PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
REGARDING THE
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A LIVESTOCK
MANAGEMENT FACILITY
BY
PIKE PIGS SYSTEMS-GIN RIDGE, L.L.C.

DATE: Wednesday, June 27, 2018
TIME: 6:00 P.M.

LOCATION: Adams County Courthouse
Adams County Boardroom
507 Vermont
Quincy, Illinois

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

REPORTED BY RANDALL W. WELLS
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER - #0271

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TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING heard on the **27th day of June, 2018**, at the Adams County Courthouse, Adams County Board Room, 507 Vermont Street, in the City of Quincy, State of Illinois.

A P P E A R A N C E S

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Hearing Officer

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Bureau of Environmental Programs

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Bureau of Environmental Programs

APPLICANTS:

John McIntire - Applicant

Chris J. West - President
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ADAMS COUNTY BOARD:

Theresa Bockhold
Duane Venvertloh
Joe Zanger
Bret Austin
Steven DeMoss
Rebecca Weed
Ryan Niekamp
Ryan Hinkamper
Dave Bellis
Marvin Kerkhoff
John Heidbreder
Mark Peter
Matt Obert
John Brady
Seldon Totsch
Les Post

* * *

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Good evening, folks. I'm going to try and see if you guys can all hear me.
Can you hear me right now?
Can you hear me now?
Anybody that can't hear me?
We'll do our best with the microphones tonight. We're actually having a little trouble, as you can tell. We

appreciate Adams County helping us.

Before we begin, if I could ask everyone to make sure your cellphones are turned to silent. That would be much appreciated.

Thank you. First thing we're going to do tonight, before we do introductions, the County Board will do roll call.

So I'll defer to the County Board.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Go ahead, Chuck.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Theresa Bockhold?

MS. BOCKHOLD: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Duane Venvertloh?

Here.

Joe Zanger?

MR. ZANGER: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Todd Duesterhaus?

Bret Austin?

MR. AUSTIN: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Steven DeMoss?

MR. DeMOSS: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Rebecca Weed?

MS. WEED: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Ryan Niekamp?

MR. NIEKAMP: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Ryan Hinkamper?

MR. HINKAMPER: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Dave Bellis?

MR. BELLIS: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Marvin Kerkhoff?

MR. KERKHOFF: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Raquel Piazza?

John Heidbreder?

MR. HEIDBREDER: Present.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Kent Snider?

Taylor Rakers?

Mark Peter?

MR. PETER: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Matt Obert?

MR. OBERT: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Robert Reich?

John Brady?

MR. BRADY: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Seldon Totsch?

MR. TOTSCH: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Les Post?

MR. POST: Here.

MR. VENVERTLOH: Got sixteen present out of twenty-one.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Just a few housekeeping matters. I know the County's informed me that someone from the staff is coming to work on the heating. We've got some of the

lights turned off. Trying to make it a little cooler in here. They're going to work on that. So I know it's warm. It's not by design. They're working on that.

In addition, I think there are a few open seats. If there are no more County Board Members planning to attend, I think there's at least two seats here and maybe one over there for those that might want to grab a seat over here.

Good evening. On behalf of Raymond Poe, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, we thank you very much for the invitation to come to Adams County this evening.

My name is Craig Sondgeroth. I'm with the Illinois Department of Agriculture and I'll be serving as the Hearing Officer for tonight's public informational meeting.

Also with me on behalf of the Department is Warren Goetsch, Chief Deputy Director of the Department.

And also Doug Owens. He's Chief of the Department's Bureau of Environmental Programs.

This meeting is being conducted pursuant to Section 12 of the Livestock Management Facilities Act. The informational meeting is being held at the request of the Adams County Board and is to afford members of the public an opportunity to ask questions and present oral and written testimony regarding the proposed construction of a new 1,597.2 animal unit swine facility by Gin Ridge, L.L.C.

My task this evening is to ensure that this meeting

is conducted in an orderly fashion and also to ensure that all comments and testimony received are entered into the record.

Tonight's meeting is being transcribed. A transcript of this meeting will be sent to the Adams County Board, as well as used by the Department of Agriculture in making its determination regarding the proposed construction of this facility.

In order to ensure that we have an ordinarily process, I will quickly explain how the meeting will proceed this evening.

First, following my comments, Warren Goetsch will provide an overview of the provisions of the Livestock Management Facilities Act as it relates to this particular project, specifically outlining the current status of the project and how the process will proceed following this meeting.

Following Mr. Goetsch, representatives for the proposed construction project will be given an opportunity to describe the project and demonstrate how they believe it meets the siting criteria of the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

After their presentation I will open the meeting to questions. Anyone wishing to ask questions of the facility representatives or the Department will be given an opportunity to do so. During the question and answer session I'll ask that you state your name and spell your last name for the court reporter. You may then ask your question.

Depending on the number of people who wish to testify in the oral testimony phase of the meeting, which is after the question phase, there may be a time limit placed on the questioning phase.

Following the question and answer phase I will ask for written testimony. If anyone has written testimony that is not part of your oral testimony, I will accept it and enter it into the record for this proceeding.

If you have written material that you will be using as part of your oral testimony, it can be entered into the record following your oral testimony.

Then depending on the amount of time that has elapsed at this point in the meeting, we may take a short break.

Following the written testimony I will ask for oral testimony from the public. Sign-in sheets are placed -- there's a table along the wall over there where you came in. There's one sheet for attendance and a second sheet for testimony.

People who wish to provide comments during this oral testimony phase are asked to sign the oral testimony sheet.

People providing oral comments will be sworn in under oath. Each person will be given three minutes to provide his or her comments.

Legal counsel speaking on behalf of multiple clients will be given a total of fifteen minutes for all clients and will be asked to state the names of all persons on whose behalf he or

she is speaking.

Deferring time to other speakers will not be allowed.

If you sign the oral testimony sheet you may either speak, or if you have changed your mind, you may pass. Simply just say "I pass." You may not give your time to someone else.

The meeting will then conclude with closing comments from the Facility and the Department of Agriculture.

To summarize the proceedings tonight, we will have comments from the Department, comments from the Facility, questions directed to the Department and the Facility, remember to state your name and spell your name, written testimony accepted, oral testimony from the public, people will be sworn in, and then closing comments.

Please keep in mind that we are not here this evening to discuss or debate the merits of the existing regulations or laws. We are here tonight to receive information on this particular proposed livestock facility to assist with determining compliance with the existing law.

This is a public informational meeting; not a court proceeding. The purpose is to share information and provide an opportunity for the Department, members of the County Board, and you the public to learn about this proposed facility.

Again, we very much appreciate your hospitality and thank you for inviting us here this evening to consider the proposed construction of Gin Ridge, L.L.C. swine facility.

Please remember to confine your comments and questions to that subject as we continue.

Are there any questions from the County Board Chairman that would like to be made?

I will now turn the proceedings over to Warren Goetsch for remarks from the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

COMMENTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

MR. GOETSCH: Good evening. My name is Warren Goetsch.

I think I'll stand.

I currently serve as the Deputy Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. One of our responsibilities at the Department is the administration of various provisions of the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

On behalf of the Department, let me welcome you to this public informational meeting. Before we hear from the proposed facility's representatives, I would like to say a few words regarding the applicable provisions of the Livestock Management Facilities Act and the current status of this proposed project.

The Livestock Management Facilities Act was originally passed and became law on May 21st of 1996. Since that time the Act has been amended seven times; three of which have been substantive.

The Act can be generally described as covering five

major areas, those being: Facility design standards, waste management planning requirements, facility operator training and testing, anaerobic lagoon financial responsibility demonstration, and facility setback requirements.

Each of these provisions impacts various types of facilities in different ways, depending on their size, expressed in animal units, and whether the proposed facility is considered as a new facility, a modified facility, or the expansion of an existing site.

The Livestock Management Facility Act's provisions are quite complicated, and specific design -- facility designs and situations certainly can differ.

However, it's the Department's intention to always fairly and equitably apply these requirements to the livestock industry in this state.

Now regarding the current status of this proposed project, the Department received a formal Notice of Intent to Construct application for the proposed construction of a swine facility on April 27th of 2018.

The proposed project is to consist of the construction of one 192 feet 2 inches by 291 feet 3 inches, gestation building, with a ten feet deep underbuilding concrete livestock waste holding structure; one 42 feet 2 inches by 79 feet 8 inches isolation building, also with a ten foot deep underbuilding concrete livestock waste holding structure; and one

186 feet 4 inches by 180 feet farrowing building with a two foot deep underbuilding concrete livestock waste holding structure.

The project is proposed to be located approximately 2.3 miles northeast of Columbus, Illinois in Eastern Adams County.

The application was submitted by Frank & West Environmental Engineers on behalf of Pike Pig Systems-Gin Ridge, L.L.C. of Pittsfield, Illinois.

The maximum design capacity of the proposed facility is 1,597.2 animal units, or 3,606 head of swine greater than fifty-five pounds; and 5,160 head of swine less than fifty-five pounds.

As I mentioned earlier, the Department received a Notice of Intent to Construct application on April 27th and we reviewed it for compliance with the applicable provisions of the Act.

On May 16th the Department determined that the notice was complete and we forwarded a copy of the completed application to the Adams County Board.

Notice of that application was also published in the appropriate newspaper.

The design capacity of the proposed facility requires compliance with a residential setback distance of not less than 1,320 feet, and a populated area setback distance of not less than 2,640 feet.

On June 11th the Department received official notice from the Adams County Board requesting that a public informational meeting be scheduled regarding the proposal.

After further consultation with the County Board, the Department scheduled this meeting and caused notice of the meeting to be published in the appropriate newspapers.

An additional requirement of Livestock Management Facilities Act deals with the design and construction plans of a livestock waste handling facility.

The Department has received a formal submittal of detailed engineering plans and specifications for the proposed project's underbuilding livestock waste handling structure.

The Department's detailed review process of those plans has been completed and we have found them to be in compliance with the statutory requirements.

We are here this evening to receive testimony regarding the proposed livestock management facility's compliance with the eight siting criteria as defined in Section 12, paragraph (d) of the LMFA, the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

In general, information regarding the following would be appropriate for this evening's meeting: Manure management planning, potential impact of the proposed facility on the surrounding area's character, whether the proposed facility is located within any floodplains or other sensitive areas, odor

control plans, possible impact of the proposed facility on existing area traffic patterns, and possibly impact of the proposed facility on community growth, tourism, and recreation or economic development of the area.

Copies of the specific criteria were on the table with the sign-in sheets. If anyone that would like to have a copy of the criteria, but did not pick one up when they came in, if you would just identify yourself, Doug would be happy to get you a copy.

Is there anybody that needs a copy?

Finally, the process that will be followed after this evening's meeting is as follows: The county board will have up to thirty business days from tonight's meeting to submit to the Department a non-binding recommendation relative to the proposed siting of this facility.

Thus, a recommendation from the Adams County Board is due at the Department on or before August the 9th.

After the close of the County's thirty business day comment period, the Department will have fifteen calendar days, or until August 24th of 2018, to review all the information submitted to date, including the Notice of Intent to Construct application, construction plans, transcripts from tonight's meeting, the County Board recommendation, and any other additional information submitted by the owners at the request of the Department.

Based on that review, the Department will determine whether the eight siting criteria have been met.

Once that determination has been made, the Department will notify both the County Board and the applicants of the Department's determination.

Mr. Hearing Officer, at this time I would like to submit the completed Notice of Intent to Construct application and its associated correspondence file for formal entry into the record as an exhibit.

After that, this will conclude my formal comments. Again, thank you all for your attention. I look forward to hearing your comments regarding this proposal. And I'll now turn the meeting back to the Hearing Officer.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Thank you, Mr. Goetsch.

Entered into the record as Exhibit Number 1 is the completed Notice of Intent to Construct, including correspondence between the Department and the Applicants, notices of a public informational meeting, and correspondence with the Adams County officials.

Also enter into the record as Exhibit Number 2 is the Department's PowerPoint presentation from this evening.

At this time we'll hear comments from the Facility. Before you begin, who will be providing testimony information?

COMMENTS FROM THE FACILITY

MR. McINTIRE: Both of us.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Can you please, both of you, state your names and spell it for the court reporter, please?

MR. McINTIRE: John McIntire. J-o-h-n M-c-I-n-t-i-r-e.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can't hear.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Can you try and speak into the microphone?

MR. McINTIRE: John McIntire. J-o-h-n M-c-I-n-t-i-r-e.

MR. WEST: Chris West. C-h-r-i-s W-e-s-t.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Will you both raise your right hand, please? I'll swear you in.

JOHN McINTIRE & CHRIS WEST,

having been sworn by the Hearing Officer testified:

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Thank you. You may proceed with your testimony.

MR. McINTIRE: My name is John McIntire. I'm a fifth generation hog former from Pittsfield. Grown up in the Pittsfield area all of my life.

Currently we do business in Adams, Pike, and Hancock Counties.

I am also the owner of Pike Pig Systems, who has filed for Gin Ridge, L.L.C.

Gin Ridge understands the concerns expressed. I want

to assure everyone that a neighbor -- be a good neighbor and good steward of the environment and adhere to the best management practices as described.

The hog farm, proposed hog form will have an additional tax revenue to the school district and townships.

Also, the farm will produce approximately a hundred and twenty sows a week in a farrowing barn, which will consume about a hundred thousand bushels of corn a year.

Feed will be purchased from the local feed mills in the county and provide jobs and labor in that area.

The farm proposed will meet numerous regulations governed by the State of Illinois Livestock Facilities Act, which contains provisions related to the design, construction, and operation of the livestock operation itself.

Gin Ridge has hired an engineer and construction company to ensure the facility meets and exceeds all the requirements to ensure that Gin Ridge is a good steward of the land and a good neighbor.

Odor control will be -- the latest order control will be used, Phytase in the feed, and other new technologies will be used as becomes available.

Odor control for the project will be from cleanliness and sanitation of the facility and injection of the manure at agronomic rates by a licensed applicator on the adjoining property.

The proposed site location was chosen because of the tree buffer, lesser travel on the roads. It exceeded all setbacks in the LMFA and biosecurity aspects of the project.

Current traffic patterns were taken into account. There will be approximately five trucks per week on the county roads. Three to four feed trucks and one or two pig trucks.

Most of the traffic will occur before 8:00 a.m. in the morning.

During construction, safety has been discussed, with one way traffic and speed limits put on construction vehicles.

Pork producers are held to zero standards, so that means we cannot discharge in any shape or form through the concrete facilities. So we should not have leaching. It is monitored by the Livestock Facilities Act and the Department of Ag quarterly.

Composting will be in place for dead animal disposal and be spread as fertilizer on the ground as well.

As far as the economic impact, the farm will employ approximately nine people. All goods that are possibly be able to be purchased locally will be, including feed and vet services in the county, as well as the building company being located in Camp Point, Illinois will build the facility.

I think that's it. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Okay.

MR. WEST: Good evening everyone. My name is Chris

West. I'm President of Frank & West Environmental Engineers out of Springfield.

I'm going to go over a couple of different aspects tonight of -- for Gin Ridge: Introduction of the farm, the overview and the layouts, as well as conformance of the -- conformance with the Livestock Management Facilities Act, including the eight siting criteria.

First we'll go over the location, and Warren went through this with his presentation as well, but we see that -- so we have the facility located here.

And then Columbus down here.

And then the individual layout of the barns. We have the proposed farrowing barn at the dimensions that were discussed earlier, the proposed gestation, and then the proposed gilt developer and isolation barn.

In going into the eight siting criteria.

Number 1: The registration and certification requirements.

The design, location and operation standards.

Location compatibility: Number 3.

Number 4: The floodplains and areas of karst or aquifer material.

Number 5: Minimize environmental impact.

Number 6: Odor control and/or reduction.

Number 7: Traffic patterns that minimize impacts.

And Number 8: Is the facility consistent with the area development?

So what we'll do is those are a short synopsis of each of the eight siting criteria. So we're going to through these kind of one-by-one and show how the facility has met those requirements.

So Siting Criteria Number 1: Whether registration and certification requirements, if required, are met by the Notice of Intent to Construct.

As Mr. Goetsch mentioned earlier, the Notice of Intent to Construct was filed by my office with the Department of Ag April 27th of this year; and it has been deemed complete on May 16th of this year.

Part 2 of Siting Criteria 1 deals with plans. So the Nutrient Management Plan. According to the Livestock Management Facilities Act, any farm which exceeds one thousand animal units, but is less than five thousand, shall prepare, maintain and implement a Nutrient Management Plan within sixty working days after commencing operation.

So this farm will prepare and maintain and implement a comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for the farm.

So what does that Nutrient Management Plan do? Well, the farm will submit the -- to the Department of Ag as required a certification form certifying that the Nutrient Management Plan has been prepared. The farm will keep that Nutrient Management

Plan, as well as all records of livestock waste disposal on file at the farm. And those records, along with the plans, will be available for the Department of Ag inspection at any time.

The goal of a Nutrient Management Plan is to utilize the manure produced at the farm and apply it on local farm ground at agronomic rates to meet the nutrient needs of that crop in an environmentally sound fashion.

The goal will be accomplished by developing a plan which includes the following: A total animal -- the total annual manure volume calculations. So how much manure we're producing there every year.

The historically proven yields in those fields where the manure will be applied.

Annual manure analysis of that manure stream so that we know exactly what that nutrient content is.

And then agronomic loading rates.

So what we do, we take the concentration of that manure. We know how much phosphorus, how much potassium, how much nitrogen is in that manure.

We know what crop yields are going to be on that field and then we can calculate how much we can put on that field to meet those crop needs.

And also with -- included in that are setbacks, provisions for setbacks, and incorporation standards.

So the manure will be applied through an umbilical

system, so it will be injected directly into the ground.

And then obviously an important part of this is the documentation of all phases of the plan. So records will be maintained periodically and annually, depending on the type of records, and then kept ready for inspection at any time.

Siting Criteria 2. Whether the design, location or proposed operation meet the requirements of the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

The barns have been designed according to the MidWest Plan Service Concrete Manure Storage Handbook Guidance.

MidWest Plan Services is a university based publishing cooperative dedicated to publishing and disseminating research based and peer-reviewed publications.

So this is based on concrete specs, reenforcement requirements, and water-stop requirements. So the -- and this is a thirteen state cooperative.

The design of the farm consists of one gestation -- construction plans for one gestation building, one farrowing building, and then the one gilt developer and isolation barn.

So kind of go through an overview of a similar facility just to kind of give you an idea of what each of the barns will look like.

So in the middle there is the gestation barn.

And then the next slide shows a picture of a fairly typical gestation -- how -- how the setup would be on the inside

of that barn.

And then going back and showing the farrowing barn.

And then also a picture of the inside of a sow that's just given birth and is farrowing those young piglets there.

And then we have a -- the last is the gilt developer and isolation barn up there on the other side of the gestation barn.

And then also another view of a typical inside shot of a barn of this type.

So to give you a typical cross-section of the gestation barn. So when we talk about below pit or below floor manure storage this is what we're talking about.

So what we have is the animal area and then the floor that they live on. And all the manure that's excreted goes through slatted flooring and is stored in the pit. So it's all stored below ground where it's not accessible until we pull it out and then land apply it at the agronomic rates.

And again, Mr. Goetsch mentioned the setback distance, but I'll go through those again real quick.

The farm has met both of the setback requirements of the populated areas and the occupied residents. And not only has it met, but it's exceeded those fairly significantly.

And the location was deemed complete by the Department of Ag May 16th.

Part 3 of Siting Criteria 2 is the proposed operation

of the farm. One of the requirements that is within the Livestock Management Facilities Act is the farm is required to have at least one person that's involved in the day-to-day operations. That's a certified livestock manager. So that's a program developed by the Department of Ag to educate livestock managers on manure management handling and systems.

Managers of farms over a thousand animals units are required to attend the training course and then pass a follow-up exam.

And then in addition to that, a big portion of the proposed operation deals with the Nutrient Management Plan that I discussed earlier. And that plan will detail the operation of the farm so that all manure applications will be based on site specific data.

Siting Criteria 3: Whether the location minimizes any incompatibility with the surrounding area's character by being zoned for agriculture, where the county has zoning, or where the county is not zoned, the setback requirements established by the Livestock Management Facilities Act are complied with.

So here's a map showing the zoned and not zoned counties within the state. You see that the farm location is not zoned in Adams County.

The farm is compatible with the surrounding area in that the area is a rural agricultural area. And the source of

this map is from the Illinois Association of County Zoning Officials.

And again, the setbacks for the farm were deemed complete May 16th.

Siting Criteria 4 deals with floodplain, and aquifer areas, whether the farm is located within a hundred year floodplain, a karst area, or an area with aquifer material within five feet of the planned bottom of the barn, and whether those construction standards that we mentioned earlier that are set forth within the Notice of Intent to Construct are consistent with the goal of protecting the safety of the area.

So what we have here is a floodplain map for the area. So this -- the barns will be located within this rectangle here.

And at the bottom of the map you can see the closest floodplain area. So there's a slight blue shaded area down here. That's the closest area of a hundred year floodplain. So well outside of that area.

And this -- these maps come from the FEMA Map Service Center.

Karst area. Another condition of Siting Criteria 4. An area with a land surface containing sink holes, springs, disrupted land drainage and underground systems associated with karst materials and caves, et cetera.

So we have a map that's generated by the Illinois

State Geological Survey. That shows all the areas that have known karst in the state.

And you'll see that Adams County does have areas on the west side, and then south, and on the southwest, but in the area where Gin Ridge is going there are no known karst areas.

Aquifer material. Where sandstone is five feet or more in thickness, or fractured carbonate that is ten feet or more in thickness, or sand and gravel, or a mixture of that, where there is at least two feet within any five foot sections of a soil boring.

So what we do, we go out to the site. We conduct soil borings within the perimeters of each of the barns. And we go at least five feet below the planned bottom of that barn to make sure that there are no unidentified karst areas, that there are no unidentified areas of aquifer material within the locations of those barns as well.

So you'll see a typical gestation type barn. And the reason I keep referring to the gestation barn, this has a ten foot pit. So this is the deepest pitted barn that is being proposed.

So the deepest soil borings were located within the footprint of this barn.

So what we typically have is we show our current grade. So that's where the land is as it stands now. And then we have a ten foot pit. And then we go five foot below that

planned bottom there. And that's at a minimum.

We conducted a site investigation May 24th of this year.

Criteria 5: Whether the owner or operator has plans for operation that minimize the likelihood of any environment damage to the surrounding area from spills, runoff, or leaching.

So when we talk about spills and so forth with a livestock farm, one of the most important aspects of that is proper sizing. So the current regulations state we have to have a minimum of a hundred and fifty days worth of storage for a liquid type manure.

We designed the farms, the farms are sized in such a way that we're looking at approximately three hundred and sixty-five days. So we have a full year's worth of storage within those barns.

And the reason that's important is that keeps the farm from ever getting into a bind if you get a wet season. And then -- because if you're doing a hundred and fifty days, or every six months, you have to apply twice a year.

Well, we all know that you can run into times when that gets a little dicy because of -- you get either the ground's frozen, the ground's too wet.

This buys us time and allows us to apply the manure at the correct time so the crops can use it in the best way possible.

This is also a closed system. So what I mean by that: There's no -- there's no manure that can leave the farm until we take it out and land apply it.

There's also no other water that can come into the farm.

The outside of these -- the outside walls of this pit are elevated slightly above the ground surface so that there's -- if you get a big storm it does not run into the pit.

And that's important for several reasons. Number one is we don't want to -- to jeopardize our storage days. If we have fresh water running into the farm all the time, that's three hundred and sixty-five days, it's now less than that.

So we've built the farm in such a way that the side walls of those pit walls are elevated above the ground surface; and then the dirt, the finished soil that's placed up against that is sloped away. So we can divert all rainwater away from the barns.

And I did just mention the clean water diversions.

So we go back to leaching. So leaching is the movement of something from one side to another. So we designed the farm to prevent any release of livestock waste. We have solid concrete construction. Grade 60 steel rebar reenforcement. There's water stop placed at all joints so that it allows the joint to do what it's supposed to do, but at the same time we have a water tight seal at that. So there's no movement of

manure inside the barn to the outside.

All surfaces in contact with manure, which is concrete only at the farm, will meet the required permeability standards that are set forth within the LMFA.

Siting Criteria 6: Whether the Odor Control Plans are reasonable and incorporate reasonable or innovative odor reduction technologies given the current state of such technologies.

The Odor Control Plan for the farm will implement at least four things. Controlled land application of manure. And that may be the most important aspect of this whole thing as far as with the odor control issue.

Since we can control when we're going to land apply, we're applying it once a year, typically once a year in the fall after the crops are out, we can control that so that it -- and it's a short, short window.

Routine maintenance. Typically odors from the barns are carried through dust particles. They have to have a source to carry those odor particles. Routine maintenance, feed management, those are things that we can do to -- those are best control technologies, best available technologies that we can do to help minimize that movement of those particles by cleaning, by keeping the farm clean on the inside and the out.

So I mentioned the controlled manure application. So the farm is planning to use injection based upon nitrogen and

phosphorus loading from the actual on site data. So what that means is we're going to be placing the manure underground so it's not -- there's not going to be a contact with the air during the manure application. It's going to be knifed directly into the ground.

And what I mean by the nitrogen and phosphorus loading, that goes back to the Nutrient Management Plan. So we're going to know how much nitrogen and phosphorus is in that manure. How much those crops can use. That way we're giving the crops exactly what it needs.

Injection throughout the country is widely accepted as the best available technology for manure application.

All livestock manure will be applied by a custom applicator. That application equipment by that custom applicator will contain safety controls that include equipment that will be visually monitored continuously during the application, emergency shut-offs, and communication between that personnel at all times.

So here' an example. Here's a picture of an umbilical injection system. So you see you have the tractor, and the injection unit, and then the hose where the manure will be pumped to that unit so it is going to be -- oops.

The farm will also utilize regular maintenance to minimize dust originating from the facility. That regular maintenance includes routine visual walkthroughs of the facilities to ensure that there is no manure build-up on the

slotted floors, slided floors and walkways, and regular cleaning of fans to prevent the accumulation of dust.

The farm will be thoroughly pressure washed and sanitized. This will minimize the amount of odor-causing particles that are able to leave the farm through the ventilation fans.

The farm will then ensure that the building fans operate efficiently, thus minimizing the dust buildup.

Regular maintenance is known to reduce odor concentrations and intensity.

And as Mr. McIntire mentioned earlier, the farm has incorporated -- will incorporate an animal diet formulated to allow for the most efficient utilization of proteins and nutrients in the feed.

Again, there's another really important aspect of this; that this dietary practice aids in the reduction of overall odors from the farm by reducing excess nutrients.

So basically there's a -- there's a good science behind this feed formulation. So the feed is formulated so that you're giving the animal exactly what it needs, and no more, no excess. That excess materials can cause some of those odor reducing particles that some of the older farms are known for.

The farm also complies and exceeds the facility setback distances as established in the LMFA. The residential setback has been exceeded by a little bit over two thousand feet.

1 The populated areas setback is exceeded by over eighty-five
2 hundred feet.
3 The farm has diligently planned an overall odor
4 control strategy by incorporating numerous odor control
5 technologies and techniques. The farm will also continue to look
6 for and incorporate other technologies as they become available.
7 This strategic plan incorporates reasonable and
8 innovative technology that will allow the facility to operate
9 with minimal odor impact to the surrounding area.
10 So basically we're looking at three phases in our
11 Odor Control Plan.
12 Number 1: The farm location, and then the routine
13 and proper maintenance.
14 Proper nutrition.
15 And the injection of manure.
16 Siting Criteria 7: Whether traffic patterns minimize
17 the effect on existing traffic flows.
18 So if we look at the map, now we're looking at a
19 different map. We're showing the farm down in the lower
20 left-hand corner. And you see Camp Point up in the upper
21 right-hand corner.
22 So at this point the planned travel route are east on
23 County Road 1700 North, and then north up to State Route 24.
24 And then from there east or west depending on the
25 type of truck that's coming out of the farm.

1 So utilizing the Illinois Department of
2 Transportation's Traffic Count Data, U.S. Route 24 has a weekly
3 average of twenty-eight thousand plus vehicles and a weekly
4 average of forty-five hundred trucks.
5 So out of that twenty-eight thousand vehicles,
6 forty-five hundred of those are trucks weekly.
7 As Mr. McIntire mentioned, the farm will have
8 approximately five trucks every week. So you're looking at a
9 breakdown on Route 24 of .02 percent of the overall vehicle
10 traffic, and a little bit over a tenth of a percent of the truck
11 traffic.
12 Gin Ridge Farm will -- traffic will comply with the
13 same seasonal posted weight limits as all other traffic in the
14 area.
15 Siting Criteria 8. Final criteria. Whether the
16 construction of the new farm is consistent with the existing
17 community growth, tourism, recreation, economic development
18 through compliance with applicable zoning and setback
19 requirements for populated areas as established by the Livestock
20 Management Facilities Act.
21 We believe the farm is consistent with the existing
22 and planned community development of this rural agriculture area
23 since it has complied with all zoning and setback requirements.
24 In addition to that, the farm will meet or exceed all
25 the requirements as put forth by the Livestock Management

1 Facilities Act.
2 I appreciate the opportunity to put this presentation
3 and give it out to you tonight.
4 Thank you for the opportunity.
5 I have a copy of my presentation. I'll hand that up,
6 please.
7 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Enter into the record as
8 Exhibit Number 3 the PowerPoint by the Facility representatives.
9 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
10 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: We will now open the
11 meeting for any questions that you may have of the Facility or
12 the Department.
13 If you have a question you would like to ask, please
14 raise your hand, and when called upon please state your name and
15 spell your last name.
16 Please indicate to whom you are directing your
17 question, the Facility or the Department.
18 I will remind you that this portion of the meeting
19 will be limited to questions only.
20 After the question and answer session there will be a
21 session dedicated to public testimony where you can provide oral
22 comment. So please limit this session to questions only.
23 Also, keep in mind the questions need to pertain to
24 this particular facility.
25 And finally, we have a great court reporter here

1 today, but I caution you to please speak slowly and clearly so he
2 can take it down and have a clear transcript.
3 Are there any questions?
4 Yes, sir.
5 TIM BAUMGARTNER: I got -- can we have more than one
6 question or -- how many questions are you allowed?
7 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: So usually we allow two
8 question.
9 And please state your name and spell it for the court
10 reporter.
11 TIM BAUMGARTNER: My name is Tim Baumgartner.
12 B-a-u-m-g-a-r-t-n-e-r.
13 A couple of questions. Who polices over or looks
14 over to make sure that everything is being done right, like
15 especially with the odor?
16 I mean, do we have a phone number we can call or --
17 if the odor becomes too strong?
18 Make sure the fans are working properly?
19 That everything is done correctly?
20 I mean, is there somebody we can contact?
21 Do we have a phone number?
22 MR. McINTIRE: Absolutely, Tim. My name and number
23 will be posted at the farm.
24 And also if -- if I don't take care of it I assume
25 you could give the EPA or Department of Ag a call as well.

TIM BAUMGARTNER: Another question. I'm really concerned about the roads. The road that this is going on is considered by all the kids a mud road. I mean, it's -- it's not gravel much. It's dirt. Got very little base.

I'm concerned -- supposedly we only have to keep this road and travel in dry -- in dry conditions. Come wet weather there's no way, unless you're going to get a lot built -- of it built up.

Even if you do get it built up there's nowhere to push the snows.

Anyway, I'm wondering who's responsible of getting that in -- up to where it should be?

To me it's a mud road. It's dirt.

MR. WEST: And that is a good and a very legitimate question.

So the farm has been working with the road commissioners to develop a plan to take care of that, so to build that base up to get it -- to get it ready to accept that base to begin with and then to build the base up to be able to handle that traffic.

TIM BAUMGARTNER: So you're going to help cover the cost of the big culvert, the other culverts, the base of gravel, and ditches to put in?

You're going to help with that cost or...

MR. WEST: At this point we're talking with the road

commissioners. And so we -- there is no formal plan as of yet. We're still trying to figure out exactly what is going to be required, what is going to be needed.

TIM BAUMGARTNER: A lot.

MR. WEST: And I don't think that's -- that's under question.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Who else has a question?

Yes, sir?

BARNEY BIER: My name is Barney Bier. Last name is spelled B-i-e-r. I have two questions for the Facility.

First of all, in regard to the injection of manure into the soil, do you already have some land dedicated or contemplated for that use?

MR. McINTIRE: Yes, I do.

BARNEY BIER: Is it -- these are follow-up questions. I hope we have time.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Give you some leeway.

BARNEY BIER: Adjacent or near the facility?

MR. McINTIRE: Yes, it is.

BARNEY BIER: I may be wrong, but based upon what I believe, it's what's commonly known as the Juanita Nall property and maybe the Marty Mixer property?

Is that -- does that ring a bell?

MR. McINTIRE: I don't know that.

BARNEY BIER: Do you know the general location of it

if you saw a map?

MR. McINTIRE: Yes. It's adjacent to the facility site.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Why don't we come back to you if you have additional questions?

I want to involve everyone who has time.

Yes, sir. In the red shirt against the wall.

JIM SIMPSON: Jim Simpson from Camp Point. S-i-m-p-s-o-n.

Where is the water coming from that the Facility uses and how much?

MR. McINTIRE: Three avenues: Potential pond, well, or county. And it will involve about six gallons per sow per day.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Another question?

Yes, ma'am.

CRYSTAL CLAIR: My name is Crystal Clair, C-l-a-i-r.

To the Illinois Department of Ag, first of all. Would you give me a definition of populated area?

And do I have to file an FOIA to get their PowerPoint presentation?

And to the gentleman from Pittsfield, I would like you to name the local facilities that you talked about that will be providing feed and --

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Ma'am? Hold on. Let's

do one question at a time.

I think you asked about the definition.

MR. GOETSCH: A populated area, if I could try and tell it off the top of my head, a populated area means an area where at least ten inhabited nonfarm residences are located, or -- or where at least fifty persons frequent a commonplace of assembly, or a nonfarm business is located at least once per week.

CRYSTAL CLAIR: Thank you.

FOIA?

MR. GOETSCH: And I apologize. What was the --

CRYSTAL CLAIR: Do I have to file an FOIA to get a copy of their PowerPoint presentation, or will that be available?

MR. GOETSCH: It will be a part of the transcript, but if you wanted something before the transcript becomes available then, yeah, you probably would.

But either way you can -- make sure you can get a copy.

CRYSTAL CLAIR: Then to the gentleman from Pittsfield. I would like you to name the -- you said local facilities will provide feed. I would like to know those names. I would like to know the local vet. And I would like to know what the purpose of an isolation building is.

MR. McINTIRE: Certainly. The feed is -- will potentially come from Ursa Farmers Co-op. And if I might,

they've prepared a statement for me, since their person could not be here, on the feed.

"The proposed facility would produce thirty-seven hundred and fifteen tons of feed annually. About three truck loads per week. Would consume about a hundred thousand bushels of corn annually, or about five hundred acres.

Also creating demand for five hundred and sixty tons of soybean meal, or twenty-five thousand bushels of beans on four hundred acres.

The Ursa Farmers Mill employs twelve full-time employees. The demand for feed that is required by this project helps to make our feed -- feed mill more efficient by supplying feed to others in the area, both small or large. Also both swine and beef producers.

We're excited about the growth and the local livestock production."

That's from Kent Buckert at Ursa Farmers Co-op.

I think part of the question is who may be building the buildings. That is Win-Win, LLC's Construction Company.

The vet will be Dr. Pat Graham.

I'm not sure what else the question --

CRYSTAL CLAIR: Where is he from?

MR. McINTIRE: He is from Pittsfield, but covers farms in Adams County.

CRYSTAL CLAIR: So he's not an Adams County resident.

MR. McINTIRE: No.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Who else has a question?

Yes, sir. In the front in the green shirt.

RICH CATE: Rich Cate, C-a-t-e.

We got a hundred and twenty-six year centennial farm directly north across Route 24.

I'm just curious if there's any history on the property values, what these facilities, how they affect property values.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Sir, is that question directed to the Department or the Facility?

RICH CATE: Whoever's got an answer.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Do you have a response?

MR. WEST: I'll work on it.

That's a question that comes up at most of the public hearings for these farms, and the data is all over the place depending on who puts out the data, what part of the state it comes from, what part of the country it comes from.

In my experience in working with farms, and we work with farms all throughout the Midwest, there's typically not a negative impact. Typically it's the other way around.

And that may be counterintuitive to what you're thinking, but that's the data that I see in working with the farms locally.

And it's always dependent on site specific. So it's

always dependent on the -- the community. You can't take as a -- as a whole you can't take an industry and say if you do this this is going to happen.

There are studies out there that go one way or the other, but what I see throughout Illinois, throughout the adjoining states in the Midwest, in these small rural communities, like where I come from and what we're talking about here, there's not a negative impact in adding another farm to a farm community.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, sir.

STEVE DIETRICH: Steve Dietrich, D-i-e-t-r-i-c-h.

I want to start with: Our township budget starts at April 1st, 2018 and ends March 31st, 2019.

Now our budget has done been set for the year. No money has been appropriated for maintenance, upkeep, or extra construction on this road. We basically don't have the funds.

Why wasn't this brought up before our budget was filed for the year?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's a really good question.

MR. McINTIRE: I guess I'll try to answer that. It could not be brought up because it wasn't proposed to the Department of Ag then.

STEVE DIETRICH: I have one more question.

Okay. If your construction doesn't end until next year, and we don't get tax revenue on that for another year,

we're looking at three years with no revenue to help this project. I'm worried the township's going to be like the State; run out of money.

(Applause)

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I do need you to stick to a question, sir.

STEVE DIETRICH: That's all I have to say.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?

I want to emphasize this is only a question period. We'll get to the oral comments and testimony. So we'll get to that. I just -- we're going with straight questions.

Yes, ma'am. In the American flag shirt.

MARY BECKMAN: Mary Beckman. M-a-r-y B-e-c-k-m-a-n.

And I've got a question for the Facility, or whoever can answer it.

Has anyone checked with the conservation maps or anything addressing the water runoff at the site?

There's a big tube right there close to where the sites are on the dirt road. And it's my understanding the amount of acres that run into that culvert at the roadside by the sites, I'm told there's like thousands of acres of runoff that ends up going into McGee Creek.

And the road also floods there where that big tube is because the tube's not big enough to hold all the water.

So if you're applying the manure up on the field and

you got the facility right there, we've got thousands of acres of water running down McGree Creek, what's the chance we're going to pollute that?

And how are you going to keep that road from not being flooded? Because we can't afford to put a bigger culvert in.

MR. WEST: Well, let me try to deal with that as -- in sections here.

We're talking about the road issue again. And I think we all realize that that's -- that's a legitimate genuine issue. And we're working with the township to address that to come up with a plan so that it can be built up, it can be established so it can accept all of the traffic.

And I don't know any specifics at the moment. We're talking about what size of culvert, what -- what's needed. I don't -- I don't have an answer for that at the moment.

But so the -- so the next part of that is the land application and the drainage and so forth.

So if we're talking about -- we're talking about injecting the manure. So it is going into the root level, into the area where the crops can pull that up, and it's stabilized within that root zone. So there's no -- there's no surface application, so there's no runoff.

There is -- there are --

MARY BECKMAN: Is there a grade level that you --

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Hold on. Let's let him finish first, please.

MR. WEST: Included in that are also limitations on where you can apply based on slope.

MARY BECKMAN: Yes.

MR. WEST: If the slope of that land is too steep, then we're not allowed to apply there, period.

In addition to that, we have setbacks from waterways, from creeks, from -- and those types of things. So we're not even allowed to apply within so many feet up to that.

So there's numerous protections built into that plan that I mentioned during my presentation that would account for that.

MARY BECKMAN: What is that slope grade?

MR. WEST: Anything over five percent is -- is not accepted and --

MARY BECKMAN: And that -- and that falls into that category of being safe for that -- that location then in that grade?

MR. WEST: I'm sorry? I --

MARY BECKMAN: Does that location that's going to be applied then fall into the safety of the slope being okay for --

MR. WEST: I haven't looked at every acre on that yet. So we're still -- we're still in the process of putting that plan together.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, ma'am. In the blue shirt.

CATHY CAMPBELL: You mentioned that -- oh, I'm sorry. Cathy Campbell. C-a-m-p-b-e-l-l.

You said that the truck traffic would finish by 8:00 a.m. each day. What -- what time does that start to be finished by 8:00 in the morning?

What time will the truck driving start?

MR. McINTIRE: Normally not before 6:00 a.m. would be a normal work day. Would be 6:00 a.m.

CATHY CAMPBELL: Okay. Second question. What was the purpose of the confinement building?

Excuse me. The isolation building.

MR. McINTIRE: Certainly. The isolation building is for acclamation of the animals. So for these purposes and biosecurity purposes we bring in replacement breeding stock every approximately ten weeks. And the risk to those animals is that they might pick up a disease being transported or some other vector in -- during transport.

So they're put into that building. And basically the labor does not traffic from one building to the other without showering between buildings.

So it's, for lack of a better name, it's called isolation acclamation facility.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Another question?

Yes, sir. In the plaid.

MICHAEL TOURNEAR: My name is Michael Tournear, T-o-u-r-n-e-a-r. My question's for the Department.

How many inspectors do you have that inspect these facilities and how often are they inspected?

MR. GOETSCH: We're required during this process to visit a site at least three times during the siting process. Normally once prior to construction, at least once during construction, and then at least once after construction has been completed but before the facility's allowed to be placed into service.

Larger projects or projects with multiple structures usually have a larger number of visits.

Then after a facility -- if a project is approved and it's eventually built and allowed to be placed into service, we do not have regular inspections. It's only on a complaint basis.

The IEPA, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, practices the same way.

We have six staff across the state that do these inspections.

IEPA probably has, what, maybe twelve, fourteen state wide that do these kind of ag inspections. And all of those are done on a -- usually on a complaint basis.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, sir?

SAMUEL DEMOSS: Samuel DeMoss, D-e-M-o-s-s.

I would like to -- the Facility, this is one question, I would like the Facility to say in the last five years how many times they've been fined by the EPA for spills.

And the second question is --

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Hold on, sir. Let's let him answer that one and we'll do number two.

MR. McINTIRE: None.

SAM DeMOSS: The second question is: Your facility, their labor force will be Latinos, Spanish, French or what?

Because the other facilities around do not have no hardly any American workers there, English speakers.

MR. McINTIRE: The first option is to hire local labor first and then -- hopefully within the Camp Point area.

After that it will be open to all -- all applicants.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, sir?

NICK ANDERSON: Nick Anderson, A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.

To the farmer: You are an equal opportunity employer?

MR. McINTIRE: Yes.

NICK ANDERSON: Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?

Yes, sir.

BARNEY BIER: Following up in regard to the land dedicated for the injection of the soil. Using the facility as a reference point, can you describe the area? Is it north of the

facility?

MR. McINTIRE: Yes.

BARNEY BIER: North of the facility is Highway 24. I'm just trying to get --

MR. McINTIRE: That would be north, correct.

BARNEY BIER: Do you know how many acres, or approximately how many acres we have indicated for injection?

MR. McINTIRE: Four hundred.

BARNEY BIER: Four hundred?

MR. McINTIRE: Approximately.

BARNEY BIER: In regard to the township road that would lead to Highway 24, I don't know Mr. Dietrich, but I assume he's from Columbus Township, it's my understanding that the township road that would go from the facility to Highway 24, with the cross, but use the township road of Columbus, and in addition to that would necessarily have to use the township road, the Village of Camp Point, the same direction of the road.

Have you been in contact with both the road commissioner of the township of Columbus as well as the road district commissioner of the Township of Camp Point?

MR. McINTIRE: Yes.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Just for the record, that's Mr. Bier, B-i-e-r, correct?

BARNEY BIER: Yes.

MR. McINTIRE: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. No. It is

not. I think it was, Mr. Robert. I don't know which township --

BARNEY BIER: I'm Mr. Bier.

MR. McINTIRE: Okay. Sorry.

BARNEY BIER: That's all right.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Who else has any questions?

Yes, sir.

RANDALL LUMMER: I'm Randall Lummer, L-u-m-m-e-r.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Could you please stand, please? The reporter will get a better --

RANDALL LUMMER: It would be for the Facility.

You stated, I believe twice now, that you have four hundred acres available to set aside to inject manure on, but in between those two statements I believe you also said you have not surveyed it or don't know how many acres of that four hundred is available?

MR. McINTIRE: Yes, it's been surveyed.

RANDALL LUMMER: Is that true?

MR. WEST: Well, that's a different survey.

So you're absolutely correct. So there will be a portion of that likely that will not be able to be included in the application because of either setbacks or slope restrictions.

So we're still working on coming up with and getting permission to apply for all of the acres that are needed. That is what we have at the moment.

RANDALL LUMMER: So you don't have your plan finalized yet.

MR. WEST: No. No. I -- I stated that earlier. We're still working on that.

RANDALL LUMMER: Okay. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Do you have a question?

MARVIN KERKHOFF: Marvin Kerkhoff, K-e-r-k-h-o-f-f.

I've got two questions. You say for -- okay. This is -- from my reading this presentation there's going to be some public areas affected, or there's a golf course, or a couple areas

Is there a fence around this facility?

And then how far will the setback be?

Is it visible? I mean, is the facility visible?

Is there like a see through fence or --

MR. WEST: Well, you're talking the golf course in Camp Point, I'm assuming.

MARVIN KERKHOFF: Yes. Right. Yeah.

MR. WEST: It's over two miles away --

MARVIN KERKHOFF: Okay. Well --

MR. WEST: -- from -- from the farm.

In between that you've got around eighteen hundred acres of wooded ground. Now it's not a full eighteen hundred acres of trees, but you've got a tremendous amount of rolling ground that has a large, large amount of trees. You're never

1 going to see it from the golf course.
2 MARVIN KERKHOFF: Okay. I've got one other question,
3 too. You say you guys keep these facilities clean. How often?
4 Is that daily? Is that like you wash the bays?
5 I mean, you said that in your presentation.
6 MR. WEST: Sure. And it depends on -- on the
7 operation of each individual barn because they operate
8 differently.
9 MARVIN KERKHOFF: Right.
10 MR. WEST: So there is routine maintenance. They
11 have workers that come through every day multiple times per day
12 that make certain that there's no buildup of manure, that was one
13 of the issues that I mentioned, no buildup of manure on the
14 slats, on the floors.
15 So that's done basically daily. You're looking at
16 that all the time.
17 The washing cycles, that depends on the barns.
18 Because some barns you can't -- you can't wash every day because
19 you have animals in there. Some barns it's cycles.
20 So like the isolation gilt developer barn, that one
21 will be able to be washed more often because you have less
22 traffic in and out of that.
23 I hope I answered you.
24 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, sir?
25 RYAN HINKAMPER: Ryan Hinkamper, H-i-n-k-a-m-p-e-r.

1 Do you use any type of system like E-Verify to verify
2 if your workers are eligible to work in the United States?
3 MR. McINTIRE: We do.
4 RYAN HINKAMPER: Okay. That's all I have to ask.
5 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
6 Yes, sir.
7 MARK BOCKHOLD: My name is Mark Bockhold,
8 B-o-c-k-h-o-l-d.
9 We farm over in that area. And most of our ground
10 that we farm is H.E.L. ground, which is highly erodible they say.
11 So your five percent of slope, I don't know where you're going to
12 find your four hundred acres at, but kind of like to know that.
13 And for the second thing --
14 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Hold on, if you can, Mr.
15 Bockhold. Let him respond to that.
16 MR. WEST: Well, and that will all be included in the
17 plan. And I agree, that's one of the issues that we're dealing
18 with.
19 MARK BOCKHOLD: But as was spoken before, you've
20 already got that acreage. Where have you got that spoken for?
21 MR. WEST: Well, I think we're kind of confusing
22 things just a little bit.
23 Mr. McIntire mentioned that we had four hundred acres
24 that basically we've been given permission to apply on if we can
25 meet all the requirements. And what we've not done, what I have

1 not done is look at those four hundred acres and figure out
2 exactly how many I can and cannot use.
3 MARK BOCKHOLD: You've got to get permission from the
4 landowners to do that, correct?
5 MR. WEST: To apply the manure?
6 Oh, absolutely.
7 MARK BOCKHOLD: Okay.
8 MR. WEST: Sure. Yeah. I can't apply on your ground
9 if you don't say that's -- that's okay.
10 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You had a question, sir?
11 TIM MAIERS: Yes. Tim Maiers, M-a-i-e-r-s.
12 Mr. West, a follow-up to that. What other
13 information do you look for in that land? Soil tests? I mean,
14 what are you looking for to make sure that that land is proper --
15 proper use to apply the manure?
16 MR. WEST: Sure. So when we're putting together the
17 Nutrient Management Plan we're looking for several things. And I
18 mentioned during the presentation we're looking at crop yields on
19 that ground. We're looking at also the nutrient content within
20 that manure.
21 We're also looking at every acre that we're putting
22 it on. So we're doing soil tests. We're taking the soil tests
23 that have been pulled from those fields and we're looking at what
24 that content -- what that same nutrient content is in that field.
25 That way we know that we're not overapplying because there are

1 requirements against that as well.
2 And, for example, just to throw this out there, one
3 of the soil tests that every farmer does, there's a phosphorus
4 content because corn, which is -- you know -- it's -- it's the --
5 what everyone is growing pulls phosphorus out of the soil. So
6 you're having to apply that commercially to make up for that need
7 of that crop.
8 So we're taking those soil tests and we're replacing
9 the commercial fertilizer in this instance with manure. It's the
10 same material, just in a different form.
11 So we're using the soil tests that a farmer uses to
12 figure out how much commercial fertilizer he's going to put on,
13 we're using those same soil tests to figure out how much manure
14 can be applied in that same field.
15 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, sir.
16 DAVID DERRY: My name is David Derry, D-e-r-r-y.
17 In a facility of this size, approximately how many
18 acres of usable land would you need to be able to do injection of
19 the manure?
20 MR. WEST: Well, that's variable. And by -- it
21 depends on the crop that it's going on.
22 If we're looking at a corn/corn rotation field, then
23 it takes less acres because corn utilizes more nutrients than
24 bean ground does.
25 If you're looking at a soy/corn rotation it's less.

If you're looking at -- if you're growing wheat in there or some other hay crop or -- or pasture ground or something like that, then it rolls back less again.

So it -- and it also depends on where you're at in the state and what that yield is.

Where I come from in Southern Illinois it would take many more acres than it does in Central Illinois because our grounds is -- is significantly poorer and can't raise the same yields that you all can up here.

So if you're looking at a range, at a range, you're looking at four to six, seven hundred acres is probably what will be required here.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?

Yes, sir.

STEVE DeMOSS: I've got two questions for you.

Steve DeMoss, D-e-M-o-s-s. How many farms do you have in Pike County? One question.

And the other: How come you don't build this down there?

(Applause.)

MR. McINTIRE: I have seven farms in Pike County.

And the reason it's not placed in Pike County was because of the pig dense area in the county. There are significantly more pigs in that county. For disease purposes. And also the labor pool.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?

Yes, sir.

TIM MAIERS: Tim Maiers, M-a-i-e-r-s.

Do you also have -- two questions. Do you also have farms in Adams County?

And have you ever had an odor complaint at any of the farms that you manage?

MR. McINTIRE: I do have farms in Adams County and Hancock and I have never had an odor complaint.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?

Yes, ma'am?

CAROL RARDON: Carol Rardon, R-a-r-d-o-n.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I'm sorry. Can you spell that again?

CAROL RARDON: R-a-r-d-o-n

And my question is for them. The road that you're traveling down, is it 2100 E; and if so, are you going to go ahead and use the existing driveway on the former Nall property to get to your facility?

That's my first one.

MR. WEST: I don't -- I don't recall right off the top of my head what the number of that road is. I showed it during the presentation.

So is that the road that you were referring to that we had the --

CAROL RARDON: I can't see that far.

MR. WEST: Okay. And the second part of that, I'm sorry, but I don't -- I don't know what you're referring to when you're talking about a driveway.

CAROL RARDON: Well --

MR. McINTIRE: We -- we would not be using an existing driveway.

CAROL RARDON: So if you would use the existing driveway, I would have an easement from my land to the driveway, the beginning of the driveway on my land. I would have an easement to the land that you purchased from Mr. Martin. My water meter's on there and I have an easement to get to that.

Do these easements, are they still in good standing?

MR. WEST: I'm not certain if you heard, but he said he's not using that driveway. Won't be using that existing driveway.

CAROL RARDON: But do I still have -- if I do own the land next door, do I still have that easement right?

Because my water meter's on that land. The land that was Martin's.

MR. McINTIRE: I'm not sure --

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Before you answer: Did you get all of that?

THE REPORTER: Yes.

MR. McINTIRE: I'm not sure exactly where your water

meter's at, but the facility itself is only on a small portion of that field on the south end. So I'm not sure where your water meter's at.

But to my knowledge, the facility would not own part of where your water meter's at today.

CAROL RARDON: Okay.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?

Yes, sir.

JOHN BRADY: John Brady, B-r-a-d-y.

A question for Mr. McIntire. Have you been denied any permits in Adams County; and for what reason?

MR. McINTIRE: I have not.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?

Yes, sir. In the red.

BILL GREVING: Bill Greving, G-r-e-v-i-n-g.

Earlier they asked about the monitoring. Sounds like a lot of self-governance on this facility. If somebody has a complaint, are there laws that have to be kept for the Department of Agriculture to be able to review, make sure that they are in compliance with the -- the rules and regulations?

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Is that a question for the Department or the Facility?

BILL GREVING: For the Department of Agriculture.

MR. GOETSCH: They are required -- there are certain recordkeeping requirements that are included in the LMFA. And I

1 think Mr. West has talked about the Waste Management Plan that
2 they have to develop.
3 Part of that Waste Management Plan is the requirement
4 to include or to keep records of the amount of manure that was
5 removed, the analysis of that manure, the matching up of those
6 application rates with the actual yield.
7 So there are significant records that they are having
8 to keep that are available for inspection by the Department or
9 IEPA upon request.
10 I would also add, and I don't recall the design, but
11 I believe Mr. West also talked about, or maybe it was the owner,
12 mentioned about groundwater sampling. There is -- if the -- if
13 the Facility -- if the average annual water table is expected to
14 infringe on the bottom of the foundation of the structures, then
15 they're required to put in perimeter drain tile, with a sampling
16 for it. And they are required to sample quarterly the water
17 that -- if there is any liquid in that perimeter drain tile and
18 have it analyzed for certain compounds. And those records are
19 submitted to the Department on a quarterly basis.
20 So although we don't go out to the facility on a
21 regular basis, we do receive the results of those samples that
22 they're required to take every quarter.
23 BILL GREVING: So if there's compliance that has to
24 be met, is that showing that raises the red flag with the
25 Department of Agriculture to go out and do monitoring or to go

1 out and inspect the site?
2 MR. GOETSCH: Well, if there are -- yes. If they --
3 they're not just required to give us the information; they're
4 also required to provide some level of discussion, okay, we have
5 found an excess amount of liquid, we've analyzed it, and the
6 nitrate level is spiking. What is the significance of that? Is
7 there a potential hole or some kind of a crack or something?
8 We actually had a situation like that with a design
9 flaw in another county several years ago, which was detected
10 because of this perimeter drain tile, and that facility was
11 required to immediately correct that.
12 And we were able to then go back to other structures
13 that were designed in similar way and require corrections to all
14 of those.
15 So the perimeter drain tile does work.
16 BILL GREVING: Thank you.
17 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
18 Yes, sir.
19 ROGER LUNT: Roger Lunt, L-u-n-t.
20 I'm still a little confused, because I've heard about
21 plans, some of which aren't complete.
22 The PowerPoint showed a number of things that you
23 would be doing to the point of pressure washing, washing manure
24 and so on.
25 But yet I'm not hearing anything that tells me

1 there's an inspection. I mean, McDonald's is inspected. I'm not
2 hearing anything of an inspection by any agency, I suspect there
3 is but I haven't heard it yet, of an agency that will on a
4 regular basis do an inspection as opposed to self-governing and
5 as opposed to I have to find this phone number and a name of
6 someone to call because of a concern.
7 So is there an inspecting agency, and how frequently
8 is that, to ensure you're doing what you say?
9 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I think Mr. Goetsch
10 already spoke to that.
11 Anything you would like to add?
12 MR. GOETSCH: I'll just say it again. Neither --
13 neither IEPA or the Illinois Department of Agriculture does a
14 routine inspection for this type of facility. It's just not in
15 the law. It is done on a complaint basis.
16 There are some facilities, there are some designs,
17 like I talked about with the perimeter drain tile, where there is
18 some additional requirement.
19 If this facility were to have incorporated into its
20 proposed design an anaerobic lagoon, the law does require us to
21 do annual inspections and we do go out to those structures.
22 But this kind of a facility with an underbuilding
23 concrete manure structure does not, at least in the statute nor
24 the rules, require us to do so, and we don't regularly do it,
25 other than on a complaint basis.

1 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
2 NICK ANDERSON: Nick Anderson, A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.
3 Warren, another question for you. I realize you're
4 not the EPA and you have your own set of rules, but a couple of
5 years ago EPA was mandated to do those routine inspections of a
6 certain amount of farms in Illinois under the USEPA jurisdiction
7 of Illinois doing that code.
8 Is that your understanding; that they were subject to
9 do more random inspections or routine inspections through that?
10 I think they came up with a memorandum of
11 understanding.
12 MR. GOETSCH: Well, without going into great detail
13 about -- there is a federal law, the Clean Water Act, and under
14 the Clean Water Act there is a permitting program for certain
15 types of livestock facilities, Concentrated Animal Feeding
16 Operations of a certain size.
17 The IEPA has the delegated authority for NPDES
18 permits. A Non Point -- I can never say it. National Pollutant
19 Discharge Elimination System permit.
20 Anyway, as a result of all of that, IEPA does for
21 USEPA conduct a certain number of inspections. That's a federal
22 law. That's a federal program. And yes, IEPA does do some
23 random inspections. They are required to under the delegated
24 authority from USEPA.
25 Whether this facility would become subject to one of

1 those, that's -- that's -- I really can't -- I can't say one way
2 or the other.
3 But I do know that IEPA under their cooperative
4 agreement with USEPA do some random inspections across the state
5 to livestock facilities.
6 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
7 Yes, sir.
8 JIM SIMPSON: Jim Simpson, Camp Point.
9 S-i-m-p-s-o-n.
10 Is there any possibility of expansion for this
11 facility in a year or two?
12 And how big would it be if it is?
13 MR. McINTIRE: I'll answer half of it.
14 Today there are no expansion plans in place.
15 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, sir?
16 State your name.
17 JOHN BLEWETT: John Blewett, B-l-e-w-e-t-t.
18 I got about three questions. What is the footage
19 setback for let's say roadways, dwellings, so forth for the land
20 application?
21 MR. WEST: You said from roadways?
22 JOHN BLEWETT: Let's say roadways, creeks, ponds,
23 homes.
24 MR. WEST: Let me see if I can get this right here.
25 There's several different ones.

1 From any sources of water, so waterways, creeks, any
2 other source of water, I think the statute we're looking at is a
3 hundred feet away from them.
4 For a dwelling, if you're -- if you're injecting,
5 which is what we're doing, basically you can inject up to the
6 property line. That's -- that's the setback for a dwelling, if
7 I'm -- I hope I'm not misstating that, unless there's a well on
8 the property and then there are -- there are different setbacks
9 from wells. I think that's a two hundred feet setback from a
10 well. So that can change that as well.
11 JOHN BLEWETT: Okay. And you guys are going to have
12 a custom applicator. Who is that going to be? And have they had
13 any incidents of spills in the past that you know of?
14 MR. McINTIRE: Yeah, it will -- it will be an outside
15 custom applicator for hire. It could be one of three that we
16 work with.
17 And to my knowledge, none of those have had a spill.
18 JOHN BLEWETT: Okay. A third question. Is everyone
19 asking questions here a resident of Camp Point, Columbus
20 Township?
21 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I do believe the
22 question's directed to either the Facility or the Department.
23 JOHN BLEWETT: Do you guys know, do you have people
24 planted in the crowd to ask questions?
25 MR. WEST: I don't know where everyone lives from. I

1 don't have anybody planted anywhere. Nobody from my company is
2 here but me.
3 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Anybody else have any
4 questions?
5 Yes, sir. Back wall.
6 MARK BOCKHOLD: B-o-c-k-h-o-l-d.
7 There's a golf course and a campground within less
8 than two miles of this building.
9 As far as the building owners, do you guarantee that
10 there will be no smell and no loss of revenue at them two places
11 for as long as this building survives?
12 MR. WEST: You can never guarantee. There are no
13 exact guarantees.
14 MARK BOCKHOLD: So then if we're able to show a loss
15 of revenue, we can't show it until after the building's there, so
16 how do they do that?
17 MR. WEST: Let's -- I can't guarantee what you're
18 wanting me to say, but let me -- let me talk about something that
19 I think is very similar and it's very applicable.
20 We had two similar type facilities, only larger
21 animal numbers, where we went through public hearings where
22 tourism was the main concern. One of them was in the county that
23 I currently live in. It's Menard County. And it was next -- it
24 was in the area of New Salem. So you had all of the Lincoln
25 tourism sites. And that was a big concern.

1 And what I think makes this applicable, if not only
2 that, but in between where the farm was going and where the park
3 was, as well as a lake where there are many houses, is a similar
4 type of ground. It's rolling. It's wooded. It's agricultural.
5 And that farm was up and running, had animals in it
6 for months, and people were still wanting to know when we were
7 going to start.
8 And although I can't guarantee you that -- that
9 certain atmospheric conditions, certain wind directions won't --
10 won't make it a hundred percent that you won't smell it, but what
11 I can say is in my experience you don't.
12 MARK BOCKHOLD: You haven't been very close to the
13 building then.
14 MR. WEST: Actually, I -- I live next to one.
15 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, ma'am.
16 MARY BECKMAN: Mary Beckman, B-e-c-k-m-a-n.
17 This is for the Department. Back to the five percent
18 grade with the application. It sounds like they don't have all
19 of their acres secured yet.
20 How does that work with the criteria that they have
21 to meet for the permit, and what kind of monitoring, if any, is
22 there to make sure that they are on the right grades and that it
23 is not going to affect any of our creeks?
24 MR. GOETSCH: Well, the statute differentiates
25 between different sizes as to when that Waste Management Plan or

that Manure Management Plan has to be done. And in this particular case because of the size of this facility they don't have to have the facility -- the plan completed until after the facility's placed into service. I think it's sixty days, within sixty days.

That's just the way the law's written. If it was a larger facility, if it was a facility greater than five thousand animal units, they would be required to have that Waste Management Plan, or the Manure Management Plan reviewed and approved by the Department prior, but --

MARY BECKMAN: So that's approved then? Do they have to show that it is the right grade?

MR. GOETSCH: On this facility, this size, they're required -- they have to meet the same criteria. They have to follow the same setbacks. They have to match up with the same application rates. All those things. But there's not a preapproval requirement.

MARY BECKMAN: So you don't inspect and make sure --

MR. GOETSCH: No.

MARY BECKMAN: -- that it's correct --

MR. GOETSCH: No.

MARY BECKMAN: -- before --

MR. GOETSCH: No, we do not.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Self-governance again.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Take a few more

questions.

Yes. Back wall.

DAVID DERRY: David Derry. D-e-r-r-y. David, common spelling.

For this manure application, are you going to -- whatever company you choose to hire, are they going to use GPS locations to prove where they applied this manure at?

MR. WEST: Actually, that is common amongst the companies that he was referring to. And then all of that information then passes back to us so that we can document that for the plan and then prepare for -- the applications for the following year.

DAVID DERRY: Is that also forwarded onto the Department of Agriculture?

MR. WEST: It's not automatically forwarded. It's kept at all times for inspection if -- if they need to.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Is there anyone who hasn't had an opportunity to ask a question yet that would like to?

Yes, sir.

RODNEY HYER: I have two questions. The first --

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, sir. Could you state and spell your name, please?

RODNEY HYER: I'm sorry. Rodney Hyer, H-y-e-r.

Concerning the amount of trucks that you said

traveling, is them semi trucks that will be traveling to and from that facility?

MR. McINTIRE: Yes.

RODNEY HYER: Okay. If you have semi trucks hauling feed to that facility, and anybody that lives in Columbus Township knows that we have roads you cannot get down with semi trucks, how many trucks will you need to get down that road if you can't get down in a semi?

MR. WEST: John?

MR. McINTIRE: Approximately ten per week, probably. Eight to ten.

RODNEY HYER: And then what happens if there's only about a twelve foot path after a snowfall and you can't get around the 90-degree turns that you have to get to this facility?

MR. McINTIRE: Well, we will have equipment to move snow if --

RODNEY HYER: So you --

MR. McINTIRE: -- we have to.

RODNEY HYER: -- expect the Columbus Township to have to clean these roads, correct?

MR. McINTIRE: I would assume so, yes.

RODNEY HYER: And we're already broke.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Who hasn't had an opportunity to ask a question yet?

You haven't, ma'am.

JENNIFER TIREY: Jennifer Tirey, T-i-r-e-y.

For the engineer. You talked about the Department of Transportation usage. What is the current road traffic already on that road that we've been talking about?

How many trucks and cars are already being used on that weekly?

MR. WEST: On Route 24 I think we were looking at twenty-eight thousand, if I remember correctly.

JENNIFER TIREY: Twenty-eight thousand.

And how many trucks are you talking about in comparison?

MR. WEST: Five.

JENNIFER TIREY: Five. Thank you. So that --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're talking about Highway 24, not --

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Please maintain order.

Are there any other persons that haven't asked a question yet?

You, sir.

DENNIS KECK: Yes. Dennis Keck, K-e-c-k.

If there is a complaint to the government agency, will that government agency respond back to the person that filed that complaint for the results?

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I presume your question is for the Department?

1 Was your question for the Facility?
2 Sir?
3 DENNIS KECK: Well, the Department.
4 MR. GOETSCH: I can't -- I can't speak for IEPA, but
5 it's normally our process, with whether it's a livestock
6 complaint or for that matter a pesticide related complaint, we do
7 follow-up with the complainant.
8 So I would expect that IEPA probably does the same,
9 but I can't say that for sure.
10 DENNIS KECK: Would that individual know the results?
11 MR. GOETSCH: Yes.
12 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Is there anyone else who
13 has not had an opportunity to ask a question yet?
14 Hold on.
15 Anyone else not had an opportunity to ask a question?
16 MATT CROW: Yeah. Matt Crow, C-r-o-w.
17 I would like to know how you're going to get the
18 manure from the facility two miles through the fields. Are you
19 going to run underground umbilicals over -- overground or what?
20 Are you going to truck it?
21 MR. WEST: No, there will be no trucks. It is an
22 umbilical system, so it's pumped directly from the pit to the
23 field. No underground piping.
24 MATT CROW: So it will be picked up after you're done
25 every year or it's going to be left out?

1 MR. WEST: No. It's a custom applicator, so he's
2 taking -- he's going to take that equipment and go to the next
3 farm.
4 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Anyone else not had an
5 opportunity to ask a question yet that would like to?
6 Have you asked a question?
7 BRAD ODEAR: No. Brad Odear.
8 Had anybody --
9 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Spell your name.
10 BRAD ODEAR: Last name O-d-e-a-r.
11 The traffic patterns on the road you're talking
12 about, not the highway, can a semi and a bus pass at the same
13 time?
14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absolutely not.
15 BRAD ODEAR: Have you looked at that data?
16 MR. WEST: I've talked to the road commissioners, at
17 least one, I can't say both, about that, but not about that
18 exactly. And -- but nobody ever mentioned buses to the farm
19 before.
20 So -- but I appreciate you bringing it up. It's
21 another thing we have to look into when we're talking with the
22 commissioners and coming up with this overall plan to address
23 this road.
24 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Anyone else not had an
25 opportunity to ask a question yet?

1 Yes, ma'am.
2 PEGGY LUNT: Peggy Lunt, L-u-n-t.
3 Earlier you gave the figures for the traffic on Route
4 -- Highway 24, but you didn't give the figures for the traffic on
5 that county road in question.
6 Do you have those?
7 MR. WEST: I'm sorry. I couldn't see who was -- no.
8 I -- that data is not available. I was only able to use the data
9 that was there.
10 If you go to the Department of Transportation's
11 website you can pick on certain roads, but when we get down to
12 the very, very little used roads sometimes they don't have that
13 data available.
14 So if that data was available I would have presented
15 it, but it wasn't out there.
16 PEGGY LUNT: We live across from that road, the stop
17 sign at the end of that road, and we are -- I wouldn't call it
18 very little -- used very little. There's a lot of traffic that
19 comes down that road. So I find it hard to believe that you --
20 MR. WEST: That's the north/south road that we were
21 discussing?
22 PEGGY LUNT: Yes. The north/south, right?
23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.
24 PEGGY LUNT: Okay. East/west. Okay.
25 MR. WEST: I'm sorry. Then now I don't know which

1 road you're talking about then.
2 PEGGY LUNT: No. It wasn't the road. I'm talking
3 about another road, I guess.
4 MR. WEST: Okay. Okay.
5 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Is there anyone who
6 hasn't asked a question yet?
7 Ma'am?
8 KELLY LUMMER: Kelly Lummer, L-u-m-m-e-r.
9 This is for the Department. How many hog
10 confinements are in Adams County currently?
11 MR. GOETSCH: I don't have that information with me.
12 Sorry. I don't know.
13 KELLY LUMMER: Okay. How many reported manure spills
14 has been there in Adams County?
15 MR. GOETSCH: I don't know that either, ma'am.
16 KELLY LUMMER: And if we file a complaint, how long
17 will it take to have it looked into?
18 MR. GOETSCH: The way the -- I don't have that
19 information either.
20 KELLY LUMMER: Thank you.
21 MR. GOETSCH: The -- let me further clarify, though,
22 by saying that the Department's role is to administer the
23 components of the Livestock Management Facilities Act.
24 IEPA still has a significant role in the regulation
25 of livestock facilities because of the Illinois Environmental

1 Protection Act.
2 The regulation of spills, and the response to those
3 spills, and the enforcement of any kind of penalty associated
4 with that all falls under the jurisdiction of the Illinois
5 Environmental Protection Agency.
6 In the LMFA there is a requirement for the reporting
7 of releases. And that is a -- kind of a joint process between
8 the Department and IEPA and IEMA. But each agency has a
9 different role.
10 The Department's role is primarily to require and to
11 administer compliance with the portions of the Act that put the
12 facilities in a better potential to not have problems in the
13 future. If a facility does have problems, that's when they get
14 the opportunity to deal with IEPA.
15 KELLY LUMMER: Wouldn't it be a good idea to have one
16 of those people here for those questions, though, since those are
17 the questions the public wants to know?
18 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Okay. Has anyone not
19 had an opportunity to ask a question yet?
20 Do you have a question?
21 BRENNA KINDHART: Brenna Kindhart, K-i-n-d-h-a-r-t.
22 And this is for the facility. You were talking about
23 the injection of the manure will be piped around from farm to
24 farm.
25 How do you cross the roads with a pipe?

1 MR. WEST: Well, I don't know that there are any
2 plans to do that here, but in general what they will do is
3 they'll run a pipe either through a culvert or they'll block off
4 a portion of the road temporarily while they're doing the
5 application.
6 It depends on -- on how much traffic there is on the
7 road and when -- one of the things that I mentioned during the
8 presentation was there would always be somebody continuously
9 monitoring. And that's -- that's why. Because we don't want
10 something stretched across the road and someone, you know, run
11 over it, not know it's there.
12 So there would either be barricades or there would be
13 people sitting there, standing there with radios so that they
14 could shut it off, they could move it if they needed to, or we
15 could divert traffic. Something like that.
16 But that's typically how we would respond to that.
17 BRENNA KINDHART: So you would cross the road or you
18 would go through a culvert and you have permission from the road
19 commissioner to do this?
20 MR. WEST: Yes.
21 BRENNA KINDHART: He's gave you permission?
22 MR. WEST: No, no, no. I'm speaking generally. Like
23 I said, I don't think that's even -- I'm not even certain that's
24 going to happen at this farm.
25 What I was speaking is in general terms.

1 So, yes, if that was something that we would be
2 doing, that is what we would have to do.
3 BRENNA KINDHART: What if he said no, you can't go
4 through a culvert? Then what do you do?
5 MR. WEST: Well, then that's -- apparently that's
6 what happens.
7 BRENNA KINDHART: Then you don't bring in honey
8 wagons and truck it around?
9 MR. WEST: Well, that would -- that would definitely
10 -- could be an option, but that's not something that we would
11 want to do for many, many reasons.
12 BRENNA KINDHART: Thank you.
13 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Who hasn't had an
14 opportunity to ask a question yet?
15 Green shirt.
16 DANIEL MOCK: Daniel Mock, M-o-c-k.
17 For either one. So at this point you guys have
18 permission to build this from the State?
19 MR. WEST: No.
20 DANIEL MOCK: No? So if this meeting goes and the
21 County does not approve this or does not want this, has it ever
22 been shut down on any other facility?
23 Basically is it a done deal, or are we actually
24 just --
25 MR. GOETSCH: No. We -- we have not made a final

1 decision. If we had we wouldn't be here.
2 The whole point of this, in my mind, and we have been
3 criticized, or the law has been criticized for the fact that this
4 is a non-binding recommendation. And we can all have our
5 opinions one way or the other, I have my own personal opinion,
6 but that doesn't matter either. We're just here to administer
7 the law the way it's written.
8 What we will do, as I explained earlier, is we will
9 await the County Board's recommendation.
10 We'll also -- we're also very interested in hearing
11 what your comments are specifically regarding compliance with
12 those eight siting criteria.
13 Ultimately if this proposal meets all of those
14 requirements, then the State will have no other -- no other
15 response but we'll have to approve the facility.
16 What we want to hear is whether any of you folks or
17 the County Board, if you find that there are parts of this
18 application that are lacking in terms of those eight siting
19 criteria, then we want to know about it.
20 We will then possibly go back to the -- go back to
21 the Applicant and say, I don't know, just pick something, say "We
22 found two or three things that we thought were lacking in your
23 Odor Control Plan. Can you give us more specification regarding
24 your Odor Control Plan?"
25 Or let's say that there was a, I don't know, some

other issue that had come up, whether it -- maybe it's a -- there was a -- I don't know -- there was a home -- there was a -- some -- some development that had already been platted that nobody knew about. The applicant didn't know about, it wasn't in the application, but the County Board knew about it and they gave us that information. That allowed us then to reevaluate whether they met the setback requirements or not.

Or maybe there was some kind of a plan for economic development in the area that no one knew about.

This is your opportunity, both the County Board and you as citizens, to give us additional information about this area, about this proposal.

If it still meets the requirements, then yes, it will eventually be approved. If it does not, it won't.

I've got a list here of sixty-six of these hearings that we have participated in since the law was passed over about twenty-one years ago. And there are cases where, many cases, where the county board said no and we ultimately approved it.

There are other cases where the county board said no and we didn't approve it.

There are others where the county board said yes and we still didn't approve it because they met -- they didn't meet the requirements.

So there are other -- so they're -- they're all over the board.

But this is not a done deal. If it was we wouldn't be wasting your time, nor our time.

We're here to find out more about this local community, to find out about this project, and to find out whether or not it truly does meet the requirement of the statute.

DANIEL MOCK: Okay. Can they begin construction before that's approved?

MR. GOETSCH: No, they cannot.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Okay. We've taken a lot of questions. I actually think it's gotten hotter in here.

I'm going to -- we've got about five minutes to eight o'clock. At eight o'clock I'm going to call a hard stop.

So who has some final questions? Wrap it up.

You, sir.

NICK ANDERSON: Nick Anderson, A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.

For Chris West. Chris, there was a lot of discussion about the Nutrient Management Plan or the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan. At lot of folks in here don't know the difference between either/or of those.

So a little definition of what that consists of of why it's greater.

And in that plan there was a suggestion about setbacks from waters, households.

Could you explain how you identify those in the plans, and those are in the plan record when you plan your

acreage and setbacks?

MR. WEST: Sure. Certainly.

So the Nutrient Management Plan that is outlined in the Livestock Management Facilities Act basically goes through what I mentioned earlier. So we look at how -- the volume, how much manure is produced. We look at where it's going. What the crop is anticipated. What those yields are. We have soil tests, manure tests, and we plan those applications.

When I speak to a comprehensive plan, that's basically taking a -- a Chevrolet and turning it into a Cadillac.

We are -- we're looking at the soil in these individual fields at a much greater detail.

If you've ever worked with your county ASCS office and you talk about soil loss and tons per acre, we go through that in a comprehensive plan as well for every acre.

So we're looking at not only what crop is there, but we're looking at how that crop's being put out. What kind of planter, what kind of drill, what kind of equipment, how we're disturbing the soil, how we're not disturbing the soil. Maybe we're using no till.

But we're looking at all of that so we can give that farmer the information on how much soil loss is being calculated out every year for every acre. And that changes depending on the type of field and the crops and so forth. But that's included in the comprehensive plan.

Mr. Anderson, you also mentioned how do we document those setbacks. So for every field that we plan on applying manure for we have a big aerial photo, color photo, and it shows the areas where you cannot apply, very brightly colored, and the areas where you can.

Within that are how many acres are tillable that we can apply to for this field. So that way we know this is how many acres.

And then the custom applicator knows I've got to put on so many gallons per acre. So when he hits that he knows he's done.

So that helps us to make certain that we're not overapplying and we're not applying somewhere where we shouldn't be.

So all of those maps are then provided to the applicator so he knows upfront exactly where he should and should not be applying to.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Okay. One --

MR. WEST: And -- I'm sorry. Go ahead.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I'm sorry. Are you finished?

MR. WEST: I'm done. I'm done.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: One final question. Who would like to ask the final question?

DAVE BELLIS: Dave Bellis, B-e-l-l-i-s.

A quick question for the gallery. A show of hands. How many are in favor of this?

Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wow.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Okay. I will now accept written testimony. If you have written testimony that is not referred to in your oral testimony, I would accept it now and enter that into the record.

If you have written testimony that you will be referencing during your oral testimony, it can be entered into the record after your oral testimony.

Following the written phase we'll take a ten minute break.

Is there any written testimony that anyone would like to offer at this time?

Would you please bring them forward?

What's your name, ma'am?

MARY BECKMAN: Mary Beckman, B-e-c-k-m-a-n

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Would you like to offer this as testimony?

MARY BECKMAN: Yes. This is our signature sheets that are all notarized.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I will admit this as Exhibit Number 4 Beckman.

Any others?

MARY BECKMAN: And this is some documents about the road conditions. The flooding.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: May I put this with your exhibit?

MARY BECKMAN: Sure.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Okay. Any other written testimony that is to be offered at this time?

What's your last name?

TERRY SMITH: Smith, S-m-i-t-h.

THE REPORTER: First name?

TERRY SMITH: Terry.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: This is Exhibit Number 5 Smith.

Thank you.

Okay. Is there anymore written testimony that you would like to provide at this time?

BARNEY BIER: Yes.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: This will be Exhibit Number 6.

What's your name?

Bier, correct?

BARNEY BIER: Correct.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Number 6 Bier.

Okay. It is right at eight o'clock. I would like to

take a ten minute break. Reconvene at 8:10. Ten minutes.

(A recess was taken.)

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen. It's about 8:11.

I have the sign-up sheets up here at my desk. They were on the table. They're listing the people that wish to testify, to provide oral testimony tonight.

I will call the names of those who wish to testify. When called upon, please come up to the microphone located over here at the green table. State your name and spell your last name for the court reporter. I will then swear you in.

Remember, you have three minutes to speak.

Are there any attorneys here representing clients?

ORAL TESTIMONY

BARNEY BIER: Yes, sir. Barney Bier on behalf of the Village of Camp Point.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Can you come down, Mr. Bier?

BARNEY BIER,

having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.

BARNEY BIER: Thank you.

My name is Barney Bier. I'm an attorney. Reside in Quincy. I represent the Village of Camp Point.

The Village of Camp Point met last Tuesday and unanimously passed a motion in opposition to the location of this particular facility.

I've passed out a memorandum and entered it into evidence. I want to make a couple of comments about it in the short three minutes.

First of all, the closest village to the proposed facility is not Columbus; it is Camp Point. I've demonstrated that as far as the Exhibit 1, which is the geographical information system map that's prepared by the highway department I believe at the initial request of the chairman of the board. I asked that they provide some additional information.

This facility is somewhat unique compared to other facilities in that although it may meet technically the setback lines, if you look at the other paragraphs as far as the character and quality of the area, that there are fifty-five residences located within two miles, twenty-six residences located in 1.5, and thirteen residences located within one mile, which is atypical as to what you looked at before.

And looking at Exhibit 1, in the upper right-hand corner, that's the Village of Camp Point.

In purple, those are the lines.

The star is the facility.

We've got those circular areas mentioned, located.

The Exhibit 2 is a map, the plat of Columbus

1 illustrating in yellow where the proposed facility is located.
2 It's not to scale, but I would submit, and the Facility can
3 correct me if I'm wrong, it's close.
4 As far as -- it appears to be the Juanita Nall Farm
5 that will be supporting it as far as manure injection. It's my
6 information and belief that Mr. Farlow has purchased the Micky
7 Martin property just recently and that may be used for injection.
8 It's about five hundred acres. Whether it's -- will handle the
9 facility, you don't have any evidence that it will
10 If you look at Exhibit 3, what I want to illustrate,
11 the Village of Camp Point does have zoning. I'll make it clear
12 that the facility itself is not located within the mile and a
13 half; however, the property that supports or will support the
14 injection of manure is located within the mile and a half of the
15 corporate limits of the village. The village does have zoning
16 that prohibits the construction of waste management facilities
17 within the mile and a half.
18 Point being if there is any future development, that
19 is something that needs to be considered in conjunction with the
20 consisting uses of the area.
21 It's been alluded to that the village has a
22 recreational facility, the golf course. It is two miles or less
23 from the facility. It is depicted I believe on Exhibit 3, as I
24 mentioned before.
25 The golf course brings in over $350,000 per year. It

1 employs seventeen people.
2 If you look at the nature and the character of the
3 property and the location of this facility, especially in
4 conjunction with the prevailing winds in the area -- and I have
5 attached three exhibits to that effect.
6 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Can you conclude your
7 comments?
8 BARNEY BIER: May I just finish this briefly? 6A, B,
9 and C and I'll be done with that.
10 6A is the wind direction as of yesterday. And if
11 you'll notice, all of the wind virtually comes from the -- from
12 the -- the direction of the facility to Camp Point. That was
13 yesterday.
14 If you look at the direction of the wind from June
15 1st to June 26th, same direction.
16 The direction of the wind from May 1st, which is golf
17 season, through yesterday, it's consistent. If you look at that,
18 the direction of the wind, this particular location, which I
19 think is different than any other location you ever looked at as
20 far as the area, I mean, this is directly within the wind
21 patterns in Adams County during the summer months when people are
22 out and using the golf course. We think that it is detrimental
23 to the golf course.
24 I've made mention in the written testimony in regard
25 to the developments in that area; that that area is developing.

1 There's real concern that the development southeast
2 of -- southwest of Camp Point is going to come to a halt.
3 There's been subdivisions being built in that area.
4 And also as far as detrimental to the use of the golf
5 course is something that the County Board should give real
6 consideration and we ask to make a factual determination and
7 report to the Department.
8 Thank you.
9 I've got my written comments, which has more
10 information.
11 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next to testify is
12 Michael Tournear.
13 (Applause)
14 MICHEAL TOURNEAR: Thank you.
15 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Please state your name
16 for the record.
17 MICHAEL TOURNEAR: Okay. Thank you. And my name is
18 Michael Tournear, T-o-u-r-n-e-a-r.
19 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Will you please raise
20 your right hand?
21 MICHAEL TOURNEAR,
22 having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and
23 says:
24 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.
25 MICHAEL TOURNEAR: Okay. I'm a lifelong resident of

1 Camp Point, Illinois. I live at the southwest edge of town.
2 My concern is the same to the revenue that we're
3 going to lose in the Village of Camp Point.
4 I own three different properties in Adams County.
5 One is a mile and a half from the hog confinement that's already
6 over at Clayton. Recently I've been updating that property.
7 Getting it ready to sell. The smell was terrible. All my help
8 complained about it. That's just one item.
9 I'm also a general contractor. Years ago I used to
10 build farrowing houses to finish. I know what happens in the
11 wintertime. When that freezes up, that ground, I've seen it stay
12 on the ground for awhile. And it ain't a pretty smell coming
13 across the top of that ground. It don't freeze.
14 So basically I would like to know what's going to
15 take place. Is this company going to take and pay me when my
16 real estate values go down?
17 I pay the county $10,000 a year right now in taxes.
18 I would like to have a few more answers.
19 Thank you.
20 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Thank you, Mr. Tournear.
21 (Applause).
22 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next is Marlene Lummis?
23 Is that right?
24 Somewhat close?
25 MARLENE LUMMIS: Pretty close.

1 Marlene Lummis. L-u-m-m-i-s.
2 MARLENE LUMMIS,
3 having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and
4 says:
5 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.
6 MARLENE LUMMIS: Good evening. As I stated before,
7 my name is Marlene Lummis, and I live at 1999 North 1753rd Lane,
8 Camp Point.
9 My husband and I have lived there for thirty-seven
10 years. The proposed confinement building is one and a half miles
11 from our house, and there's a strong possibility that manure will
12 be spread on a field one-fourth mile from our house.
13 I am here to express opposition to the hog
14 confinement being built in our great community.
15 In particular, I'm here to express concern regarding
16 the well that is to be drilled. We have a spring fed well. If
17 the drill were to hit the veins supplying us with water it would
18 drain our well and we would be forced to find another water
19 source since this is our only source. This would cause us severe
20 financial distress since the expense of hooking on the -- onto
21 the district waterline would be extremely expensive.
22 In addition, my husband has health problems, having
23 had heart bypass surgery and is a cancer survivor. This odor
24 from either the building or the spreading of the manure would
25 cause breathing difficulties.

1 We have experienced this odor elsewhere, and it is
2 extremely difficult for a normal person to breathe, let alone
3 someone with heart problems.
4 Burning of the eyes is another reaction we have
5 personally experienced elsewhere.
6 If these things happen, my husband's health could
7 deteriorate and we would be forced to move to another area where
8 we can breathe without problems and have water, resulting in the
9 loss of the county losing our tax dollars.
10 I hope you consider these concerns and make the right
11 decision with a clear conscience.
12 Thank you.
13 (Applause)
14 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next is Crystal Clair.
15 After Crystal will be -- a tough one. I think it's
16 Carl. Looks like O-e-n-g.
17 Does that ring a bell with anyone?
18 We'll work on it.
19 From Adams County? Does that help?
20 Would you please state your name for the record?
21 CRYSTAL CLAIR: I'm Crystal Clair, C-l-a-i-r.
22 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: If you would raise your
23 right hand.
24 CRYSTAL CLAIR,
25 having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and

1 says:
2 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.
3 CRYSTAL CLAIR: Thank you.
4 I represent the Big Nick Community For Clean Air &
5 Water, but I also think I represent a lot of the people from
6 Adams County.
7 Unfortunately, the first part of my speech was
8 directed -- going to be directed toward the regulations, and I
9 can't do that, but if anybody from the press would like to hear
10 what I had to say I would welcome to talk to them.
11 Does anybody know how many people live in Adams
12 County?
13 I can tell you at the 2015 Census it was sixty-seven
14 thousand and thirteen.
15 I have a document here, and unfortunately I only have
16 two. I can give you one. And if the Board would like to pass it
17 around it certainly can. It's up to you.
18 This is a document from Illinois Citizens for Clean
19 Air & Water. It's a group that is helping us with trying to get
20 a smaller CAFO, a medium CAFO stopped in our area.
21 Unfortunately, they don't have to hold public hearings because
22 they're under twenty-four hundred and ninety -- or they're under
23 twenty-five hundred at 2499. So we don't get a hearing.
24 This document here states that an intern who worked
25 with them in January of 2017, there were five large CAFO's -- and

1 your little pamphlet tells you what a large CAFO is. There were
2 five large CAFO's reported in Adams County.
3 After their study they found fifteen more. And
4 that's -- so that's a total of twenty. But that's just the large
5 CAFO's.
6 We, again, have sixty-seven thousand people in Adams
7 County. If you do the math, I believe that little pamphlet said
8 a large CAFO could have one hundred and sixty-six thousand head
9 of hogs. If you multiply that times twenty, I think that's three
10 million, but somebody needs to check my math.
11 Where does the county -- why does the county need
12 three million hogs?
13 And again, remember, that's not the small CAFO's.
14 That's not the medium CAFO's. That's only the large CAFO's.
15 I also have another document here. This is an
16 Inventory of IEPA Omissions for large CAFO's. Also done by the
17 Illinois Committee For Clean Water & Air. I don't know if I said
18 that right. I can get these -- the web address for you and my
19 contact people if you need them.
20 The front page and the first two are from Adams
21 County where there has been an omission that the EPA has found.
22 I'll pass that out to you.
23 So my question is: Why do we need more hog
24 confinements in Adams County?
25 The last piece I would like to give you is this.

1 This group has -- sorry. I'm nervous.
2 This group has done an extensive study with the area,
3 states. Adams County has received an F when you compare it to
4 the regulations of the other states.
5 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I need you to conclude,
6 Miss Clair.
7 CRYSTAL CLAIR: Okay. I guess the only other thing
8 that I have left to say is it saddens me that prophecy is being
9 fulfilled here because neighbor is being turned against neighbor.
10 Thank you.
11 (Applause.)
12 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: The next speaker on the
13 list, we believe they're from Clayton.
14 SAMUEL DeMOSS: Me. Samuel DeMoss. I decline. I
15 decline.
16 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Okay. Next is Mary
17 Beckman.
18 MARY BECKMAN: Yes.
19 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Will you please state
20 your name for the record?
21 MARY BECKMAN: Mary Beckman, B-e-c-k-m-a-n.
22 MARY BECKMAN,
23 having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and
24 says:
25 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.

1 MARY BECKMAN: Okay. I live about one mile from the
2 proposed Gin Ridge site and these are my concerns.
3 As far as health goes, my daughter and one grandson
4 has asthma. They spend a significant amount of time at our
5 house, mostly outside. They come to be in the country and enjoy
6 the outdoor life. The air quality will be that they will no
7 longer be able to enjoy the lifestyle we've been accustomed to.
8 Our way of life, we spend all of our time outside and
9 have many gatherings outside with family and friends. We will no
10 longer be able to enjoy our rights as property owners to enjoy
11 the outdoors because of what this will do to our air quality.
12 Our water. We have one spring fed well water source.
13 Drilling wells at that location could have a direct impact on our
14 water source, which could create a great financial burden on us.
15 They could deplete our water source if they hit our vein of
16 water, or pollute our only water source with manure application
17 around us. There are also five other neighboring families in
18 close proximity to the proposed site that also depend on well
19 water.
20 Our township roads. I do not believe our township
21 can endure the hardship of financial responsibility to keep roads
22 passable for all traffic this will bring to our roads.
23 I propose a contract to define what the road expense
24 responsibilities for the Gin Ridge facility will be for building
25 and maintaining the trucking route proposed.

1 I would ask that there be a twenty-five percent
2 contingency fund to be set aside at one or both of the Camp Point
3 banks. It is my understand Pike Pig or anyone affiliated with
4 this project is not a resident of Columbus Township and has no
5 allegiance to the township, so they need to prove their good
6 faith with actual dollars.
7 Our home is also on a road that leads to the proposed
8 site which will cause dangerous traffic for the children and pets
9 that live on this route, and also put trash along the roads
10 destroying our environment.
11 An our community economic loss I believe will have a
12 direct impact on our local community.
13 Arrowhead Golf Course. We will not go to the golf
14 course and smell hog manure. We will go to Brown County and
15 spend our dollars there.
16 Cedar Lakes Campground. We will not be camping at
17 the local campground and smell hog manure. We will go to Pike
18 County our spend our dollars there.
19 Village Winery in Camp Point. We will not go set
20 outside and enjoy visiting with friends and have a glass of wine.
21 We would go to Brown County and spend our dollars there.
22 Bailey House Restaurant. We will not be going to our
23 local restaurant and after a wonderful meal walk outdoors and
24 smell hog manure. We will spend our dollars elsewhere.
25 And PACT Head Start. Are people going to send their

1 children to a place where they're going to have to be subject to
2 poor air quality?
3 Economic growth? No. I say economic hardship for
4 our township, our neighbors, and our local businesses.
5 This has been kept from us and we were all
6 blind-sided. Our township is just learning this is going up in
7 our neighborhood. Give us some time to research our legal rights
8 to clean air and water and save our township roads from
9 destruction.
10 Everyone on the Board, please vote no.
11 (Applause.)
12 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: So I'm going to enter
13 this into the record.
14 Actually, before I do that I want to go back to Miss
15 Clair.
16 You mentioned -- is she still here?
17 CRYSTAL CLAIR: Right here.
18 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You mentioned that you
19 wanted to provide documents to the Department?
20 CRYSTAL CLAIR: I can give you what I still have, but
21 I haven't given them to the Board.
22 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You can provide me
23 with -- I am just trying to make a clear record. You can provide
24 me whatever you want. I'll mark it and enter it into the record,
25 if you would like. I will give you that opportunity.

CRYSTAL CLAIR: I would like, but the --

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Is there anything you want to provide me?

CRYSTAL CLAIR: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Looks like she wants to provide these. So can we --

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Okay. This will be the record, which is provided to the County Board. So it all goes into the record. A copy of the transcript and all these documents go to the County Board. So they won't miss out on these documents.

I will mark this document as Exhibit Number 7.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's a couple more she has.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: And then I'm going to mark this document as Exhibit Number 8 Beckman.

Okay. Next is Mark Bockhold.

MARK BOCKHOLD: I decline.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Okay. Mark Bockhold passes.

Barry Bier has already --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Barney.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: -- testified.

I'm sorry. Barney.

Next is Kelly Lummer.

And after Kelly will be -- we need to work on some

curves and two turns that a semi cannot make.

There's two roads from the north. Both start in Camp Point Township. They've chosen one, I believe is what they're looking at. That road will have two blind curves. Very sharp curves. Blind curves.

Their transportation is going to be done by eight o'clock in the morning. When do school buses travel these roads?

They are -- the -- both have been posted, all the roads have been posted in the springtime for weight limits. The school buses have been pulled.

Our roads are not safe for two cars to pass each other.

You get tractor -- semis, you get tractors, you get combines, you get school buses on blind curves and hills and you're asking for a very dangerous situation.

Our township cannot afford to widen these roads. We can't afford to rebuild these roads.

The snow removal would be very expensive, if even possible, on the proposed road site. There's very steep banks on both sides.

Columbus Township is a poor township. Our budget and revenue cannot support this. The extra tax revenue will not be enough to even maintain these roads, let alone rebuild them.

We're looking at possibly $4,000 in taxes. To do a mile and a half of gravel three times a year at the current rate

penmanship.

KELLY LUMMER: I'm Kelly Lummer, L-u-m-m-e-r.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Please raise your right hand.

KELLY LUMMER,

having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.

KELLY LUMMER: As far as my knowledge.

I'm Kelly Lummer. I've lived in Columbus Township for thirty plus year.

The proposed site for this project is on a dirt road that is currently posted to stay off when wet.

This road has three metal culverts that would need replaced. It also has a concrete culvert with a nine foot passable width with a step dropoffs on both sides; one's eight foot, one's nine foot. I believe a semi is eight and a half feet wide.

The township cannot afford to build this road to county specifications for this type of traffic.

There's no safe or affordable way into this proposed site.

The way that they are talking about, the two ways from the west flood. So those are out.

There's a road from the east. It has two blind

that we do gravel, which is a hundred ton per mile, it would be almost $10,000. And we're not replacing culverts. We're not doing anything.

Our township budget right now, our balance is $25,509.20. We can't do this.

And they're talking to road commissioners. Road commissioners get replaced every four years. So does the township. So does the county board.

Don't you think we need to have something to protect the future? Something in writing? Something for them and us? Because you don't know what the next road commissioner's going to do.

And I believe the law states that they have to be passable by a pickup.

Thank you.

Oh. And please drive the roads. Please. Just drive them.

I've got pictures.

You said they'll get a copy of these, right?

(Applause.)

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: This will be Exhibit Number 9 Lummer.

The next person that wishes to testify lives at 1993 North 1753rd Road in Camp Point.

JOHN BLEWETT: I'm the one with the bad penmanship.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Congratulations.
JOHN BLEWETT: John Blewett, B-l-e-w-e-t-t.
JOHN BLEWETT,
having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.
JOHN BLEWETT: My wife and I moved out to Columbus Township nine years ago. We have run a campground for thirteen years. I now have campers telling me if the smell is bad they're going to leave. So that's going to cost me money. And I understand these things got to be built somewhere.
Seldon, would you want one built next to your house?
Just think about that.
Okay. Kelly made great points. That road that they're talking about, you can't run that road. It's going to cost too much money to get it up to snuff. All right?
Kelly and Mary both made great points. I can't do anymore than what they've already said.
Please, just vote your conscience. Okay?
Thank you.
(Applause.)
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next is William Greving.
And after Mr. Greving will be Steve Dietrich.
WILLIAM GREVING: William Greving, G-r-e-v-i-n-g.
WILLIAM GREVING,

having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.
WILLIAM GREVING: Part of this is going to be a little excerpt from an article with regard to the waste disposal from this facility.
This is by John Ikerd. He's professor emeritus at Columbia -- or Missouri State University in Columbia, Missouri.
"Research verifies that the public health risk of CAFO's posed by water polluted by livestock manure are essentially the same as those posed by untreated human waste. Biological waste equivalent to the human waste" -- sorry. I skipped a line.
"A relatively small CAFO, meaning 1,000 animal units, or 2,500 head of hogs, generates biological waste equivalent to the human waste from a municipality of 7,500 to 10,000 people. There are logical reasons for requiring sophisticated, multistage waste treatment facilities in municipalities of that size. It would be unthinkable that the people in a municipality of 10,000 people would be allowed to spread their untreated sewage in their backyard to be flushed away in the storm sewers. Yet it is legal to spread even far larger amounts of raw, untreated sewage from CAFO's near people's homes."
In Adams County the majority of the rural communities are less than ten thousand people.

We're looking at allowing someone to build a facility that generates more waste than the humans in most of these rural communities.
I ask the Board, ladies and gentlemen, to vote no, and recommend not approving this facility.
Thank you very much.
(Applause.)
WILLIAM GREVING: This is the article, the noted paragraph.
Thank you.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Entered as Exhibit Number 10. It's from Mr. Greving.
Next is Steve Dietrich.
After Steve will be Brenna Kindhart.
STEVE DIETRICH: My name is Steve Dietrich, D-i-e-t-r-i-c-h.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Mr. Dietrich?
STEVE DIETRICH,
having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.
STEVE DIETRICH: I want to thank you for taking my question earlier.
My main concern is is the township paying for this?
As I said earlier, we have a budget every year that

starts April 1st and runs through May 31st the following year. All of our funds have been appropriated for this year.
Now when this building is complete, the way I understand it, it will be assessed for taxes. So that might be a year from now.
And then the following year after that we might receive some revenue.
We are going to be talking three years out of our pocket before we receive any back. That is my main concern.
I want to thank you guys all.
(Applause.)
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next is Brenna Kindhart.
And after Brenda will be Ben Hugenberry?
BRENNA KINDHART: Brenna Kindhart, K-i-n-d-h-a-r-t.
BRENNA KINDHART,
having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.
BRENNA KINDHART: Thank you.
I'm kind of here just to talk to the County Board to let you know what I've experienced the last two years by living next to a hog confinement that came to our community in 2016.
Life as we knew it changed in 2016. We never had to plan around any smell from a hog confinement. We have to plan when we can open our windows and when we have to close them. We

have to plan when we can hang our laundry out and when I have to bring it in and rewash it because it smells like hog confinement.

We have to plan when we can have family gatherings. We live on a family farm that was owned by my husband's grandfather. We have all of our gatherings there. We have to change it, cancel it, move the location.

And it's not only the smell that we've experienced; it's stuff that people don't realize. We experience the noise from the fans blowing. We are within less than a mile of the confinement.

The traffic on the road. We've never had traffic on our road.

And it's not only the traffic, but it's the trash that the people throw out, because they don't care because they don't live in our community. They're bused in from wherever.

But the coffee cups, the pizza boxes, the beer cans, the soda cans, the soda bottles. We've never had trash on our roads. It's that stuff that people don't consider.

It's the flies. We've lived where we've lived since 2000 -- since 1995. In the last year I have to vacuum my windowsills out daily because of the flies. We've always had flies, but in the last year they've been so bad, I don't have pictures, but I wish I did, that I vacuum my windowsills out almost daily because of the flies.

And I just want you guys to consider these

neighboring people to this proposed farm and how their lives are going to change forever as well.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: After Ben will be Tim Baumgartner.

BEN HUGENBERG: My name is Ben Hugenberg, H-u-g-e-n-b-e-r-g.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Mr. Hugenberg?

BEN HUGENBERG: Yes.

BEN HUGENBERG,

having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.

BEN HUGENBERG: I am here representing the County Farm Bureau.

Good evening. My name is Ben Hugenberg. I serve as a current director for the Adams County Farm Bureau. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak this evening on the subject of the livestock expansion in our county.

The Adams County Farm Bureau supports all aspects of agriculture, including the development of livestock farms.

Our position concurs with the Illinois Farm Bureau policy by encouraging growth and the enhancement of the livestock industry throughout the state. Animal agriculture plays a vital

role in the economics of Illinois and, in particular, our county.

Today's farms have changed over the course of a few decades, just as many of our homes and businesses have evolved through the years. Although the size of farms have grown, the values we hold dear are just as strong as they were generations ago. We too want safe food, protection for our environment, and the quality and care for our animals.

Agriculture, whether crops or livestock, is an important part of Adams County and its economy. According to the 2015 Illinois Agriculture Economic Contribution Study, livestock production in Adams County contributed almost $96 million to the local economy and provides jobs for nearly 350 people.

Livestock are also an important market for the crops grown here in Adams County as well, and throughout Illinois. Hogs consume nearly three quarters of the soybean meal fed in Illinois, made from about 28 million bushels of soybeans, and consume more than 155 million bushels of corn each year, showing livestock are an important market for our crops that we grow in this county as well.

Bringing more livestock production into Adams County is allowing for new generations to move back to the farm, something many of us in the agriculture world work towards each day and have been lucky enough to experience. The opportunities available to newer farmers like myself and -- are sometimes limited, but expanding livestock allows those interested a place

in the industry.

On behalf of the Adams County Farm Bureau, I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak tonight.

Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can we ask him a question?

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: No. The question period has ended.

So I'll enter into the record Exhibit Number 11 Hugenberg.

Next will be Tim Baumgartner.

After Tim will be Gary Speckhart.

TIM BAUMGARTNER: Tim Baumgartner, B-a-u-m-g-a-r-t-n-e-r.

TIM BAUMGARTNER,

having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.

TIM BAUMGARTNER: I moved to Columbus Township about eleven or twelve years ago. My main concern is with the roads. I am a trustee on the board just this last year. And the time I've been in this township the roads, honestly, are the best they've ever been. So our road commissioner's done a good job of that.

I am concerned, though, how things are going with this road, this mud road, as everybody calls it. If you haven't

been on this road you don't understand. You need four-wheel drive any time it gets a little wet. Just a little wet. There's no base at all.

We're a needy township. We don't have the funds to do really the projects that I've become aware of just recently.

I don't travel all the roads. I don't get down all the ditches. Some people do. And I have seen some pictures lately. And we can't afford to fix those, much less this road that is nothing more than a trail.

I've hunted that ground around there. Not that -- not the Nall ground, but I've hunted the ground around there. I've been down these roads.

If it's not dry you can't go -- you can't go through there unless you have four-wheel drive. And then sometimes you don't want to go down there then.

There's no plan in place for them, for this company to -- all I've heard is that they're going to put down some two or three inch rock maybe a couple of inches. It's not enough.

There's no ditches. You got to keep the water off the roads. That's the main thing about keeping roads good.

And there's places, you're going to have to build up, build it up. There's going to be a lot more money than we have. We only have twenty-five thousand right now, a little over, in our road and bridge.

I just don't see it. We need something in writing,

which is what the Board wants. And I hope that was agreed upon. I was told it was. And we wanted it signed off on and notarized so we have something. Because I don't want to be liable for this concrete culvert. Which I'm not worried about it breaking down; I'm worried about trucks slipping off of it. It's a liability.

These roads are nowhere close -- nowhere close to where they need to be for this construction and I'm concerned about it.

Other concerns. I'm a three time kidney transplant patient. I hunt around there and I'm down -- I live downstream. So I'm very concerned.

I believe -- I believe with at all my heart it's your ground you should be able to do what you want, but stuff like this worries me. I already got health complications and I don't -- I don't need to lose this kidney.

I do eat wild game and that game drinks that water.

And those are my concerns.

You people that are -- and I also heard some things sitting there. I heard somebody in the back say, on the County Board, that "We can't vote no for it." I believe I heard that right. I would like to know why.

If this was right next to you and you had serious health conditions, you would think different.

Anyway, I appreciate your time. Thank you.

(Applause.)

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next is Gary Speckhart.

After Gary will be Jennifer Tirey.

GARY SPECKHART: Gary Speckhart, S-p-e-c-k-h-a-r-t.

GARY SPECKHART,

having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.

GARY SPECKHART: My report will be fairly short. Ben covered a lot of the things I wanted to talk about.

I am representing the Illinois Farm Bureau tonight. Illinois Farm Bureau membership is made up of livestock producers and not livestock producers.

We do have a policy that supports livestock production in the State of Illinois.

And I just want to state that farmers have a responsibility to be good neighbors, provide proper animal care, protect the environment.

That's all I have. Thank you.

(Applause.)

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next up is Jennifer Tirey.

After her will be Dave Derry.

JENNIFER TIREY: Jennifer Tirey, T-i-r-e-y.

JENNIFER TIREY,

having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and

says:

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Thank you. You may proceed.

JENNIFER TIREY: Good evening. My name is Jennifer Tirey. I am the Executive Director for the Illinois Pork Producers Association. I am located in Springfield, Illinois, so I do not reside in your county, but I represent the men and women that make up the Illinois pork producers and pig farmers from across the state, including John, and many others, and many other families.

So it's my due diligence to be here tonight to talk to you guys. And I know it's emotional. I -- I -- I hear it. It's definitely an emotional situation.

But I want you to be aware of some of the issues that we deal with every day as pig farmers. They are very committed to what they're doing. Their families, many of them live right near the barns.

So the health concerns that you talk about, they have their children. I know farmers that their -- they have their kids' booths right alongside them in the barns. They spend every day in and out of those barns.

I don't think that any of my farmers, any of my members would put their children in harms way knowingly if they felt that there was an uncomfortable situation inside those hog barns.

So that's one thing I just -- I want you to understand it's about people. There really are people behind these barns. There's people behind these business decisions.

They're thinking about the community that they live in, they're thinking about the environment, because they need to have that farm still be there for that next generation.

So a lot of times we aren't always thinking about the people that are involved. And those pig farmers do care and are very committed to what they do. They have to raise a secure food supply. Because anybody in this room that likes pork, that commitment and that responsibility is on that farmer to do the right thing and make sure that you're eating a safe product.

Just to give you a number. Today the average American farmer feeds a hundred and fifty-five people across the United States. In 1960 that number was only twenty-five.

And yes, a lot of our farmers do raise their animals indoors now, which there's a lot of misconceptions about that; you can't see what's happening, you don't know what the animals are doing because they're not raised out on pasture most of the time like they were back in the 1960's.

But with modern technology things have evolved, but as we've evolved we've lacked in telling our story. And that's why we appreciate having these opportunities, even though they get very emotional and even though some of the things you hear you don't like. We want to be able to tell our story and we want

to be able to answer questions.

I hate the word waste. Several people use the word waste. This is an organic fertilizer that is used in place of commercial fertilizer. Please keep that in mind. If you're putting commercial fertilizer on your ground, this is just a replacement for that same sort of thing in an organic way. So just please keep that in mind.

The last thing I want to bring up very quickly is tourism. Several people talked about tourism.

I contacted the Quincy Convention Visitors' Bureau today. And we all agree that livestock is already existing in this county, correct? There's already livestock here.

From 2014 until 2016, because that's the most recent report, every year the tourism dollars continue to go up. And there's already livestock in this community.

So please, I understand it's emotion, but please remember that there are real farmers like John McIntire, like the families that are going to help work this farm, that are going to raise their family and have a commitment to taking care of that food for you so you have a healthy product.

Thank you very much for your time.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next is Dave Derry.

After Dave will be Tim Maiers.

DAVID DERRY: David Derry, D-e-r-r-y.

DAVID DERRY,

having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.

DAVID DERRY: I live approximately one and a half miles south of the proposed site for this farm. I know -- there are several people that have mentioned that the road is basically non-existent. I'm actually surprised it's still even a road and not been closed because of how dangerous it is.

The only thing that goes down this road was farm tractors. No, you cannot take your car down this road. It's not going to happen. If you got a four-wheel drive truck, maybe. If you got a car you're not going down that road without a tow truck coming after you.

Property taxes. Property values. You know, they say that this is going to generate so much property tax for the county, but everybody else's property tax -- property values around them are going to be down, so therefore your property taxes are going to go down. So you're going to lose money with this project.

The health concerns I think have been well established.

I know I don't want to buy a house next to a hog farm.

Most of my neighbors raise livestock the old way, as apparently I'm being told now, outside. That's the way it should

be done. Not like this.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next is Tim Maiers.

After Tim will be Bruce from Fowler.

TIM MAIERS: Tim Maiers, M-a-i-e-r-s.

TIM MAIERS,

having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.

TIM MAIERS: My name is Tim Maiers. I am a farmer here in Adams County down in the Payson area. So no, I do not live in the area that the farm's proposed, but I do raise livestock. I'm very concerned as a livestock farmer the way some comments have been made tonight about me and my profession and others that do that for a living.

We all, as they say, get very emotional about this. And I understand that you're concerned about your community and where you live. I understand that and you should be. And so is this man and other people that raise livestock. They're concerned. And they don't want to do something that's wrong for the community.

They should be kept to a high standard, to follow those rules, and to do what's right.

And I think the challenge is, and the County Board, I

1 would challenge you to look at the facts on this and not just the
2 emotion because it's not a popularity contest. It is based on
3 science and facts and that's what we have to go by.
4 So I would -- I would -- it's hard to stand up here.
5 You want assurances that nothing will ever happen. We all do. I
6 wish I could tell you we're all going to go home tonight and
7 nobody's going to get in an accident. I hope that happens.
8 Probably -- hopefully it will. But we can't give those
9 assurances.
10 What we have to look at is what experience do we have
11 to go from. This man has operated several farms in Adams County,
12 Pike County area. Never had an odor complaint issued against any
13 of his farms. Has never had an EPA violation on his farms.
14 The people that are going to apply the manure have
15 never had any issues.
16 You have to at least consider that. If you're going
17 to assume that the odor is going to be so bad at the golf course
18 that people will move away, you also have to assume that it won't
19 be. Because most cases when this happens those -- those problems
20 that are out there haven't been an issue.
21 Now if the road is an issue, then yes, that has to be
22 addressed and that -- that seems like a valid thing that needs to
23 be worked on. And I think Mr. McIntire is interested in trying
24 to work out a solution to address that.
25 So let's look at those road concerns and try to

1 address those. Because we do need business and economic growth
2 in this county; to consume the grain that we're growing,
3 providing jobs, providing taxes.
4 And it's easy to say, oh, well, I don't want it by
5 me. Just move it five miles away and it will be fine.
6 Well, it's not easy just to find a place to put a
7 farm like this. The amount of manure that you need, the amount
8 of acreage, the other pigs within the area, the road.
9 We talked about roads a lot. Well, we can't build
10 this in the Town of Camp Point. Right? The law prohibits it.
11 So where most of the better roads are is where the
12 population is. Well, we can't put hogs there. We want to put
13 hogs where there's not population. And a lot of times those
14 roads aren't the best.
15 Those roads are also -- have semi truck traffic. Not
16 maybe this particular dirt road, but there are roads like this
17 that are hauling grain that farmers are providing.
18 So -- so one thing I just want to quickly point out.
19 The Illinois EPA, after this farm is built, that's proposed and
20 built, Illinois EPA does do inspections. And I know talking to
21 Mr. McIntire he has had inspections, routine inspections at his
22 farms unannounced, not without complaints. So it does happen.
23 That's their job to make sure that this farm does not pollute the
24 water or the air.
25 And a large majority, overwhelming majority, over

1 ninety-nine percent of the farms in Illinois in 2017 had no
2 violations, had no odor complaints, or water violation
3 complaints.
4 So I would just consider you -- let's make sure we're
5 looking at all the facts when looking at this issue.
6 Thank you.
7 BRUCE DUESTERHAUS: Bruce Duesterhaus.
8 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Can you spell your last
9 name for the record, please?
10 BRUCE DUESTERHAUS: D-u-e-s-t-e-r-h-a-u-s.
11 BRUCE DUESTERHAUS,
12 having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and
13 says:
14 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.
15 BRUCE DUESTERHAUS: I'm just here to address the Camp
16 Point community. I do totally understand your concerns.
17 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: If I could interrupt you
18 for just a second.
19 Ladies and gentlemen, we have two -- two people that
20 want to testify left. I think we need to show some respect to
21 the people up here testifying.
22 Okay?
23 I'm sorry.
24 BRUCE DUESTERHAUS: First there was --
25 HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Please start over.

1 BRUCE DUESTERHAUS: I'm a grain and livestock farmer
2 and also run Duesterhaus Pumping, LLC. Have custom pumped manure
3 in Adams, Pike, Hancock County, Iowa, and Missouri for the past
4 fifteen years. A lot of different sites this size and larger.
5 I do see everybody's concerns. I have worked with
6 John. I think if you would talk to his -- the people around his
7 units they would tell you he tries to be the best neighbor he can
8 possibly be.
9 And me as the applicator on the sites, I do
10 applicate, I don't do them all, but I think you would find that
11 we try to do the best we can.
12 I guess I'm here to address the County Board. I
13 personally own a hog unit. And it's a finishing unit. And since
14 I've had that finishing unit there's been over ten houses built
15 within a mile of my hog unit.
16 So to say every house is going to be affected, I
17 can't believe that or they would have never built the subdivision
18 that close to mine.
19 Now am I saying you'll never smell odor? No. But
20 this is a rural community and that is one of the chances I think
21 we take as a rural community.
22 So I do appreciate your time. I just want to say
23 that John has been, you know, has been policed by the Illinois
24 EPA, and myself also. If there's ever a complaint you call them.
25 They'll get within twenty-four hours talk to the farm, back to

you. There is a policing thing in place to be taken care of.

So the other thing. The five percent slope that was brought up earlier. We talked about it a little bit. That is only on frozen ground. As long as you're injecting there's no slope. As long as you're -- you can farm your H.E.L. ground and you can put fertilizer on it, they can't take the hog unit and say, hey, you can't use this organic fertilizer any different than the guys buying the fertilizer.

So I thank everybody for their time.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: The last person to testify tonight is Nick Anderson.

NICK ANDERSON: Nick Anderson, A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.

NICK ANDERSON,

having been sworn or affirmed by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.

NICK ANDERSON: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you, County Board. I know you're in a difficult position. We've had this conversation before in the years past. And really we really need to come to the LMFA, the rules that are in place, and how this farm is going to meet it.

John has a responsibility to address those concerns on a business standpoint with those communities that are outside the LMFA. So your charge is to follow the LMFA and decide if they have shown you that you've met the requirements of the Act.

I believe they have.

There are some questions in the crowd that do need to be answered and addressed; however, a lot of them are based on emotion. And I realize that happens. But if you -- there are several issues that conflict me when I listen to this conversation and we look for logic and commonsense and it doesn't always exist.

However, one person stated the roads are, in Columbus Township, are the best they've ever been. Except they have a road that nobody fixed or complied with over the years and years.

However, that is a road in that township that people need to get crops and products and stuff out of it and they've let it go.

We have an issue across the country with townships having funds to do those things, but if we don't fund new infrastructure in rural communities, those funds will never be generated and we'll keep going on this spiral.

If you have better plans for those communities, I sure would help -- have them. We have the same challenge in my community.

The lawyer from Camp Point mentioned some points about economic impact. He forgot to tell you the sewer plant is right next to the golf course. So if it can exist that way, we can exist two miles away.

And by the way, if there are some challenges, good

communication with John and management practices, we can address those issues, especially when you're that far away from town.

Rural development is economic development in our rural communities. I realize cities have to be viable, too, and they have to have their resources. There's a balance. And we've seen that balance in a lot of places.

And the way to get through those challenges is to communicate and not go at odds with each other, neighbors against neighbors, and opinions against opinions. We have to have some real facts.

Lastly, the activist groups that activate you folks in the country have one purpose in mind: To stop animal agriculture in the United States. You might think that's wrong. They're exploiting your issues.

John accurately stated some comments about water consumption. The City of Clayton, thirteen hundred people, use at least one hundred gallons of water per day that is -- is processed as waste. In one week they'll use -- produce more waste than this farm will.

They also have a permit to discharge to the waters of the U.S., that NPDES permit that Warren Goetsch talked about.

So we need to compare apples to apples of what's being produced, what you're living around.

I hope the sewer plant doesn't cause any odors, but if a sewer plant can survive next to a golf course, economic

opportunity, so can a farm two miles in the country.

Thank you for your time.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I'll enter into the record as Exhibit Number 12 the Oral Testimony Sign-In Sheet.

And enter into the record as Exhibit Number 13 the Attendance Sign-In Sheet, which is actually two different documents. There were two separate sign-in sheets exhibited as two documents.

Are there any closing remarks from the facility?

MR. McINTIRE: No, sir.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Are there any closing remarks from the Department?

MR. GOETSCH: I would just like to say on behalf of Director Poe we would like to thank you for your participation in this Public Informational Meeting tonight.

Let me assure you that the Department appreciates the time and the effort that you have put forward to provide your comments this evening. I'm sure that the Adams County Board will consider them as they develop their recommendation. And I also can assure you that the Department will certainly consider them as we complete the evaluation process once we receive the County Board's recommendation.

Thank you again for your attendance this evening, and please have a safe trip home.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: As I mentioned earlier,

a copy of the transcript will be provided to the County Board.

For others desiring a copy, the transcript can also be made available from the court reporter.

Thank you for your attendance tonight. This Public Informational Meeting is hereby closed.

* * *

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Randall W. Wells, Certified Shorthand Reporter, Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the proceedings had in the matter set forth in the caption page hereon were reported in shorthand by me, afterwards transcribed, and the foregoing is a true and complete transcript of said shorthand notes.

Randall W. Wells

Date: JULY 9, 2018

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