable
10 or innovative odor reduction technologies given the
11 current state of such technologies.
12 The proposed farm will implement a
13 comprehensive odor control plan which will consist of
14 controlled land application of the manure, routine
15 maintenance, feed management and location.
16 Controlled application of the manure by
17 injection based upon nitrogen and phosphorus loading
18 from actual on-site data. And the Parks
19 Livestock-Radamacher farm intends to utilize injection
20 as the application method for livestock manure.
21 This method minimizes contact with the air
22 and is widely accepted as the best available technology
23 for manure application.
24 All livestock manure will be applied by a

1 custom applicator and the application equipment will
2 contain safety controls including but not limited to
3 constantly visually monitored, emergency shutoff in the
4 cab and communication between personnel available at
5 all times.
6 This is an example of an injection system
7 with a pull behind tanker. Again, a close-up of the
8 backside of that showing the discs covering up the
9 furrow after the manure is injected into the ground.
10 This is an example of a drag line system, similar
11 injection method but just different delivery method.
12 The Parks Livestock-Radamacher farm has at
13 least 2,000 acres locally per year available for
14 livestock manure application.
15 Utilizing local yield combined with area soil
16 types, it is anticipated the farm would utilize
17 approximately 720 acres of a corn/corn rotation.
18 The farm will utilize regular maintenance to
19 minimize dust originating from the facility. Regular
20 maintenance will include routine visual walk-throughs
21 of the barns to ensure there is no manure buildup above
22 the slatted floor and walkways and the regular cleaning
23 of fans to prevent the accumulation of dust.
24 The farm will be thoroughly pressure washed

1 and sanitized between each production cycle. This will
2 minimize the amount of odor causing particles that are
3 able to leave the facility through the ventilation
4 fans.
5 The farm will ensure the building's fans
6 operate efficiently thus minimizing dust buildup.
7 Regular maintenance is known to reduce odor
8 concentrations and odor intensity.
9 The farm has incorporated an animal diet
10 formulated to allow the most efficient utilization of
11 proteins and nutrient in the feed. This dietary
12 practice aids in the reduction of overall odors from
13 the farm by reducing excess nutrient excreted by the
14 animals.
15 This farm complies with and exceeds facility
16 setback distances as established in the Livestock
17 Management Facilities Act. The residential setback is
18 exceeded by 40 feet. The populated area setback is
19 exceeded by 11,740 feet.
20 Again, the comprehensive odor control plan
21 consists of farm location, maintenance, proper
22 nutrition and injection of the manure.
23 The farm has diligently planned an overall
24 odor control strategy by incorporating numerous odor

1 control techniques and technologies. The farm will also
2 continue to look for and incorporate other technologies
3 as they become available.
4 This strategic plan incorporates reasonable
5 and innovative technologies that will allow the
6 facility to operate with minimal odor impact to the
7 surrounding area.
8 Siting Criteria 7, Traffic Patterns. Whether
9 traffic patterns minimize the effect on existing
10 traffic flows.
11 This is a map showing the traffic route from
12 the farm itself. Trucks leaving the farm will travel
13 east on 2000 North Road and then travel south on U.S.
14 Route 49 to the interstate.
15 On 2000 North Road there is a weekly average
16 of 350 vehicles according to IDOT traffic maps. And on
17 U.S. Route 49 there is a weekly average of 10,850
18 vehicles.
19 The Radamacher farm anticipates four and a
20 half total trucks weekly including both feed
21 transportation and animal transportation trucks.
22 The Radamacher farm traffic will consist of
23 less than 1.3 percent of the average weekly vehicle
24 traffic on 2000 North and less than 0.05 percent on

1 Route 49.

2 The Parks Livestock-Radamacher farm traffic

3 will comply with the same seasonal posted road weight

4 limit as all other traffic in the area.

5 Criteria 8, Farm Consistent with the Area.

6 Whether construction of a new farm is consistent with

7 existing community growth, tourism, recreation or

8 economic development or with specific projects

9 involving community growth, tourism, recreation or

10 economic development that have been identified by

11 government action for development or operation within

12 one year through compliance with applicable zoning and

13 setback requirements for populated areas as established

14 by the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

15 The farm is consistent with the existing and

16 planned community developments of this rural

17 agricultural area by demonstrating compliance with

18 zoning and setback requirements.

19 The farm will meet all the requirements of

20 the Livestock Management Facilities Act. We appreciate

21 the opportunity and we look forward to your questions

22 and comments. Thank you.

23 MR. SONDGEROTH: Entered into the record as

24 Exhibit No. 3 is a presentation from the facility

1 representatives. We will now open the meeting for any
2 questions that you may have of the facility or the
3 Department.
4 If you have a question you would like to ask,
5 please raise your hand and when called upon, please
6 state your name and spell your last name for the court
7 reporter. Please indicate to whom you are directing
8 your question.
9 I will remind you this portion of the meeting
10 will be limited to questions only. After this question
11 and answer session, there will be a session dedicated
12 to public testimony where you can provide your oral
13 comments.
14 So please limit the session to questions
15 only. Also keep in mind that questions need to pertain
16 to this particular facility. Are there any questions?
17 MR. LEWIS: David Lewis, l-e-w-i-s. This is
18 for Parks Radamacher operator. I understand that you
19 have the right to increase how many animal units you
20 house in this facility over time. Will the operator
21 notify the public and hold a public hearing if you ever
22 decide to expand?
23 MR. HALSTEAD: So the question is if we decide
24 to expand the operation, will we notify the public? Is

1 that correct?
2 MR. DAVIS: Yes.
3 MR. HALSTEAD: At this time we have no
4 expectation at all to increase the size of the facility
5 even down the road. So but to answer that question,
6 I'm not 100 percent of the Illinois rules. I think if
7 it is beyond two years, I don't think you have to.
8 MR. LEWIS: But if you are a good neighbor,
9 you would, right?
10 MR. HALSTEAD: Yes.
11 MR. LEWIS: So are you going to notify us?
12 MR. HALSTEAD: Yes and I am thinking of how
13 that process would work if it is not required --
14 MR. LEWIS: You can call me. I am 40 feet
15 away. This follow-up question I have is regarding the
16 siting criteria. It was recommended by someone who
17 deals with swine facilities similar to this far more
18 often than I do.
19 So regarding the odor and other things, a
20 berm like an earthen berm and an evergreen windbreak be
21 installed around the facility. This was for multiple
22 reasons such as a physical barrier for odor control on
23 windless days. It gets the facility out of sight. So,
24 you know, out of sight, you don't think about it as

1 much. And would provide an additional physical barrier
2 if there was a surface water issue within the tank.
3 Would the operator be willing to install this
4 very simple type of facility enhancement?
5 MR. HALSTEAD: Where we are sited right now at
6 this time to put in an earthen barrier, it would take a
7 fair bit of ground around the facility.
8 We are on the top of a hill. We are not in
9 the path where water normally flows. We think where we
10 are sited now with our tunnel fans blowing directly to
11 the south that odor shouldn't be an issue. And in the
12 summertime there more than likely will be standing corn
13 surrounding the facility itself.
14 MR. LEWIS: What about in the winter?
15 MR. HALSTEAD: In the wintertime you are not
16 cooling the pigs near as much so you don't run near the
17 fan power that you do in the summertime. But once
18 again, we don't think that will be an issue.
19 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
20 MR. THORNTON: David Thornton,
21 t-h-o-r-n-t-o-n, rural Fairmount. This is to the
22 environmental engineer here.
23 In No. 5 you talked about leaching and how
24 the barn is going to have concrete underneath it, the

1 waterproofing. That stuff is great. Is the facility
2 going to have storage lagoons?
3 MR. NIMS: To my knowledge there is no plans
4 for any lagoon type facility at this farm.
5 MR. THORNTON: Where will they house all the
6 excess manure? In tanks, metal tanks? Above ground
7 storage?
8 MR. NIMS: The barn itself will sit on an 8
9 foot deep concrete pit below it.
10 MR. THORNTON: That will be the holding pit
11 lined with concrete?
12 MR. NIMS: Correct.
13 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
14 MS. CREASON: Jane Creason, c-r-e-a-s-o-n. I
15 think directed to these gentlemen. How do you dispose
16 of dead hogs?
17 MR. HALSTEAD: The dead animals will be
18 rendered.
19 MR. ANDERSON: Nick Anderson,
20 a-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. To the Department, Warren, could you
21 describe the process of expansion, what the farm would
22 have to go through if they decided to expand in the
23 future other than their commitment to work with their
24 neighbors but what are the requirements of the Act for

1 that to happen?

2 MR. GOETSCH: Any project, whether it is an

3 expansion -- the question is to describe a little bit

4 about a possible expansion. Any facility, whether it

5 is a new facility or the expansion of an existing

6 facility has to comply with the same requirements.

7 You have to file a Notice of Intent to

8 Construct. You have to file with the Department

9 construction plans and specifications.

10 All those have to be reviewed and approved or

11 determined that they are consistent with the

12 requirements of the statute. The only difference is

13 that if you have an existing facility and you expand it

14 at less than 50 percent of the fixed capital cost of a

15 comparable and entirely new facility, then you are not

16 subject to additional setback distances.

17 So, for example, if this particular facility

18 were to double in size such that the setback

19 requirements if it was a brand new facility would have

20 a setback distance greater than what it currently has,

21 if it expanded at less than that 50 percent of the

22 fixed capital cost of a comparably entirely new

23 facility would not be subject to additional setbacks.

24 They would still have to file a Notice of

1 Intent to Construct. It would still be reflected on
2 our website. They still would have to file with us
3 construction plans and specifications, still would
4 require a waste management plan.
5 In fact if they got over 5,000 animal units,
6 they would be required to file with us the waste
7 management plan for review and approval prior to the
8 facility being placed into service.
9 So this notion that you can expand once you
10 are there without any additional regulation is just
11 incorrect. The only thing you are not subject to is an
12 additional setback distance once you have been sited at
13 your original size.
14 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
15 MR. THORNTON: David Thornton once again. For
16 the Department, just curious how long is the class to
17 become a certified livestock manager? How long is that
18 class?
19 MR. GOETSCH: The Certified Livestock
20 Management Program administered by the Department,
21 there are different ways that you can receive the
22 education.
23 You can do it on line through the University
24 of Illinois. And then depending on your size if you

1 are less, excuse me, if you are less than 1,000 animal
2 units but greater than 300 animal units, you don't have
3 to take a test. You can just receive the training or
4 you can just take a test.
5 In either case you can be certified for a
6 three year period just by one or the other. If you are
7 greater than 1,000 animal units like this particular
8 facility is proposed to be, then you would have to take
9 both.
10 You would have to take training through the
11 University of Illinois and pass the written exam. That
12 training to get back to your original question, the
13 training is I believe between 3 and 4 hours.
14 It is usually a morning, the training, and
15 then we usually do our testing in the afternoon at a
16 clinic. I believe if any of you would like to take
17 that training and attempt an exam, I believe you can do
18 so tomorrow in Springfield actually.
19 MR. THORNTON: I appreciate your answer.
20 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
21 MR. HARRISON: Wade Harrison, h-a-r-r-i-s-o-n.
22 For the environmental group, would you allude to or
23 give some more detail around how much storage is
24 available inside the concrete pit?

1 How many month's worth of storage is
2 available? How many times do you apply per year?
3 MR. KOLLMANN: Underneath this particular
4 facility, we have in excess of 365 day's worth of
5 storage. Manure will be applied one time a year on
6 acres surrounding the facility.
7 MR. SONDGEROTH: Keep in mind I want to make
8 sure we have plenty of time for written and oral
9 testimony. If you think your question can be converted
10 into your oral testimony but if there is other Q&A --
11 you, sir?
12 MR. MILLER: Eugene Miller, m-i-l-l-e-r. And
13 since there is no good neighbor act any more, my
14 question is to the owners.
15 Why is this selection, this site selected and
16 why could it not be put closer to the farmer's house
17 instead of neighbors that don't want it? And also
18 another question --
19 MR. SONDGEROTH: Let him answer first.
20 MR. HALSTEAD: The site selection, No. 1, you
21 want to have availability of acres of ground
22 surrounding the facility to put the manure on.
23 And then you have to look at all of the
24 different setbacks and everything you have to set back

1 with before you can put the site there.
2 MR. MILLER: Have they looked at where the
3 people live that are putting this --
4 MR. HALSTEAD: Yes.
5 MR. MILLER: And it has been known that these
6 facilities leak into waters.
7 MR. SONDGEROTH: Just limited to questions.
8 There will be an opportunity for oral testimony.
9 MR. MILLER: I was wondering if there is going
10 to be someone there 24 hours a day.
11 MR. HALSTEAD: This is a concrete deep pit
12 structure engineered with concrete specifications and
13 water-stop in all the joints. And it is designed, No.
14 1, to not allow rainfall into the pit.
15 So if you had a 10 inch rain event or
16 something like that, you wouldn't have your manure
17 storage fill up and run over. But it is specifically
18 designed not to leak to where you can just pump it out
19 once a year.
20 MR. SONDGEROTH: You, sir?
21 MR. JOHNSON: Stan Johnson, j-o-h-n-s-o-n. I
22 live approximately a half a mile from one facility, a
23 mile from the other facility. My question is on the
24 manure, will it produce hydrogen sulfide? Yes or no?

1 MR. HALSTEAD: I think the answer to that
2 question would be yes, there will be --
3 MR. JOHNSON: I am looking for a more definite
4 answer.
5 MR. HALSTEAD: Yes.
6 MR. JOHNSON: Would Parks Livestock consider
7 putting monitors on our two schools that are close to
8 these? I know there is not a law for it but would you
9 as Parks monitor our two schools for this deadly gas
10 that is produced by the manure? It is being spewed
11 into the air through your exhaust fans.
12 MR. HALSTEAD: That is part of the siting
13 criteria where you are a certain distance from certain
14 areas to allow for dilution of those gases to where
15 they are a nonissue once you get past those siting
16 distances.
17 MS. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
18 MS. LEWIS: Deborah Lewis. What is the siting
19 distance for that hydrogen sulfide not to be toxic?
20 You said the schools were far away. What is that
21 distance?
22 MR. KOLLMANN: The siting criteria have been
23 met through the requirements based upon the Department
24 of Ag, 1760 feet for the residence and the siting

1 criteria for the populated area of a half a mile plus
2 880 have been met per the Department of Ag.
3 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
4 MR. KOERS: Vince Koers, k-o-e-r-s. For the
5 agency, is there any provision in the Act that would
6 allow for monitoring of some kind, whether it is a well
7 and/or for secondary containment under this bin that
8 would catch any leakage that did occur?
9 MR. GOETSCH: There are provisions in the
10 statute for different types of manure storage
11 structures. For example, there are monitoring well
12 requirements for lagoons that have aquifer material
13 within a certain distance.
14 There are other requirements in the statute
15 for areas for different types of structures that are in
16 different types of sensitive areas. In this particular
17 or in many of those cases, the enhanced design standard
18 is to go to a rigid structure which is what this
19 proposal is.
20 So there are not any additional requirements
21 for the design of the waste handling structure. This
22 is thought of as being the most appropriate for even a
23 sensitive area.
24 So there are no additional monitoring

1 requirements for rigid structures, especially those
2 made out of concrete with the water-stops and the other
3 provisions that are included in this design.
4 MR. KOERS: So if they ever fail, you will
5 never know it until it shows up in somebody's water
6 well?
7 MR. GOETSCH: The only other requirement would
8 be in the case of aquifer material being found within 5
9 feet of the bottom of a structure like this, there is
10 the requirement for a perimeter drainage tile to be
11 added and a sampling port to be included.
12 Because we don't have the site investigation
13 information, we don't know whether that particular
14 requirement would be a part of this design. That is
15 why we are waiting.
16 That is why the Department can't make a
17 determination regarding the adequacy of the design
18 standard. If aquifer material is discovered within 5
19 feet of the proposed bottom, then they would be
20 required to put in perimeter drain tile which does have
21 a quarterly monitoring requirement.
22 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
23 MS. LEWIS: Kristen Lewis, l-e-w-i-s. I am
24 just wondering for the operator, how many gallons of

1 water per day does this facility require and is there
2 any concern with how that might affect the people in
3 Fithian in general.
4 MR. HALSTEAD: So the water on average will be
5 about 1.7 gallons per pig per day. And what that is
6 equivalent to on an annual basis is about 1 inch of
7 rainfall on 200 acres of ground is the same amount of
8 water we will be using on an annual basis.
9 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
10 MS. HULS: Cheryl Huls, h-u-l-s. Where are
11 you getting your water from? Do you have a well
12 already out there?
13 MR. HALSTEAD: No, we do not have a well out
14 there. We will have to be drilling a well.
15 MS. HULS: The wells are gone. If you have
16 done your homework, there is no water close by.
17 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
18 MR. CHIDLAW: James Chidlaw, c-h-i-d-l-a-w.
19 My question is for the operators. Is it a concern to
20 the operators that hydrogen sulfide is a toxin even
21 though you are within your sited perimeters?
22 MR. HALSTEAD: Those siting guidelines which
23 are very common in a lot of states, I mean, they should
24 be in the setbacks that we need. You know, the most

1 odor is when you apply the manure and it is
2 incorporated 5 to 8 inches into the soil to help that
3 manure bind to the soil and also help to protect from
4 odor.
5 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? Yes,
6 sir?
7 MR. DAVIS: Couple short questions. Mike
8 Davis, d-a-v-i-s. I live close to the facility. Two
9 questions. One for the environmentalist.
10 Is there anyone at this meeting who is either
11 under contract payroll or otherwise being paid to be at
12 this meeting to ask questions? Anybody? Nobody?
13 Question for the environmentalist. You used
14 and indicated a minimized odor basically. In terms
15 define for me please a minimized odor. I want a
16 definition.
17 MR. NIMS: I don't have a definition. All
18 they can do, what the facility will do is provide the
19 most available technologies and the most modern
20 technologies that are being used in these type of
21 facilities to do everything they can to minimize odors.
22 MR. DAVIS: That wasn't my question.
23 MR. NIMS: That is your answer.
24 MR. DAVIS: That is the answer to my

1 question? That is the definition of a minimized odor?
2 MR. NIMS: (Nodding.)
3 MR. DAVIS: That is it?
4 MR. NIMS: Yeah.
5 MR. SONDGEROTH: Yes, ma'am?
6 MS. FOIL: Heidi Foil, f-o-i-l. My question
7 goes back to these pits. What exactly is the gallon
8 content of these pits? You are manufacturing 3 and a
9 half million gallons a year of waste. What is the
10 exact gallon content of your pits?
11 MR. KOLLMANN: Each structure will be 2.1
12 million gallon under each one.
13 MS. FOIL: When the ground is frozen and the
14 crops are in and you can't inject, what is your plan?
15 MR. KOLLMANN: Hopefully we have had ample
16 time prior to that to put manure on. That is why we
17 have 365 day's worth of storage under each building.
18 MS. FOIL: You are going to manufacture close
19 to 4 million gallons of waste and you don't say you
20 have that storage?
21 MR. KOLLMANN: Yes, we do. 365 day's worth
22 of storage.
23 MS. FOIL: And the gallons in each pit again
24 was what?

1 MR. KOLLMANN: 2.2 million. I am sorry. 2.1
2 something 5.
3 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
4 MS. SHERMAN: Marilyn Sherman, s-h-e-r-m-a-n.
5 When that manure is spread out on the land or injected
6 into the land, what is the possibilities of leaching
7 out of this land into streams and the river that
8 Oakwood gets its water from?
9 MR. HALSTEAD: So we inject manure into the
10 ground, very similar to what a farmer does with
11 commercial fertilizer, putting it 5 to 8 inches in so
12 the corn roots can get right at that nutrients the next
13 year.
14 It is the exact same process that commercial
15 agriculture uses today. It actually binds with the
16 soil and helps hold it in place.
17 MS. SHERMAN: None of it will ever leach into
18 streams and rivers into the area?
19 MR. HALSTEAD: The design practice that we
20 use, it is very similar to commercial agricultural
21 today that uses anhydrous ammonia and potash and
22 phosphorus.
23 MS. SHERMAN: And we know how that turns out.
24 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions for the

1 applicant or the Department?
2 MR. GREEN: Kevin Green, g-r-e-e-n.
3 Concerning the well that is to be dug, do you know its
4 depth or have any studies been done on the water
5 depletion and its impact on the surrounding area?
6 Thank you.
7 MR. HALSTEAD: So what I know for sure so we
8 have not done a test well out there yet but three to
9 four hundred feet is what they expect the impact of
10 that well to be.
11 MR. GREEN: And the cone?
12 MR. HALSTEAD: Well, three to four hundred
13 feet from the well.
14 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
15 MR. LEWIS: Dave Lewis, l-e-w-i-s. Does
16 Parks-Livestock, the operator in this case, have any
17 prior EPA violations, fines or judgments against it
18 regarding the mismanagement of swine facilities, manure
19 or waste?
20 MR. HALSTEAD: No, we do not.
21 MR. LEWIS: In any state?
22 MR. HALSTEAD: Not that I am aware of.
23 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
24 MR. ANDERSON: Nick Anderson,

1 a-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. Two part question. The first one,
2 Art, I don't work for you, do I?
3 MR. HALSTEAD: No, you do not.
4 MR. ANDERSON: The second question is on the
5 expansion issue. Can you explain for the folks who
6 don't know production of agriculture about an 8400 head
7 building being on that acreage and supplying the
8 manure, why you wouldn't expand or what would limit you
9 to expand or why you would choose to move somewhere
10 else before you chose to expand that?
11 MR. HALSTEAD: Yes. There is probably two or
12 three reasons why you wouldn't expand. The amount of
13 time it takes you to fill the facility up from a single
14 source sow farm. As you get bigger, it takes more time
15 to fill the facility. And in any business, time costs
16 you money.
17 But the other reason is just the available
18 land, you know, as you get bigger and bigger being able
19 to incorporate the manure into more and more acres.
20 And you can haul manure, but once again if
21 you have to haul long distance, that is a cost. So you
22 more than likely would put up a facility down the road.
23 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? Sir?
24 MR. THORNTON: Dave Thornton. Two questions.

1 One wasn't really answered before. The first one you
2 mentioned kind of offhandedly if the facility had a
3 really high 10 inch rain event it would not get into
4 the lagoons of the building.
5 Is that actually what it has been engineered
6 to or was that just an off the cuff comment?
7 MR. HALSTEAD: Who are you directing your
8 question to?
9 MR. THORNTON: You. Or any of the other
10 guys.
11 MR. HALSTEAD: Could you repeat your
12 question?
13 MR. THORNTON: What rainfall event are the
14 manure storage lagoons, your under building storage,
15 what rainfall event is that designed to so that
16 rainwater will not infiltrate those lagoons in the case
17 of a big rainfall event? You stated earlier a 10 inch
18 rainfall would not get into those pits. Is that what
19 it is engineered to?
20 MR. HALSTEAD: This is like a basement
21 underneath your house. Where you got a roof over your
22 house and so your pit is completely covered by
23 building.
24 MR. THORNTON: Whose basement floods?

1 MR. HALSTEAD: The pit is engineered with
2 water-stop and stuff to not allow any water into the
3 pit from the ground level as well. So there is no way
4 for rainwater to enter into the facility.
5 MR. THORNTON: My second question which I
6 don't believe that, but a gentleman asked if there will
7 be an employee on site 24/7 to watch for any problems.
8 That was not answered.
9 MR. HALSTEAD: No, there will not.
10 MR. THORNTON: Thank you.
11 MR. SONDGEROTH: Question?
12 MS. BURRIS: Carly Burris. You say it is
13 going to be completely covered but somehow that manure
14 has to come from the ground up. And two years ago a
15 valve was left open and someone was not there for 24
16 hours.
17 It is a human error. That is going to happen
18 again. It killed over 98,000 fish. How do we know
19 this won't happen again, a simple valve being left
20 open, if there is no one to monitor it?
21 MR. HALSTEAD: On this deep pit facility, we
22 have covers that we have to actually remove and drop a
23 pump down into the pit to pump the manure out. There
24 is no valves or anything in that pit structure at all.

1 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
2 MR. JOHNSON: Stan Johnson. Once again, on
3 the manure, if this is given to a neighbor farmer, have
4 they been notified the toxic nature due to it is not
5 manure that is being shoved through the manure
6 loopholes in the law?
7 If these compounds were used by any other
8 industry, they would be highly regulated and not
9 allowed to be put on the ground. Correct or wrong?
10 That is the way I read a lot of the research
11 I have done on it. Do you care to comment on the
12 difference between organic manure and the manure you
13 are producing in these facilities and awful
14 ramifications for someone accepting this manure might
15 open themselves up to due to water contamination of a
16 well or a lawsuit? Do you assume the responsibility or
17 does the neighboring farmer that just took it in good
18 will?
19 MR. SONDGEROTH: Let's let him answer your
20 question.
21 MR. HALSTEAD: So these facilities will eat
22 the corn produced on 5, 600 acres of ground and the
23 amount of soybeans produced on another 2 to 250 acres
24 of ground.

1 The same corn and soybeans that are pulled
2 off this farm and run through a feed mill where the
3 corn is ground up and the soybeans turned into soybean
4 meal are fed to the pigs.
5 What the pig can't digest is the manure that
6 we are putting right back into the ground where that
7 came from. So it is in a sense, it is a recycle system
8 going right back into the same ground to nourish the
9 next crop as a total recyclable system.
10 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions out
11 there?
12 MR. DAVIS: Mike Davis. In relation to the
13 answer you just gave, I think the question was in
14 relation to antibiotics and other unnatural items, call
15 them what you want.
16 Besides corn and soybeans, what is going in
17 the hog and what is going on the ground as a result of
18 that ingestion? I think that was his question.
19 MR. HALSTEAD: There is nothing in the manure
20 that would be foreign to the soil. Even in soil,
21 fungus makes antibiotics. If that makes any sense at
22 all.
23 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? Yes,
24 sir.

1 MR. LEWIS: Carl Lewis, l-e-w-i-s. You guys
2 mentioned you are going to be sanitizing the facility
3 multiple times.
4 What kind of chemicals are you using and what
5 are you going to do with the chemicals you use to
6 sanitize them with? Are they getting pumped out on the
7 ground too?
8 MR. HALSTEAD: We will do about two batches of
9 pigs a year. So in between the batches we will wash
10 clean. And what you are referring to is disinfectants.
11 The disinfectants that we use are safe. They
12 are similar to the disinfectants used in hospital and
13 those type of things.
14 MR. LEWIS: That is not a good answer. We
15 don't dump that on the ground.
16 MR. SONDGEROTH: You may disagree that his
17 answer wasn't what you wanted. The court reporter is
18 taking it down. If you have another question, you are
19 more than welcome to ask that, but let's keep the --
20 MR. LEWIS: The question was: What do you do
21 with the stuff that you got left over? Do you put it
22 in the pit and manure for the next time?
23 MR. SONDGEROTH: And he has responded to that.
24 Would you like to respond further?

1 MR. HALSTEAD: The disinfectants we use are
2 approved disinfectants by the EPA and --
3 THE AUDIENCE: Where does it go?
4 MR. HALSTEAD: It will go into the pit but you
5 are talking a fraction of an amount vs. an 8 foot deep
6 pit.
7 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
8 MR. CUMMINGS: Kevin Cummings. My question is
9 for the deputy director. Does a decision like this
10 just the purview of the Department of Agriculture or
11 are you required to consult with IEPA, IDNR or is this
12 your guys' call?
13 MR. GOETSCH: The Department of Agriculture is
14 responsible for administering this portion of the
15 statute.
16 MR. CUMMINGS: Is there a required
17 consultation with IDNR or IEPA or any other agencies?
18 MR. GOETSCH: There are certain parts of the
19 statute that require like, for example, the Historic
20 Preservation Agency is notified of a proposed project
21 so that they can review their databases to determine
22 whether there are artifacts of interest that need to be
23 further studied.
24 So that in some cases we actually have an

1 archaeological investigation that is done in some
2 projects. In terms of a DNR, we provide notice to the
3 Illinois Department of Natural Resources so that they
4 can look to see whether there are any endangered
5 species that are present. So in that regard there are
6 some consultations as part of this process.
7 As far as the actual determining of setback
8 compliance, the other administrative portions of the
9 Notice of Intent to Construct, the design standard and
10 that compliance, those are all done by the Department
11 of Agriculture.
12 MR. CUMMINGS: There is legal consultation
13 that goes on with the other departments or the statute?
14 MR. GOETSCH: Yes. That is correct.
15 MR. SONDGEROTH: Back row.
16 MS. BURRIS: Carly Burris. Does the head
17 count of the pigs include the piglets the sows can
18 have?
19 MR. HALSTEAD: This will be a wean to finish
20 facility. So when the pigs are weaned, they will get
21 brought here. We will have no sows on the facility.
22 MR. SONDGEROTH: Yes?
23 MR. ANDERSON: Nick Anderson. To the
24 Department and I know a lot of people don't understand

1 the rules of the Illinois EPA and who has authority.
2 Can you explain a little bit -- we know your role in
3 design and capacity.
4 Can you tell us when this farm becomes
5 operational, who do you notify during the permit
6 process, i.e., EPA, and who takes over when pigs are
7 here to address these environmental issues that might
8 have concerns or issues of that nature? Can you
9 explain that process when that gets handed over to
10 those folks?
11 MR. GOETSCH: The question is or it is a
12 request to talk a little bit about the regulation of
13 livestock industry in Illinois and the transfer of
14 authorities back and forth between agencies. And let
15 me try to do this as quickly as possible.
16 The regulation of the livestock industry is
17 not just limited to the Livestock Management Facilities
18 Act. There are actually three different laws in
19 addition to the comments that I made earlier about a
20 historic preservation or endangered species.
21 But the industry is regulated by the
22 Livestock Management Facilities Act in terms of the
23 upfront work. And then there are two additional laws.
24 There is the Federal Clean Water Act. That

1 includes the NPDES permitting program, the National
2 Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and the CAFO
3 regulations as you may have heard. The IEPA
4 administers that program on behalf of the USEPA. That
5 primarily affects just very, very large facilities.
6 In addition to that, you have the Illinois
7 Environmental Protection Act which is what was in place
8 and still is in place but it was the only regulatory
9 program or process that was in place prior to 1996 when
10 the LMFA was passed.
11 The EPA, the IEPA, regulates facilities in
12 that if there are releases, if there are any
13 operational problems, if there are odor issues, those
14 kinds of things, those fall under the Illinois
15 Environmental Protection Act and are under the
16 authorities of the IEPA.
17 When the LMFA was passed, the whole purpose
18 of the Livestock Management Facilities Act was to try
19 and put regulations and requirements on the ag, the
20 livestock industry so that we perhaps could avoid
21 potential problems in the future.
22 The idea of setbacks, the idea of education,
23 the idea of waste management planning, those were all
24 provisions included in the Livestock Management

1 Facilities Act in an effort to try and avoid potential
2 problems in the future.
3 So the Department's role is to administer the
4 Livestock Management Facilities Act or the majority of
5 the provisions of the Livestock Management Facilities
6 Act to only site facilities that meet these minimum
7 setback distances and require an educational program,
8 to require waste management planning, to require
9 compliance with construction standards so that any
10 facilities that are successful in complying with all of
11 those requirements will be much, much, much less likely
12 to have environmental issues in the future.
13 If there are environmental issues, the IEPA
14 is the ones, is the agency that administers the
15 Illinois Environmental Protection Act. We work very
16 closely with IEPA. In some cases we actually make
17 joint investigations or joint inspections of
18 facilities.
19 They were involved in the actual designing of
20 the construction standards and we continue to consult
21 with them today but it is a joint effort between those
22 two agencies in addition to the various other agencies
23 that have issues to be resolved like endangered
24 species, archaeological issues, those kind of things as

1 well.
2 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions for the
3 facility applicant or the Department?
4 MS. HULS: Cheryl Huls. I just have one
5 question. Why is it in Vermilion County and not
6 Champaign County? Because Radamacher has a business in
7 Champaign County. Is there a difference between
8 Vermilion and Champaign?
9 MR. HALSTEAD: I would say the primary
10 difference is we looked at the distance from our feed
11 milling, the distance from our slaughter plants and
12 those type of things.
13 MS. HULS: It is all semis.
14 MR. HALSTEAD: Transportation is still a cost
15 for the industry.
16 MR. JOHNSON: Stan Johnson. Once again, back
17 to the manure since I don't feel I have had a clear
18 answer on any of the questions I have asked previous.
19 Back to the hydrogen sulfide.
20 Correct me if I am wrong, the exhaust fan in
21 the building will be blowing airborne gas across the
22 top of the pit, correct?
23 MR. HALSTEAD: Correct.
24 MR. JOHNSON: That will be loaded with the

1 hydrogen sulfide putting it airborne. So we know that
2 your setbacks and all your laws are exercised but have
3 you done any case studies on schools that have been
4 tested for this within a 3 mile range that the sickness
5 rates go up from 7 percent nationally without these
6 barns to well into the 20 percent range with only 4,000
7 pigs? Have you done those studies?
8 MR. HALSTEAD: No, we have not.
9 MR. JOHNSON: Why not?
10 MR. HALSTEAD: I guess that is why we resort
11 to the rules and regulations of the states that we
12 operate in.
13 MR. JOHNSON: Are you willing to take that on
14 yourself even though it is not a law in Illinois to
15 protect our children in that range?
16 We have got Ogden, Fithian, you have got
17 Muncie and then you have got a big high school all well
18 within that range. Are you willing as a company to put
19 monitoring equipment in and keep us posted?
20 MR. HALSTEAD: No. I do not think so.
21 MR. JOHNSON: You would not protect the
22 children?
23 MR. HALSTEAD: No, you asked if we were
24 willing to put in monitoring devices and that was my

1 answer to your question.
2 MR. SONDGEROTH: I want to give equal
3 opportunity to everyone here. Two more persons then we
4 have to move on to written and oral testimony. You,
5 sir?
6 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Randy Johnson. I
7 live right in between these two proposed facilities.
8 And you said it was 1.1 gallon per hog per day?
9 MR. HALSTEAD: 1.7.
10 MR. JOHNSON: Per hog per day. Can you tell
11 me how many gallons of water these two facilities are
12 going to be bringing out of the ground every day?
13 I am really nervous about my well at my home
14 down the road with all this, you know, water coming out
15 of the ground. I would just like to know how is this
16 going to affect it.
17 MR. HALSTEAD: It is about 14,000 gallons of
18 water a day. We will have a cistern on each farm. So
19 we have about a two day water storage on each farm as
20 well.
21 So in talking with the well guys, when you
22 put a well in the ground, you can affect about 400 feet
23 from that well and that is about as far as you can pull
24 water in. So if that water is not there, it is not

1 like I can pull it a half a mile or a mile away, it
2 just won't come.
3 MR. SONDGEROTH: Final question?
4 MR. DAVIS: Mike Davis. Who is your well
5 guy?
6 MR. HALSTEAD: Todd Skinner.
7 MR. SONDGEROTH: Okay. There will be no
8 further questions. I will accept written testimony in
9 this matter. If you have written testimony that is not
10 referred to in your oral testimony, I will accept it
11 now and enter it into the record.
12 If you have written testimony that you want
13 to reference during your oral testimony, it can be
14 entered into the record after your oral testimony.
15 Following the written testimony phase, we
16 will likely take a short break. Is there any written
17 testimony offered at this time? Please one by one
18 bring it to me and I will enter it into the record.
19 State your name for the record.
20 MS. SMITH: Thomas and Suzanne Smith.
21 MR. SONDGEROTH: Entered into the record as
22 Exhibit 4. It is written testimony provided by Thomas
23 and Suzanne Smith as Exhibit No. 4.
24 Is there any other written testimony that

1 would like to be provided at this time? Seeing none I
2 am going to take a short break --
3 MR. GOETSCH: The Department did receive a
4 document from John and Betty Lou Huls. And I believe
5 that they requested that it be entered into the record
6 as an exhibit.
7 MS. HULS: I am going to talk too.
8 MR. SONDGEROTH: That is fine. Entered into
9 the record as Exhibit No. 5 is written testimony from
10 John and Betty Lou Huls, h-u-l-s, Exhibit No. 5.
11 So again, is there any other written
12 testimony that anyone would like to -- we will do oral,
13 but any written testimony?
14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is there another date you
15 can do it, written letters?
16 MR. SONDGEROTH: Correct. There is
17 correspondence to the Department included in the record
18 as well.
19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: There was a question about
20 how long they have to submit testimony or comments to
21 you.
22 MR. SONDGEROTH: If you would like the written
23 testimony to be considered by the County Board, you
24 have to have it in by the next week. Any other written

1 testimony to be provided for the record?
2 You can still submit written testimony after
3 oral testimony but seeing none, I am going to take a 10
4 minute break. We will resume at 6:37.
5 (6:27 p.m.)
6 (Whereupon a break was taken and the
7 deposition continued as follows:)
8 (6:38 p.m.)
9 MR. SONDGEROTH: We will resume. I have the
10 sign-up sheets up here. These are the blue sign-up
11 sheets for oral testimony. I have them up here and
12 there are 19 persons that wish to testify, provide oral
13 testimony.
14 So what I would like to do is kind of layout
15 the ground work. When I call the first person's name,
16 if you could come up. I am also going to call a second
17 person's name and have an on-deck circle baseball
18 approach.
19 When I call your name, make your way up the
20 aisle and come and sit in this left front chair here so
21 when the person is done speaking, that will make it a
22 more organized approach.
23 With that, there are I believe 19 people on
24 here. When you come up here, I will swear you in. So

1 you will raise your right hand and be sworn in under
2 oath to offer truthful testimony under oath.
3 The first person on the list is Mike Davis.
4 Mike, can you come forward please up to the podium?
5 Could you please raise your right hand?
6 (At this time Mike Davis was duly sworn.)
7 MR. SONDGEROTH: Can you please state your
8 name and spell your last name?
9 MR. DAVIS: Mike Davis. D-a-v-i-s.
10 MR. SONDGEROTH: You can go ahead.
11 MR. DAVIS: This is not going to be long
12 winded. Everybody is going to talk about manure in the
13 air and in the water and the birds and the trees.
14 There is several things have happened --
15 MR. SONDGEROTH: Let me stop you for a
16 second. I think we have a microphone issue.
17 MR. DAVIS: The Chicago Tribune has gotten
18 involved with production pork, basically pork factories
19 is what everybody is rebelling against. And it is no
20 different than a landfill or a sewer plant. You don't
21 want it in your backyard and neither do I. That is
22 basically what this is about.
23 In August, just a few points, and this is by
24 the Chicago Tribune's investigation and in an article

1 entitled "The Price of Pork". They indicate that hog
2 waste spills accounted for nearly one half of the
3 million fish killed in Illinois water pollution
4 incidents between 2005 and 2014. Killing at least
5 492,000 fish and impairing 67 miles of rivers and
6 waterways in this state.
7 No other industry came close to that amount
8 of damage as reported by the Tribune. And that is
9 going to take us back to a couple basic points.
10 This meeting needs to be about the future
11 because there is basically not a lot we are going to do
12 with this one. We didn't get enough notice, we all
13 know that.
14 Illinois law gives local communities little,
15 if any, power over the siting of these confinements,
16 new confinements. The Illinois Department of
17 Agriculture lacks legal authority to deny a company's
18 Notice of Intent to Construct for basically any reason.
19 It is Illinois law that has to be changed.
20 It is not about Parks. It is not about this
21 group. It is about the future and that is what we need
22 to do. We need to address the future. Thank you.
23 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any questions for Mr. Davis?
24 MR. DAVIS: No doubt from the guy that doesn't

1 have a payroll.
2 MR. ANDERSON: Nick Anderson. I have a two
3 part question. You used the word factory there in your
4 opening statement. What is your definition of a
5 factory?
6 MR. DAVIS: The definition of a factory is
7 basically the way Ford Motor Company makes cars, that
8 is a factory. And if you equate that to pigs, that is
9 a factory. The Wright Brothers started making one
10 airplane. That was basically like a family farm. Make
11 the comparison that way. A family farm. And they are
12 gone.
13 Family farms are absolutely gone where guys
14 raise, have 4, 5 sows and raise two litters of pigs a
15 year, that is over. That is the past. The future is
16 this generation of hog producers and it just needs to
17 be regulated.
18 MR. ANDERSON: Secondly, you talked about no
19 regulation but you wanted more notice. And what
20 changes, how far do you want farms from rural neighbors
21 or where do you want them?
22 MR. DAVIS: The first thing I would think
23 would have been important was to have known about these
24 facilities more than 30 days before we did or 25 days

1 before we did or 10 or however many days it was.
2 This has been in the works. We know that
3 these have been under consideration for years. I
4 understood from various conversation that these
5 farmers, these producers, had thought about these moves
6 in the past, in years past.
7 MR. ANDERSON: How far should they be away
8 from residences? What is a good enough --
9 MR. DAVIS: How close would be close enough
10 for you? Do you live in town or in the country?
11 MR. ANDERSON: I am not testifying but the Act
12 is satisfactory to me.
13 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions for Mr.
14 Davis? Let's concentrate on Mike Davis who is
15 testifying.
16 MR. WETZEL: Aaron Wetzel. So you said that,
17 you know, basically the way you understood you want to
18 go back to the family farm but how many people in here
19 eat pork?
20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Not anymore.
21 MR. WETZEL: Well, how can you sustain, raise
22 enough pork to feed this country as a family producer?
23 MR. DAVIS: It is not about going backwards.
24 I didn't say that. I said it is about the future and

1 it is about regulating the industry.
2 MR. WETZEL: And they are regulating it.
3 MR. DAVIS: The regulations that the
4 Department of Agriculture, they are 20 years old.
5 MR. SONDGEROTH: Gentlemen, the court reporter
6 cannot take down transcription when you are talking
7 over each other. So I am going to warn you
8 respectfully it has got to go one at a time. If you
9 could ask a direct --
10 MR. WETZEL: That was my question. How are
11 you going to sustain, feed, the amount of pork consumed
12 by your so-called factory farms if you don't want them?
13 I mean it is that simple.
14 MR. DAVIS: The first thing I said was
15 everybody loves pork. Nothing better than a whole hog
16 sausage. Everybody knows that.
17 My point was the regulation. The definition
18 I got from the environmentalist about minimized odor.
19 And, you know, I am going to live next to it. It is
20 going to run my property value down. That is my
21 concern.
22 MR. SONDGEROTH: In the interest of time, any
23 other questions for Mr. Davis? Next is Dennis Smith.
24 Dennis, could you please come to the podium? On deck

1 Heidi Foil. If you can come up and sit in the chair
2 here. Mr. Smith, raise your right hand please.
3 (At this time Dennis Smith was duly sworn.)
4 MR. SONDGEROTH: State your name and spell
5 your last name please.
6 MR. SMITH: Dennis Smith. S-m-i-t-h. As I
7 said, I am Dennis Smith, Vermilion County Farm Bureau
8 President. I would like to speak in favor of the
9 project.
10 I am personally a 6th generation livestock
11 producer. I grew up raising hogs on my family farm.
12 Our farm doesn't have any hogs any longer but hogs have
13 been very good to my family's way of life.
14 The Parks project is doing things the right
15 way. They have applied for the permits, they have done
16 the design, they are complying with the LMFA law.
17 I feel the benefits are many and we will have
18 a positive ripple effect throughout our county. You
19 are going to have construction jobs, construction
20 materials, site employees.
21 They have already said -- a lot of us in here
22 are farmers. They have already said how many thousands
23 of bushels of corn and soybeans they are going to use.
24 And they are going to provide a real estate tax base

1 for mostly Oakwood school.
2 Sustainability is a buzzword these days. Hog
3 production fits that word. Corn is grown, it is fed to
4 the hogs, manure is hauled back out on the corn ground
5 and more corn is grown. So that is a sustainability
6 cycle.
7 The fertilizer is organic in nature. It is a
8 natural fertilizer and it replaces commercially
9 produced fertilizers.
10 I have personally hauled grain to the
11 location that is going to grind the feed for the place
12 and so it is a benefit to my family's farm because they
13 are going to use my corn and soybeans as well as
14 bushels that are produced throughout our county. So
15 all in all I think this project is a plus for Vermilion
16 County.
17 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any questions for Mr. Smith?
18 MR. LEWIS: Yeah. Carl Lewis. Just to make
19 sure I understand what you are saying, as long as you
20 have an economic interest in this facility, then it is
21 a good thing? If you don't, then we might as well just
22 put up with it for the rest of you?
23 MR. SMITH: That is not what I said.
24 MR. LEWIS: Well, it is. You benefit by

1 hauling grain. The farmers benefit by growing grain.
2 My son who was generously given an extra 40 feet
3 benefits how?
4 MR. SMITH: I am just saying the overall
5 benefit for our county is good.
6 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions for Mr.
7 Smith? Thank you. Can you state your name and spell
8 it?
9 MS. FOIL: Heidi Foil, f-o-i-l.
10 MR. SONDGEROTH: Can you raise your right
11 hand?
12 At this time Heidi Foil was duly sworn.)
13 MS. FOIL: I want to talk about the CAFO air
14 pollution and children. The vulnerability of children
15 must be considered when identifying potential adverse
16 health effects from these large scale Confined Animal
17 Feeding Operations, CAFO's.
18 Several noteworthy research efforts have been
19 focused specifically on the effect of these generated
20 air emissions on young children and children of the
21 farm operators themselves.
22 The literature also includes numerous
23 articles recording the physical vulnerability to all
24 types of air pollution. They are not just small

1 adults.

2 As a result of their size, age and

3 developmental status, children are more vulnerable than

4 adults to the health threats posed by the environmental

5 irritants and toxins.

6 In 2003 the American Public Health

7 Association called for moratorium on the construction

8 of new CAFOs until more research could be completed

9 regarding the public health effects in these

10 facilities.

11 Sorry, I am not good at this. When we pair

12 the two issues, air quality and kids or air quality and

13 CAFOs, we should recommend a prescription of precaution

14 and protect the young children from the CAFO emissions

15 until further research can prove to the health

16 community that these emissions do not harm children.

17 Children 2 years of age and under have 10

18 times the risk of adults from exposure to toxins. I am

19 going to quote these from some studies I will turn in

20 to you.

21 Ounce for ounce children drink more water,

22 eat more food and breathe more air than adults

23 resorting in a disproportionally higher exposure to the

24 contaminants in our water, food and air.

1 Neurotoxins such as the led and other toxic
2 chemicals at low levels can disrupt the brains wiring.
3 We have talked about the gas that is going to emit from
4 this.
5 There has already been a lawsuit that was
6 won. A woman with six children, her 2 year old toddler
7 has irreversible brain damage. They live near a CAFO.
8 She has been gagged. She can't talk about it
9 but they did settle out of court. And I am sure she
10 felt she needed to because she needed to care for this
11 daughter for the rest of her life.
12 This is a big concern for myself living in
13 the community and having children myself watching other
14 people's children starting to have their own families,
15 these emissions are a huge concern.
16 MR. SONDGEROTH: Thank you. Are there any
17 questions for Mrs. Foil?
18 MR. ANDERSON: Nick Anderson. Can you tell me
19 what study was that that you are referring to?
20 MS. FOIL: I have a list of studies here.
21 The one about ounce for ounce is from the Envirozine
22 English issues from the Envirozine magazine, Childrens
23 Environmental Health.
24 MR. ANDERSON: Were those studies done on

1 Illinois farms?
2 MS. FOIL: That I couldn't answer. I can
3 find out and let you know.
4 MR. ANDERSON: And lastly, in Vermilion County
5 with the livestock population now, do you have health
6 concerns with livestock farms through the air emissions
7 today?
8 MS. FOIL: CAFOs, yes, I do.
9 MR. ANDERSON: Can you define your definition
10 of a CAFO?
11 MS. FOIL: The factory.
12 MR. ANDERSON: What is your definition of a
13 factory?
14 MS. FOIL: Mass production of any item.
15 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions for
16 Mrs. Foil? Entered into the record as Exhibit No. 6 is
17 a written document from Heidi Foil, f-o-i-l, Exhibit 6.
18 Could you please state your name and spell your last
19 name?
20 MR. WILLARD: Mark Willard, w-i-l-l-a-r-d.
21 (At this time Mr. Willard was duly sworn.)
22 MR. WILLARD: I am Mark Willard. I am a
23 lifelong resident of Vermilion County. I have been
24 actively involved in agriculture my entire life.

1 Agriculture has been a big part of my life
2 for the past 40 years. Agriculture has been a good
3 life for me. I see the positive of agriculture.
4 I see the positive of what local people who
5 are involved in agriculture provide to their local
6 communities. The one nice factor about the proposed
7 facilities here in Vermilion County is that these are
8 local people who are civically minded to stay in this
9 community.
10 The resources that they generate by this
11 facility and their other agricultural activities go
12 back into this community.
13 Vermilion County needs resources. This is
14 another new resource to be used by the population of
15 the entire public of Vermilion County.
16 Current trend in modern day agriculture is
17 that a lot of large entities, farm entities rent tracts
18 of land. They haul to their own grain facilities for
19 storage and drying, then they haul to other areas to be
20 processed.
21 Most of these large producers do not put
22 anything back into their local communities. I am
23 civically minded. I am on the Board of Farm Bureau. I
24 am a trustee. I am a member of the Sons of the

1 American Legion.
2 I do things actively in my own community.
3 The people who are running this facility are your
4 friends and neighbors. They are in your community.
5 This is a positive for Vermilion County. Thank you.
6 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any questions for Mr.
7 Willard?
8 MR. MILLER: Eugene Miller. I used to farm
9 30 years. When I farmed, we asked the neighbors of
10 their opinion on things.
11 Do you mind the smell of hogs for the rest of
12 your life? So my question is: What do I do to my
13 house if I want to move because nobody is going to want
14 to buy it? No one is ever going to buy a house within
15 a few miles of this facility and our taxes will not go
16 down.
17 MR. WILLARD: I do not believe the impact at
18 your house will be great. If your neighbor down the
19 road burns leaves -- if a person down the road burns
20 leaves, does that irritate you?
21 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions for Mr.
22 Willard?
23 MR. LEWIS: David Lewis. Given your expert
24 opinion on property values, how do you --

1 MR. WILLARD: Say what?
2 MR. LEWIS: Given your expert opinion on
3 property values, how do you think I am going to fare?
4 MR. WILLARD: I have no idea where you live,
5 how you fare and I certainly do not have an expertise
6 on property values although I do see that the tax
7 revenue that will be generated by this facility, both
8 federal, state and local taxes, will certainly benefit
9 the entire community. Goes into your local schools and
10 also goes to other infrastructure purposes throughout
11 the entire county.
12 MR. LEWIS: I structured that incorrectly.
13 Sorry. I am David Lewis. I am the one 40 feet outside
14 of the setback area. With that information, hopefully
15 you can provide me a better assessment.
16 MR. WILLARD: I certainly don't know how this
17 will affect your property values. I certainly have no
18 expertise on whether or not this will impact your
19 property values whatsoever.
20 The facility meets the standards that have
21 been set by Illinois Department of Agriculture and
22 these are the standards in which we are currently
23 governed to adhere by.
24 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions for Mr.

1 Willard? Seeing none, thank you. Next person is Tom
2 Kentner. He informed me he would pass. The next one
3 is Jane Creason. Could you please state your name?
4 MR. LEWIS: David Lewis, l-e-w-i-s.
5 MR. SONDGEROTH: Raise your right hand.
6 (At this time Mr. Lewis was duly affirmed.)
7 MR. LEWIS: So the timing of this hearing kind
8 of puts many of us at a presentation disadvantage so
9 you are getting an alternate ending to what I
10 originally planned.
11 I really appreciate everybody's time. There
12 was a lot of information. I actually learned a lot of
13 information. That was the initial comment section was
14 trying to state the things I didn't know so I do
15 appreciate a lot of the coming to light.
16 I especially appreciate the neighbors and
17 friends and family that have come from really near and
18 far to bear witness to this either in support or
19 opposition or just to learn.
20 In the end I am not a fan and I do not want
21 to live next door to a confined animal feed lot
22 operation. I am truthfully doubtful that the odor
23 abatements that were outlined here will be enough. We
24 will see.

1 I am fearful that in the long run, the local
2 families will lose. We will see. I even worry about
3 my two daughters and their health, but again, time will
4 tell.
5 We will see if this is as great of a
6 facility. If it is stable, if we are not going to have
7 to worry about the runoff as a lot of us were initially
8 concerned about.
9 However, I feel so strongly about not wanting
10 to be next door neighbors to this facility that
11 reluctantly I will leave my homestead. Until the day
12 comes when I find somebody who would love to live next
13 door to an 8,000 plus swine facility, I am going to
14 have to hold everybody involved accountable.
15 This is going to be a top to bottom thing
16 where they will be accountable for honoring statements
17 that you have made tonight, accountable for keeping our
18 streams clean, accountable for disposing of wastes
19 appropriately, responsibly and in accordance with the
20 law, accountable to be a good neighbor. That is all I
21 have. Thank you.
22 MR. SONDGEROTH: Are there any questions for
23 Mr. Lewis?
24 MS. HULS: Cheryl Huls. How deep is your

1 well?

2 MR. LEWIS: 55 foot.

3 MS. HULS: Okay. Thank you.

4 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions for Mr.

5 Lewis? Seeing none, thank you. Kyle Ramm, you are on

6 deck. Please state your name for the record.

7 MS. CREASON: Jane Creason, c-r-e-a-s-o-n.

8 (At this time Ms. Creason was duly sworn.)

9 MS. CREASON: Actually there is no truth to

10 this at all in the sense that I am simply going to

11 express an opinion. I know the water and the, many of

12 these things have already been covered tonight.

13 And it isn't about regulations. It is simply

14 about my belief that it is wrong what we do to animals

15 when we do this kind of factory farming.

16 These animals are going to be in a very small

17 confined space. Very often the pigs tails will be cut

18 off or they will chew them off simply because of their

19 frustration with where they are.

20 Hogs are more intelligent than cats and dogs.

21 Can you imagine doing to cats and dogs what we do in

22 factory farms of all kinds.

23 The manure will be on top of the floor. It

24 will eventually go down into the slats. It will be

1 periodically washed down into the slats. There will be
2 ammonia and other toxins described. Those toxins are
3 there. They come up through the slats.
4 These animals breathe that every day. They
5 will live their entire lives confined inside. And it
6 just seems to me that there has got to be something
7 better.
8 I know these are all around the country. I
9 know that 90 some percent of our food is produced in
10 these methods. I simply want at least this tiny way to
11 say I think this is wrong.
12 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any questions for
13 Mrs. Creason? Seeing none, thank you. Stan Johnson,
14 can you come to the front row, please?
15 MR. JOHNSON: I don't have any testimony left
16 after everything I heard. My questions have been
17 answered.
18 MR. SONDGEROTH: So Stan Johnson passes.
19 James Chidlaw?
20 MR. CHIDLAW: I will pass as well. Just
21 acknowledging that I am opposed to this plant.
22 MR. SONDGEROTH: Mr. Chidlaw passes. Next
23 name is Brandon Palmisano.
24 MR. PALMISANO: I also pass.

1 MR. SONDGEROTH: I have spoken with Steve
2 Behrens. He was next on the list. He passes. Next is
3 Jeff Feller?
4 MR. FELLER: I feel I should pass. There is
5 nothing more I can add.
6 MR. SONDGEROTH: Jeff Feller passes. Jennifer
7 Tirey?
8 MS. TIREY: I pass.
9 MR. SONDGEROTH: She passes. Cheryl Huls,
10 please come to the front row. Thank you. Can you
11 please state your name for the record and spell your
12 last name.
13 MR. RAMM: Kyle Ramm, r-a-m-m.
14 MR. SONDGEROTH: Please raise your right hand,
15 Mr. Ramm.
16 (At this time Mr. Ramm was duly sworn.)
17 MR. RAMM: Well, I live at 20892 State Route
18 49, Fithian, Illinois, 61844, which is less than a mile
19 from the proposed site. I did not get a letter from
20 anything so I am evidently outside the area that it
21 needs to be.
22 I along with my wife was offered an
23 opportunity to buy the farm that I farm over in
24 Flatville area. I find all of this information out the

1 day after we purchased that property from Mr. Lewis
2 that had the letter sent to him. Okay.
3 First thing I want to say, I had a well put
4 in less than two years ago from Dave Harper, Harper
5 Well Drilling, out of Bismarck. The well is less than
6 36 feet.
7 So the first person that would have problems
8 with that well is going to be this property that I am
9 currently residing on.
10 You will also remember me and where I live by
11 I was the person that lost the car on 49 when we had
12 that 8 inch rainfall that come up. So Mr. Lewis and I
13 would also be the first ones affected by flooding or
14 things like that.
15 I guess the one biggest thing I want to kind
16 of get off my chest, I had my place sold privately
17 before this letter came out. No one knew about it. It
18 was done. That person has pulled back because of this
19 going on.
20 So the reason I am standing up here right now
21 is anybody that would like to buy a beautiful home,
22 come find me after this meeting. Thank you.
23 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any questions for Mr. Ramm?
24 Seeing none, thank you. David Thornton. Can you

1 please state your name for the record?
2 MS. HULS: Cheryl Huls, h-u-l-s.
3 MR. SONDGEROTH: Raise your right hand.
4 (At this time Ms. Huls was duly sworn.)
5 MS. HULS: Dear Director -- this is from my
6 mother-in-law. She wrote this letter and I would like
7 to read it.
8 John has lived in the above location for more
9 than 75 years. We have lived as a married couple on
10 our farm for more than 65 years.
11 At our ages 85 and as the end of this month
12 95, it is difficult for us to get out and so we
13 anticipate that we will not be able to attend your
14 informational meeting. So I am here to read it. That
15 was her words.
16 We therefore wish to provide our written
17 comments and objections to the siting and construction
18 of these proposed facilities and ask that you disprove
19 these projects.
20 The reason for our objections include without
21 limitation the following: This is an environmentally
22 sensitive area. Water wells in this area are shallow.
23 Deep wells are not generally available. Thus the risk
24 of contamination to the resident water supply from

1 runoff, spills and leaching is greatly heightened.
2 We are not aware of and have not seen what,
3 if any, hydrologic or other appropriate studies have
4 been undertaken by the owner/operator and what measures
5 he has proposed to prevent leaching into or other
6 contamination of the aquifer. As well as protection of
7 wells, tapping into the same aquifer.
8 In the absence of studies showing the aquifer
9 and nearby wells will in no circumstance be susceptible
10 to damage. These projects should be disproved.
11 No. 2, the water supply in this area is
12 inadequate even for its current needs, thus these
13 projects place the local water supply at risk. Both as
14 to quality and quantity.
15 For example, the town of Fithian already must
16 supplement its water supply by obtaining water from
17 outside its service area. The individual wells that at
18 home places are shallow and overuse limits water
19 availability and affects water quality.
20 The proposed facilities will be intensive
21 users of water, significantly impairing the already
22 limited water supply of the area both as to quality and
23 quantity.
24 In the absence of hydrologic and other

1 appropriate studies to demonstrating that there will be
2 no adverse impact by the proposed projects on the
3 quality and quantity of local water supplies, these
4 projects should be disapproved.
5 No. 3, our home and the homes of other nearby
6 residents are on roads connecting these two facilities.
7 They live right down the road from both.
8 Our road is already stressed beyond its
9 design capability by traffic coming from the east
10 township and connecting to State Route 49. The
11 additional use of the road by trucks, employees and
12 supplies moving from one facility to the other or to
13 simply gain access to State Route 49 will further
14 stress the overburdened road.
15 In the absence of appropriate traffic studies
16 demonstrating that there will be no adverse impact on
17 the local road network as well as the existence of a
18 transportation hog plant that prohibits use of the
19 roads of insufficient design capability. These
20 projects should be disproved.
21 4, one feature of the area in which the
22 facilities are being proposed is that of high and
23 sustained winds.
24 Wind farm companies have located their

1 facilities for that very reason and there is signage
2 along Interstate 74 warning drivers of high wind
3 conditions.
4 These characteristics combined with the
5 proximity location of these facilities generally
6 positioned in an east-west line creates a situation --
7 MR. SONDGEROTH: Ms. Huls, to be fair to
8 everyone --
9 MS. HULS: -- where the noxious odors that are
10 being produced by the facilities will unduly affect
11 nearby farm residents of Fithian, Muncie, Ogden, Royal
12 and Hope. I didn't time it. Betty wrote it. I would
13 like to read the rest of it.
14 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any questions for Mrs. Huls?
15 We will go through the oral testimony and then if we
16 have additional time then it will go back to you. Any
17 questions for Mrs. Huls? We have a few more people to
18 give oral testimony. If there is time after, we will
19 give Mrs. Huls additional time.
20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I would like the address.
21 MS. HULS: I will give you her address and
22 phone number.
23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you state that for the
24 record so the Department knows?

1 MS. HULS: I did. I will give them the
2 paper.
3 MR. SONDGEROTH: There is a few people left on
4 the list. Nick Anderson. State your name for the
5 record and spell your last name.
6 MR. THORNTON: David Thornton,
7 t-h-o-r-n-t-o-n.
8 MR. SONDGEROTH: Raise your right hand.
9 (At this time Mr. Thornton was duly sworn.)
10 MR. THORNTON: First I want to start out
11 saying I love bacon. Who doesn't. Second thing, I
12 wanted to ask you guys a few questions during my
13 testimony here.
14 MR. SONDGEROTH: This is your opportunity to
15 give testimony, not the opportunity to ask questions of
16 the Department.
17 MR. THORNTON: First I want to say I am
18 appalled to have to be sworn in for this. This is not
19 a court of law. Nothing we say or do discuss here is
20 binding whatsoever.
21 I am also disgusted at this
22 cross-examination. I am not on trial. I am here to
23 give testimony to my beliefs. I think this whole
24 meeting is kind of whack.

1 That being said, the Department of
2 Agriculture is charged with promoting livestock
3 production as well as regulating it. I think that is a
4 profound conflict of interest.
5 I will be short here. My blood pressure is
6 high. I apologize. The gentleman earlier mentioned
7 the Chicago Tribune article of the price of pork. It
8 is a good article. I suggest you Google it and look it
9 up about how the Department rubber stamps all of these
10 permits.
11 I will quote the article "when rural
12 residents express outrage upon discovering the many
13 shortfalls of Illinois law, Mr. Goetsch patiently
14 advises them to contact their elected state
15 representatives."
16 He is quoted as saying "they then if they
17 feel the need will change the law," which he said last
18 year in a hearing in Marshall County. I would ask if
19 that is correct but I am not allowed to do that.
20 They have approved 900 of these plants in the
21 past 20 years. That is 45 a year or about 4 a month.
22 This type of hearing is important. The laws are weak.
23 The fact is the hearings here are
24 informational. The county commissioner's

1 recommendations are nonbinding. I don't believe you
2 guys have ever denied a permit ever.
3 80 percent of these facilities have been
4 built in the last 20 years. No matter what we the
5 public say, no matter what the county board says, if
6 the applicant meets the requirement of this very weak
7 statute, they will be approved. And that is the fact
8 and that just disgusts me. Thank you. And you are not
9 asking me questions.
10 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any questions for Mr.
11 Thornton?
12 MR. ANDERSON: Nick Anderson. The permit,
13 900 permits, where did you collect that data?
14 MR. THORNTON: It was from the Chicago
15 Tribune article. I am not an expert in this, just
16 giving my testimony. You are probably much more
17 prepared than I am so I look forward to hearing from
18 you.
19 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions for Mr.
20 Thornton? Thank you. Jason Propst?
21 MR. PROPST: Pass.
22 MR. SONDGEROTH: Jason Propst passes. Can you
23 please state your name and spell your last name?
24 MR. ANDERSON: Nick Anderson,

1 a-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.
2 (At this time Mr. Anderson was duly sworn.)
3 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Parks Livestock and
4 the Department of Agriculture and concerned citizens.
5 I have been to a lot of these meetings in the past and
6 this emotion that you are having is not uncommon.
7 From my experience over the past 20 years,
8 there has been over 1700 Notices of Intent to the
9 Department of Agriculture. About 80 percent of those
10 do meet the requirements of the Act.
11 To make the statement that they are rubber
12 stamped and aren't denied is really a little untrue.
13 They have every opportunity to meet the requirements of
14 the Act.
15 And if they can't, the Department will not
16 let them continue. That is not a denial but they can't
17 fulfill the Act so they do no longer exist. That
18 creates a lot of economic opportunity.
19 I know a lot of you are frustrated like at
20 other meetings sometimes that all your answers aren't
21 or questions aren't asked to your appropriate needs.
22 My hope is that through the Parks group that
23 tried to put a handout to some folks that bid it off
24 early on, you know who you are, in communication but I

1 truly think they are vested in this community and want
2 to make this work.
3 The issues with environment and odors and
4 some of those challenges, I can sure take questions and
5 would love to try to express them to you so you
6 understood them better.
7 Because if you walk out of this meeting
8 frustrated without the answers and think it is just a
9 bunch of hogwash, the purpose isn't being solved
10 because I think there is a solution to all of those
11 things and the proof is in the facts of other farms.
12 And you think about the Tribune, they never
13 said that they visited 15 other farms and found no
14 issues. Why was that not reported. They weren't after
15 that.
16 When we talk about the permitting process, I
17 know there are people that don't like it but in the end
18 when I go back to those farms that have had issues,
19 those concerns that people have do no longer exist or
20 they have been able to work it out with their neighbors
21 so that it isn't some life ruining thing.
22 Our challenge tonight is it is emotional, it
23 is all on top of me, I didn't like the notification
24 process, I misunderstood it all. Can be part of our

1 industry's issue, the Department's issue. It is also
2 your responsibility. It was posted in the paper.
3 Those types of issues are out there in the
4 marketplace. Where does it stop for a farm to notify
5 people. And typically it stops in that residential
6 setback and in the populated area setback. Whether
7 that is right or wrong, that is kind of where the
8 notification stops.
9 So unfortunately and I would believe, not to
10 speak for Parks, but I believe they would have liked to
11 talk to you and they probably should have done a bigger
12 search to do that.
13 My hope is we can remedy that tonight and
14 have a good communication with them and the industry.
15 We are not here to get in a fistfight or tussle about
16 this or that. There are some studies out there that
17 suggest certain things. On the other side of the
18 fence --
19 MR. SONDGEROTH: Mr. Anderson, your time is
20 expired. I am sorry. Are there any questions for Mr.
21 Anderson?
22 MR. DAVIS: My name is Mike Davis. When you
23 -- what industry are you referring to when you say the
24 industry?

1 MR. ANDERSON: So I work in the industry of
2 the livestock system. So a CAFO might be pork, beef,
3 dairy. Pork. Tonight it is about pork.
4 And I grew up on a pork farm in Henry County.
5 My parents and family lived around that and went from
6 an outside production system to an inside production
7 system like many of us have in the industry for a lot
8 of reasons.
9 One of them is environmental. One is
10 efficiency and performance. One is marketability of our
11 uniform product. So there is a lot of reasons we got
12 here today but cattle farms, chicken farms, dairy farms
13 are all regulated under the LMFA.
14 And a CAFO definition can be 1,000 and it can
15 also be 50. The definition becomes a CAFO, anything
16 that is concentrated animal feeding operation like the
17 Act requires that does not maintain vegetation for a
18 period of time.
19 MR. SONDGEROTH: That answers his question.
20 Any other questions?
21 MR. LEWIS: David Lewis. Are you from around
22 here, Mr. Anderson?
23 MR. ANDERSON: Live over in Sangamon County.
24 MR. LEWIS: And your proximity to a CAFO?

1 MR. ANDERSON: There is a hog CAFO about 4
2 miles south of me and there is a dairy CAFO about 3
3 miles directly to the northwest. And I did grow up
4 around a hog farm within 200 yards of our home place.
5 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
6 MS. HULS: So you lived that close to it and
7 it doesn't bother you?
8 MR. ANDERSON: No. I grew up around it as a
9 kid.
10 MS. HULS: But it wasn't as big.
11 MR. ANDERSON: When you think about
12 incremental manure supply for a year, those
13 incrementally it is an 8400, difference between 8400
14 and 2400 is a volume difference but an impact
15 difference if you think about setbacks and the size and
16 scale of that, those -- if I have one animal or two
17 animals or three animals or ten animals, there are
18 margins. That is why a thousand animal unit increment
19 on size and when we grow to another thousand animal
20 units, the setbacks get bigger.
21 MS. HULS: Did you choose to live there and
22 have that --
23 MR. ANDERSON: On the one farm I did choose
24 there. The dairy farm was there and the hog farm was

1 built after I was there. And when I was growing up, we
2 went from an outside, that was my dad's choice, not
3 mine. We lived around it and had pretty good health as
4 kids. It was a 4800 head.
5 MS. HULS: But the other people here don't
6 choose it.
7 MR. SONDGEROTH: We need to limit it to
8 questions.
9 MR. THORNTON: David Thornton, once again. I
10 am a little bit nearsighted. I can't read your shirt.
11 What group are you with?
12 MR. ANDERSON: I work with the Illinois
13 Livestock Development Group. So the commodity groups
14 of pork, beef, dairy in the State of Illinois.
15 So farms like this that might not have
16 experience with a permit process, our role as an
17 industry is to educate people so they do the right
18 things, follow the permit and the regulations the right
19 way. We don't support people that don't do that.
20 We also want to encourage people to have
21 those conversations about neighbor issues whether I
22 think it is important or not important and whether you
23 are fearful of it because you are or because it is
24 factual, we need to start those dialogues.

1 And we are going to encourage people to do
2 that. And I hope I can be that chain to do it. And in
3 2 or 3 years from now, my wish is that it isn't as bad
4 as I thought it was and I can live next to it and we
5 can become good neighbors. That is my goal and that is
6 the farm's goal.
7 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
8 MS. RAMM: Laurie Ramm, r-a-m-m. Did you say
9 you lived near a hog --
10 MR. ANDERSON: A hog and dairy.
11 MS. RAMM: Did you smell it?
12 MR. ANDERSON: I rarely smell 3 miles away.
13 On my home farm where I grew up, we were outside every
14 day. We always had the saying that our pigs don't
15 smell, but my neighbors do. And there is difference of
16 odors out there and wind flow becomes a part of it.
17 MS. RAMM: When it becomes hot, can you smell
18 it?
19 MR. ANDERSON: No. Not in my neighborhood,
20 no.
21 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
22 MS. LANE: Synthia Lane, l-a-n-e. You are
23 saying these people just need educated, maybe they
24 wouldn't be so fearful.

1 Every one of the issues brought up here
2 tonight is listed as a concern for a CAFO on the
3 website.
4 MR. ANDERSON: And we also have studies like
5 they have promoted and tolerances that are out there
6 that those studies might say that or those concerns are
7 there but in reality when I go back to the 1700 notices
8 that were applied for in Illinois and built the last 20
9 years, we don't have those issues. Now people sure
10 exploit some issues --
11 MS. LANE: There are issues that are founded
12 in facts. They are not things that we just need
13 educated about.
14 MR. ANDERSON: I try to look at Vermilion
15 County and the livestock production over the years. I
16 don't know that there is a crisis here with livestock
17 production big or small and there are big farms in this
18 county that don't affect neighborhoods or interfere
19 with people's livelihoods.
20 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
21 MR. PALMISANO: Brandon Palmisano,
22 p-a-l-m-i-s-a-n-o. Now I understand they did the ratio
23 around the pig farm with the smell, but if there is a
24 15, 20 mile per hour wind gust --

1 MR. ANDERSON: Actually wind helps dispersion
2 of -- odor is carried on dust. And when we can keep
3 barns clean and production facilities clean and reduce
4 dust, actually wind flow is good because it disperses
5 odor so it is not so concentrated. Our worst days on
6 livestock farms are on calm days where air doesn't
7 move.
8 MR. PALMISANO: It is going to blow chemicals
9 around the air is what you are saying?
10 MR. ANDERSON: Sulfite gas is a heavy gas and
11 if you think about the distance between our farm, farms
12 that we live in and work in and hog production, if that
13 gas was deadly, we would not walk in and out of those
14 buildings, we could not raise pigs in those buildings.
15 We have farms located within half miles of
16 schools that have the kids out, the kids come out to
17 the farm every year. They are so close to the school
18 they want to see it. That issue of health is not
19 there.
20 If that is a concern of this community, I
21 think if you put a monitor up and spend a lot of money
22 on that, you are not going to find what you think is
23 there because if it was there, we would already see
24 that happening in schools around rural America and it

1 just doesn't happen.
2 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
3 MR. DAVIS: Mike Davis. I generally asked
4 earlier about participants who aren't in the
5 neighborhood, aren't affected one way or the other,
6 aren't pork producers here, aren't residents here.
7 If anyone in the audience was represented in
8 any organization on a payroll or salary for an
9 organization here at this meeting asking questions.
10 Specifically asking you, Mr. Anderson, who do
11 you work for? And under the basis of that, the
12 contract, whatever, however you work, what are your
13 basic job requirements?
14 MR. ANDERSON: So I do not work for Parks
15 Livestock. I don't work for Joe Smith. So what I do
16 in the marketplace is when a farmer wants to build
17 livestock or interested, whether it is cattle, poultry,
18 hogs, whatever, they want to know what the rules are.
19 And there are groups out here, engineers that help do
20 that.
21 But before they spend that money, we got to
22 look at a site, we got to look at the location, what is
23 the feasibility of it, what are the rules they have to
24 abide by.

1 And when they look at a site, can they meet
2 the basic requirements of the Act. We also talk about
3 environmental rules, where they are going to haul
4 manure, the whole gamut of expectations of when I get
5 involved in livestock production, is it something I can
6 do and our family can do and is it an opportunity that
7 we can be successful at.
8 If they can answer those questions, then they
9 go to the permit process to go through it officially.
10 So when you think about people completing the process,
11 they already understand what the rules are, can we
12 comply. And most people that take that step realize
13 they can comply and they can meet the rules.
14 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
15 MR. ANDERSON: The only ones that do not fail
16 or go ahead is because there is something on that site
17 that the Department has identified that inhibits them.
18 MR. SONDGEROTH: Two more questions.
19 MR. JOHNSON: Randy Johnson. What do you
20 have to gain or lose whether this facility is built or
21 not built?
22 MR. ANDERSON: Nothing. I try to be neutral.
23 I understand both sides.
24 MR. JOHNSON: I just wanted to ask that

1 question.
2 MR. SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
3 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Mike Cunningham. I would
4 like to answer this gentleman's question. He works for
5 me. I am a Vermilion County soybean and corn producer.
6 MR. SONDGEROTH: Do you have a question for
7 Mr. Anderson?
8 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Who do you work for?
9 MR. ANDERSON: I apologize. A lot of times I
10 I leave people out. From the livestock industry, it is
11 pork, beef, dairy, Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Corn
12 and Soybean Association because they are part of the
13 consumption of the circle out there.
14 So I represent those folks on livestock
15 issues and try to understand what those issues are so
16 we can grow the livestock industry in Illinois.
17 MR. SONDGEROTH: Final question.
18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I am also a corn producer.
19 I am also a soybean producer. I don't have livestock.
20 I am a member of the Farm Bureau. Contribute to the
21 Illinois Corn Board Soybean Association annually.
22 And you're saying, you are telling me that
23 you're representing my input to those assets is
24 repulsive. And I appreciate it.

1 MR. ANDERSON: I will answer that question
2 even though you didn't form it. So livestock eat corn.
3 Without corn and soybeans, livestock do not exist.
4 Corn and soybeans are the No. 1 consumer of
5 livestock. If livestock doesn't continue, the grain
6 side doesn't either. That circle stops.
7 MR. SONDGEROTH: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
8 Anderson. We do have a little extra time. I would
9 like to allow Mrs. Cheryl Huls additional time to
10 provide additional testimony. Mrs. Huls, I will remind
11 you, you are still under oath.
12 MS. HULS: Right. Okay. This is written by
13 Betty Huls. And I think I left off at No. 4. One
14 feature of the area in which these facilities are being
15 proposed is that of high and sustained winds.
16 Wind farm companies have located their
17 facilities here for that very reason and there is
18 signage along Interstate 74 warning drivers of high
19 wind conditions.
20 These characteristics combined with the
21 proximity location of these facilities generally
22 positioned in an east-west line creates a situation
23 where the noxious odors that will be produced by the
24 facility will unduly affect nearby farm residents as

1 well as nearby populated areas. For example, Fithian,
2 Muncie, Ogden, Royal and Hope.
3 One of the guiding principles of the
4 Livestock Management Facilities Act, LMFA, is to
5 protect the environment as well as the persons living
6 within the vicinity of these kind of livestock
7 production facilities.
8 With one facility located to the west and one
9 to the east of our home and our neighbor's homes, it is
10 likely that there will never be a day when you will not
11 smell these pigs and their waste.
12 This is egregious and disproportionate, going
13 well beyond the balance of interest contemplated by the
14 LMFA. In the absence of appropriate wind and other
15 scientific studies together with odor control plans
16 incorporating specific and best technological science
17 and science based practices demonstrating that the
18 noxious odors will, can be adequately controlled in a
19 manner that will assure that farm neighbors and nearby
20 populated areas will be minimally impacted. These
21 projects should be disapproved.
22 And then they signed it John A. Huls and
23 Betty Lou Huls. And I am just reading it for them.
24 MR. SONDGEROTH: Are there any questions for

1 Mrs. Huls? Seeing none, there is an additional sign-in
2 sheet. There were two here in the back. I don't want
3 to leave anybody out. There was Randy Johnson.
4 MR. JOHNSON: I will pass. I wanted to give
5 my time to her anyway.
6 MR. SONDGEROTH: Randy Johnson will pass.
7 Wade Harrison?
8 MR. HARRISON: I will pass.
9 MR. SONDGEROTH: Pass. And finally Vince
10 Koers. State your name for the record spelling your
11 last name.
12 MR. KOERS: Vince Koers, k-o-e-r-s.
13 (At this time Mr. Koers was duly sworn.)
14 MR. KOERS: Some place in the presentation
15 that appeared in front, there was the word liability at
16 one point. In the handout, that word doesn't appear.
17 So I am not sure where the liability comes into the
18 Act.
19 But I guess the question I want to ask is we
20 are turning around building this facility at the
21 southern end of a wind farm where the neighborhood has
22 already been subjected to some negative things, people
23 moving out of homes that are vacant today. Does
24 anybody know what the effect of ultrasonic sound is on

1 pigs and the ability to raise them and put weight on
2 them the way they should?
3 The tax issue of what is going to happen to
4 the homes around the area, we have had testimony
5 tonight that well, gee, these problems all work their
6 selves out and maybe some of them do.
7 But if the person who lives in the
8 neighborhood sees a drop in the value of his home, who
9 is going to make that up to him. Who is going to pay
10 his taxes when his taxes don't go down.
11 The toxins that are part of the waste
12 material, whether they are a part of the cleaning
13 process or whether they are the antibiotics that are
14 fed to the animals that aren't totally consumed, these
15 get put onto the ground.
16 They are not part of the growing process.
17 They become part of what is available to leach through
18 the ground. That is not to say that it will. But
19 there are people out there with relatively shallow
20 wells. What is going to protect them.
21 I am an industrial engineer and when we
22 design things -- somebody referred to Henry Ford
23 earlier . We put safety factors on what we design.
24 You know, something weighs 300 pounds, we put a 900

1 pound cable on it. We don't put a 304 pound cable on
2 it saying that is good enough. We build redundancy in
3 and we build safety factors in.
4 Now where is the safety factor in this
5 concrete containment that is going to leak some day and
6 you are not going to know about it. And you don't
7 build the redundancy into it. At least not
8 automatically.
9 If you build this process, it ought to be
10 built with this perimeter sampling system that the
11 gentleman referred to but I am going to bet it doesn't
12 happen.
13 And you can say well, gee, it is not in the
14 law and I suppose that is probably true. But you need
15 to give the community that is going to suffer as much
16 benefit here as you can.
17 I hope that the requirements can be taken
18 into consideration. I don't know whether what the
19 County Board says and recommends will carry any weight
20 with you.
21 I have no idea what the County Board is going
22 to say, but the people in the area, you know, have
23 brought up some excellent points that need to be
24 addressed. Thank you.

1 MR. SONDGEROTH: Are there any questions for
2 Mr. Koers? Seeing none, thank you. I have asked
3 everyone on the oral testimony sign-in to either
4 testify tonight or pass.
5 Is there anyone else who would like to
6 provide oral testimony? I want to enter into the
7 record as Exhibit No. 7 the oral testimony sign-in
8 sheets which actually consists of two separate sign-in
9 sheets. It will be Exhibit No. 7.
10 We should probably enter into the record the
11 attendance sheets as well. We will enter those as
12 Exhibit No. 8. We will wait for Mr. Owens to provide
13 those. We will enter those. Entered into the record
14 as Exhibit No. 8 is the attendance sign-in sheets for
15 tonight, January 30, 2017.
16 This concludes the oral testimony portion of
17 the meeting. Finally, are there any closing remarks
18 from the facility that would like to be made?
19 MR. HALSTEAD: Yes. Art Halstead with Parks
20 Livestock. And we appreciate everybody coming tonight
21 to learn about the project and also to give us input.
22 And so I would like to thank you, each and every one of
23 you. And we appreciate the County Board's
24 consideration in approving our project. Thank you.

1 MR. SONDGEROTH: Closing remarks from the
2 Department?
3 MR. GOETSCH: Just very briefly, I guess I
4 would like to say that on behalf of the Department of
5 Agriculture, I would like to thank you for your
6 participation in this public informational meeting.
7 Let me assure you that the Department does
8 appreciate the time and effort that you have put
9 forward in providing us with your comments.
10 I am sure that the Vermilion County Board
11 will consider them as they develop their recommendation
12 for the Department.
13 And I can assure you that they will be
14 considered by the Department as we complete our
15 evaluation process of this project. Thank you again
16 and have a safe trip home.
17 MR. SONDGEROTH: Thank you, Mr. Goetsch. As I
18 mentioned earlier, a copy of the transcript will be
19 provided to the County Board.
20 For those desiring a copy of the transcript
21 tonight, it will be available by contacting the court
22 reporter. Thank you for your attendance tonight. This
23 public information is closed at 7:41.
24

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

2

3 I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and
4 accurate transcript of the Public Informational Meeting
5 taken on January 30, 2017, stenographically recorded by
6 me and reduced to typewriting at my direction.

7 Becky L. Jessup

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9 Becky L. Jessup, CSR

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