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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JUNCTION ACRES PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 4, 2012

6:00 P.M.

550 NORTH MADISON

CARTHAGE, IL

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

1 APPEARANCES :

2 SCOTT FRANK, HEARING OFFICER

3 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF

4 AGRICULTURE

5 WARREN D. GOETSCH, P.E.

6 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF

7 AGRICULTURE

8

9 BRAD A. BEAVER

10 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF

11 AGRICULTURE

12

13 DR. BILL HOLLIS

14 FOR PROFESSIONAL SWINE

15 MANAGEMENT

16

17 CHRIS WEST

18 WEST & FRANK ENVIRONMENTAL

19 ENGINEERS

20 FOR JUNCTION ACRES

21

22 LORRAINE McCREIGHT, CSR

23 MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

24

1 3,501 animal unit swine breeding,
2 gestation, farrowing and nursery complex
3 owned by Junction Acres, LLC.

4 My task this evening is to ensure
5 that this meeting is conducted in an
6 orderly fashion and to ensure that all
7 comments and testimony received tonight
8 are entered into the record. Tonight's
9 meeting is being transcribed and a
10 transcript of this meeting will be sent to
11 the Hancock County Board as well as used
12 by the Department in making its
13 determination regarding the proposed
14 construction of this facility.

15 In order to ensure that we have an
16 orderly process I will explain how the
17 meeting will proceed this evening.

18 First, following my comments, Warren
19 Goetsch will provide an overview of the
20 provisions of the Livestock Management
21 Facilities Act as it relates to this
22 particular project, specifically outlining
23 the current status of the project and how
24 the process will proceed following this

1 meeting. Following Mr. Goetsch,
2 representatives for the proposed
3 construction project will be given an
4 opportunity to describe the project and
5 how they believe it meets the eight siting
6 criteria of the Livestock Management
7 Facilities Act.

8 After their presentation I will open
9 the meeting to questions. Anyone wishing
10 to ask questions of the facility
11 representatives or the Department of
12 Agriculture will be given an opportunity
13 to do so. During the question and answer
14 session I will ask that you state your
15 name and spell your last name for the
16 court reporter. You then may ask your
17 question.

18 Depending upon the number of people
19 who wish to testify in the oral testimony
20 phase of the meeting, which is right after
21 the question phase, there may be a time
22 limit placed on this questioning phase.

23 Following the question and answer
24 session, I will ask for oral testimony

1 from the public. Sign-in sheets were
2 placed in the back of the room as you came
3 in, one for attendance and a second sheet
4 for testimony. People who wish to provide
5 comments during this oral testimony phase
6 are asked to sign the oral testimony
7 sheet.

8 People providing oral comments will
9 be sworn in and will be subject to
10 questioning from the public. At this time
11 each person will be given three to five
12 minutes to provide his or her comments.
13 Legal counsel speaking on behalf of
14 multiple clients will be given six to ten
15 minutes to provide comment and will be
16 asked to state the names of those persons
17 on whose behalf he or she is speaking.

18 Depending on the number of
19 individuals wishing to provide comment,
20 the aforementioned time limits may need to
21 be adjusted to ensure that the meeting
22 ends at a reasonable time.

23 Following the oral testimony I will
24 ask for written testimony. Written

1 testimony will be accepted in paper form
2 and will be entered into the record for
3 this proceeding. The meeting will then
4 conclude with closing comments from the
5 Facility and from the Department of
6 Agriculture.

7 To summarize the proceeding tonight
8 we will have comments from the Department,
9 comments from the Facility, questions
10 directed to the Department and the
11 Facility, oral testimony from the public,
12 written testimony, followed by closing
13 comments.

14 Again, we very much appreciate your
15 hospitality and inviting us here tonight
16 to consider the proposed construction of
17 Junction Acres, LLC swine facility.

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

21 I will now turn the proceeding over
22 to Warren Goetsch for remarks from the
23 Illinois Department of Agriculture.

24 MR. GOETSCH: Thank you,

1 Mr. Hearing Officer.

2 Good evening. My name is Warren
3 Goetsch. I currently serve as the Bureau
4 Chief of Environmental Programs for the
5 Illinois Department of Agriculture. One
6 of our responsibilities at the Department
7 is the administration of the various
8 provisions of the Livestock Management
9 Facilities Act.

10 On behalf of the Department, let me
11 welcome you to this public informational
12 meeting.

13 Before we hear from the proposed
14 facility's representatives I would like to
15 say a few words regarding the applicable
16 provisions of the Livestock Management
17 Facilities Act and the current status of
18 this proposed project.

19 The Livestock Management Facilities
20 Act was originally passed and became law
21 on May 21st of 1996. Since that time the
22 act has been amended three times. First
23 during the General Assembly's 1997 fall
24 veto session, second during the General

1 Assembly's 1999 spring session, and most
2 recently during the 2007 spring session.

3 The Act can be generally described as
4 having five major areas. Those being
5 facility design standards, waste
6 management planning requirements, facility
7 operator training and testing, anaerobic
8 lagoon financial responsibility
9 demonstration, and facility setback
10 requirement.

11 Each of these provisions impacts
12 various types of facilities in different
13 ways, depending upon the facility size,
14 its animal units, and whether the proposed
15 facility is considered as a new facility,
16 a modified facility or the expansion of an
17 existing site.

18 The Livestock Management Facilities
19 Act provisions are quite complicated and
20 specific facility designs and situations
21 can certainly differ. It is, however, the
22 Department of Agriculture's intention to
23 always fairly and equitably apply these
24 recommendations to the livestock industry

1 in this state.

2 Regarding the current status of this
3 project, the Department received a formal
4 Notice of Intent to Construct Application
5 for the proposed construction of a swine
6 facility on September 30, 2011.

7 The proposed project is to consist of
8 the construction of five buildings. One
9 farrowing building measuring 162 feet by
10 580 feet with a 2-foot deep underbuilding
11 livestock waste handling structure, two
12 breeding and gestation buildings, each
13 measuring 101 feet by 520 feet with
14 10-foot deep underbuilding livestock waste
15 handling structures, one gilt developer
16 building measuring 101 feet by 260 feet
17 with a 10-foot deep underbuilding
18 livestock waste handling structure, and
19 one isolation nursery building measuring
20 48 feet by 52 feet with a 2 feet deep
21 underbuilding livestock waste handling
22 structure.

23 The project is proposed to be located
24 approximately 1.3 miles northwest of

1 LaCrosse, Illinois.

2 The application was submitted by
3 Frank and West Environmental Engineers,
4 Inc. on behalf of Junction Acres, LLC.

5 The maximum design capacity of the
6 proposed facility is 3,500.78 animal
7 units, or 8,000 head greater than
8 55 pounds of swine and 10,026 head of
9 swine less than 55 pounds.

10 As I mentioned earlier, the
11 Department received the Notice of Intent
12 to Construction Application on
13 September 30, 2011 and reviewed it for
14 compliance with the applicable provisions
15 of the Act.

16 On November 9, the Department
17 determined that the notice was complete,
18 forwarding a copy of the completed
19 application to the Hancock County Board
20 and caused notice of that application to
21 be published in the appropriate newspaper.

22 The design capacity and proposed
23 facility requires compliance with a
24 residential setback distance of not less

1 than 1,760 feet and a populated area
2 setback distance of not less than
3 3,520 feet.

4 On December 13, the Department
5 received notice from the Hancock County
6 Board requesting that a public
7 informational meeting be scheduled
8 regarding the proposal.

9 After further consultation with the
10 County Board the Department scheduled this
11 meeting and caused notice of the meeting
12 to be published in the appropriate
13 newspapers.

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

18 At this time the Department has not
19 received a formal submittal of detailed
20 engineering design plans and
21 specifications for the proposed project's
22 underbuilding livestock waste handling
23 facilities. Upon receipt the Department
24 will make a detailed review of those plans

1 to determine compliance with the statutory
2 requirements.

3 We are here this evening to receive
4 testimony regarding the proposed
5 construction of the livestock management
6 facility's compliance with the eight sited
7 criteria as designed in Section 12,
8 Paragraph D of the Livestock Management
9 Facilities Act.

10 In general, information about the
11 proposed facility's impact on or inclusion
12 of waste management plans, potential
13 impact on the surrounding area's
14 character, whether the proposed facility
15 is located within any floodplains or any
16 other sensitive areas, odor control plans,
17 possible impact on existing traffic
18 patterns and possible impacts on community
19 growth, tourism and recreation or economic
20 development.

21 Copies of the specific criteria were
22 available on the table with the sign-in
23 sheets. If anyone would like to have a
24 copy of the criteria but didn't pick one

1 up, if you would identify yourself, we
2 would be more than happy to receive a
3 copy. They were back in the back.

4 There is a little brochure. There is
5 also a single page. Okay.

6 Finally, the process that will be
7 followed after this evening's meeting is
8 as follows: The County Board will have up
9 to 30 business days from today's meeting
10 to submit to the Department a nonbinding
11 recommendation relative to the proposed
12 facility. Thus, a recommendation from the
13 Hancock County Board is due at the
14 Department on or before February 17, 2012.
15 After the close of the County's 30
16 business day comment period, the
17 Department will have 15 calendar days, or
18 until March 13, 2012 to review all of the
19 information included in the Notice of
20 Intent to Construct application, the
21 construction plans and specifications,
22 transcripts from this evening's meeting,
23 the County Board's recommendation, and any
24 other additional information submitted by

1 the owners at the request of the
2 Department.

3 Based on that review, the Department
4 will determine whether the eight siting
5 criteria have been met by the application.

6 Once that determination has been
7 made, the Department will notify both the
8 County Board and the Applicant of the
9 Department's determination.

10 Mr. Hearing Officer, at this time I
11 would like to submit the completed Notice
12 of Intent to Construct Application and its
13 associated correspondence file for formal
14 entry into the record as an Exhibit.

15 I would also like to enter into the
16 record a copy of the Department's
17 powerpoint at this time.

18 After that, that will conclude my
19 comments.

20 Again, thank you all for coming. I
21 look forward to hearing what you all have
22 to say.

23 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Entered
24 into the record as Exhibit Number 1 is

1 the completed Notice of Intent to
2 Construct, including correspondence
3 between the Department and the Applicant,
4 notices of the public informational
5 meeting and correspondence with the
6 Hancock County officials.

7 Also entered into the record as
8 Exhibit Number 2 is the Department's
9 powerpoint presentation.

10 Thank you, Mr. Goetsch.

11 At this time we will hear comments
12 from the facility.

13 For those who will be presenting
14 information, please state your name and
15 then spell your last name for the court
16 reporter and then I will swear you in.

17 MR. HOLLIS: My name is Bill
18 Hollis. Last name H-O-L-L-I-S.

19 MR. WEST: My name is Chris
20 West, W-E-S-T.

21

22 (Mr. West sworn in.)

23

24 MR. HOLLIS: Well, I will try

1 and keep the microphone close. And first
2 off I want to say that I appreciate
3 everyone's attendance tonight. I know
4 many of you are here supportive of the
5 livestock industry and supportive of our
6 business and our desire to help Junction
7 Acres build their farm.

8 I also know there are many of you
9 that are concerned and have legitimate and
10 serious concerns about what we do. So we
11 welcome those questions and we will do our
12 best to answer those questions.

13 I have been asked by Junction Acres
14 to explain a little bit more about us and
15 we have tried to communicate with some of
16 you about what your questions are. So
17 what I will share with you tonight will be
18 similar to some things that we shared
19 about a similar project that we work with
20 in McDonough County. Those main questions
21 were who are we, what are we planning to
22 do, and then why are we here?

23 We being us and then also we being
24 Junction Acres, why is Junction Acres

1 here, what is it that they want to do?

2 So to give you a little bit more
3 deeper opinion now of why I think we are
4 here, really it's here tonight to talk
5 about the people. That's the people that
6 we work with, the people that want to
7 build this farm, the people that service
8 the pig business we work with.

9 It is also about the pigs. Because
10 many of you may not know about what we do
11 and so we are going to try and share some
12 of that.

13 And then it is also about the
14 neighbors and how we work to satisfy the
15 concerns and to satisfy the issues that
16 are raised up about livestock production
17 and specifically about a farm like
18 Junction Acres.

19 So tonight is about the people, the
20 pigs and the neighbors.

21 More specifically, also to explain to
22 you tonight Junction Acres is a 5,600 sow
23 farm.

24 So the animal units aside, the

1 discussions of counting baby pigs versus
2 newborn pigs, versus weaned pigs, we
3 operate that as basically 5,600 sow farm
4 for everyday communication of traditional
5 production. That 5,600 sows is going to
6 be structured to produce weaned pigs. So
7 that is why there is all of this
8 additional counting.

9 The 5,600 sow farm is owned by three
10 individuals. And Junction Acres is owned
11 by three people. One of them you already
12 know locally here is a veterinarian, Joe
13 Connor. His other partner in that -- Joe
14 is not the majority owner. He is in that
15 partnership with two others. The other
16 partners are a producer and veterinarian
17 from McDonough County and another producer
18 and veterinarian from the state of
19 Missouri. And those three individuals
20 have organized Junction Acres. And
21 Junction Acres has hired Professional
22 Swine Management to run and operate that
23 sow farm.

24 So in a nutshell, that is Junction

1 Acres.

2 More broad now, who we are, are a
3 collection of a lot of people. I want to
4 go through some of that to give you a
5 little bit of understanding.

6 Forgive me for being a little
7 sentimental. We had a meeting much
8 smaller than this but similar to this 15
9 years ago in this building, and at that
10 time Professional Swine Management wasn't
11 even imagined. It was our veterinary
12 office working with eight producers at the
13 time that wanted to build a sow farm
14 outside of town. And so we have been in
15 this community for a long time.

16 And Professional Swine Management
17 started in 2000. Has been doing this very
18 thing for a long time. So we feel very
19 strongly about our tie to the community
20 and our role and responsibility in working
21 with many of you.

22 So this is who we are.

23 This happens to be one of the
24 veterinarians in our practice, Dr. Lauer.

1 This happens to be production supervisor
2 Bill Beckman, who has actually done work
3 with Pfizer Company. And this is another
4 employee in the production system, all of
5 which are people that want to see this
6 type of operation continue to grow in our
7 business.

8 Now, this slide I really happen to
9 enjoy because my son is sitting here in
10 the Illini hat, or jacket. And this is
11 actually Tara Growth. That is Doug
12 Growth's daughter. Some of you also
13 recognize Ben is now nine years old and he
14 was about five then.

15 This is JJore Salano. He is a
16 documented legal employee, educated in
17 Mexico, that has moved to this area that
18 wants to work full time in the livestock
19 production. He now manages a farm in our
20 system.

21 These are people that we feel very
22 strongly about.

23 Janet Renny here is a manager that
24 has grown within the system, training

1 group staff in the break room.

2 These are more images of who we are
3 and what we do.

4 This is an image of actually many of
5 you that are sitting in the crowd tonight.
6 These are our PSM employees.

7 This is our 2011 Christmas picture.
8 We take that in the summertime. It is
9 a -- we put it as part of our educational
10 program as well.

11 We work with our producers at Western
12 Illinois University every summer with an
13 educational program. And so these are the
14 people that operate out of the college
15 building. PSM now takes the second floor
16 of that college building.

17 So I will get a little bit more into
18 that in a moment.

19 This is more about who PSM is.

20 We do manage 26 different farm
21 locations. In those farms, collectively
22 are 320 full-time farm staff employees.
23 There are 18 part-time positions in those
24 farms, and there are three coop high

1 school students.

2 In that picture was a PSM direct
3 office staff. There are 33 full-time
4 employees in that staff.

5 I also thought it was fun to add two
6 of those are Ph.D.s, one in nutrition and
7 one in environmental science, two Master's
8 in animal science, a CPA in the group.
9 And the gals in the office also added up a
10 total of 132 kids, two on the way, and 61
11 grandkids.

12 Again, established into 2000.

13 PSM is hired by farmers who trust the
14 organization to raise their livestock and
15 to educate their employees.

16 So that's the role that we desire to
17 fill and that's why we are happy to come
18 here tonight and talk to you about what we
19 do.

20 This happens to be Jay Walter who is
21 awarded Farm Manager of the year. He
22 manages a farm in Missouri. With him
23 there is Fred Curren, our Director of
24 Production.

1 Robin was actually given a birthday
2 at the farm. I know that Adam is the
3 manager, was the manager of that farm at
4 the time. He did not push her in the cake
5 but was standing there taking the picture.

6 This gives you a little more -- this
7 slide is a busy slide. It gives you a
8 little better understanding of how our
9 business started doing this and why we
10 feel very strongly about doing it, moving
11 forward.

12 In the early '80s when Dr. Connor was
13 here with Carthage Veterinary Service,
14 record books and record keeping and
15 providing what at that time was called Pig
16 Champ to their clients, their swine
17 clients. In the '90s that became Genetic
18 Improvement, working with a company called
19 Pig Improvement Company, PIC. That was
20 also when these sow units which were
21 cooperative sow units of multiple owners
22 started to evolve.

23 When I came to Carthage in 1996 there
24 were two genetic multipliers, which would

1 be farms that produce gilts. And at that
2 time was the meeting. That was the one
3 commercial sow farm being discussed. That
4 was all that the office really had a
5 desire or staffing to manage. That
6 evolved through 2000, and now we are at
7 2012 to where there are 26 farm locations.

8 So it takes a great deal more staff
9 and a great deal more organization,
10 education, both of our people and of the
11 general public about what we do.

12 So two years ago we started working
13 very hard on educational material. And
14 that's both web based and computer based.
15 All of the farms have a computer on the
16 farm. All of the farm staff have break
17 periods, have orientation that all go
18 through those computer models and all
19 utilize that educational material.

20 This is a slide showing how the
21 building site itself, what's evolved.
22 Many of you are familiar with our move
23 from the former veterinary clinic office
24 to what is -- through the college was

1 called Anthony Hall. That is now our main
2 office, with CVS operating the third
3 floor, PSM operating the second floor.
4 The first floor is more the reception,
5 meeting rooms, human resources, that type
6 of thing.

7 Our group is also invested in the
8 dormitories which we converted to single
9 unit apartments and are trying to clean up
10 these buildings. That takes a good deal
11 of time and investment.

12 It is our desire to see that improved
13 and cleaned up here in the community.

14 Here is a few more pictures of
15 people.

16 I want to get to a few pictures of
17 pigs.

18 These pictures are taken by the farm
19 managers of their staff. This happens to
20 be a farm manager that awards birthdays by
21 the month. These are pictures of the farm
22 staff. These are our production
23 supervisors at the Illinois State Fair
24 volunteering to cook pork chops at the

1 Illinois State Fair.

2 So the take home message is that our
3 PSM value we believe is to remain well
4 positioned in this rapidly changing
5 environment as our clients' goals continue
6 to change.

7 We do that by bringing educated young
8 people to the community.

9 These are a group of veterinary
10 students and animal science students that
11 came to tour facilities and learn about
12 livestock production.

13 Today three of these individuals work
14 within our system. One works at the
15 Carthage Veterinary Clinic at the mixed
16 animal practice. Back there is Dr. Ann
17 Johnson, Hancock Veterinary Clinic in
18 Hamilton, and Dr. Lauer works out of our
19 Carthage office. He actually lives in
20 Champaign but works out of our office
21 here.

22 Our goal is to continue to attract
23 and maintain a good relationship with the
24 universities and bring people to the

1 community.

2 Tonight is also about pigs.

3 We read the paper and we hear the
4 news about concerns about pigs, so I want
5 to show you some pictures of what we do
6 and give you a few snapshots about the
7 pigs. Not these pigs.

8 I also want to admit that when I came
9 to Carthage we would blood test pigs out
10 of the timber and we would use the hog
11 snarer and the crowd gate. And this time
12 of year it is not very pleasant for
13 livestock production out in the timber.
14 So our goal is to continue to support the
15 welfare friendly and food safety friendly
16 environments that we know today.

17 You may not know that Illinois is
18 fourth in pork production. Illinois has
19 approximately 2,700 hog farms and four and
20 a half million pigs around the state.

21 These are the type of pigs produced
22 by Junction Acres.

23 So Junction Acres will be producing
24 wean pigs. There are farmers that already

1 want to buy those wean pigs, that are
2 already contracted to buy those wean pigs,
3 that want to feed those wean pigs.

4 This is a picture of inside the farm.
5 We didn't show some of these pictures in
6 Macomb, if some of you happened to be at
7 the meeting that we attended in Macomb.

8 These are pictures of individual sow
9 housing. This is actually a lady doing
10 realtime ultrasound in a sow facility with
11 sow housing.

12 This down here is the other
13 individual sow housing in farrowing.

14 So there are some other sows
15 lactating her babies in her environment
16 that is controlled for ventilation, for
17 the temperature and also individual feed
18 for both the sow and safety for the baby
19 pigs.

20 This is again the product. The pigs
21 at Junction Acres will be delivered to
22 facilities that are going to be placing
23 them on feed and raising them up for food
24 for our hungry world.

1 The pork industry consumes about
2 10 percent of the U.S. corn crop. So when
3 we are talking about where this pig
4 production fits, are we getting too big or
5 are these pig production models
6 unsustainable, what I would like you to
7 respect is that Junction Acres is really
8 no different than many other similar sized
9 units throughout the country and
10 throughout the state and even in this
11 county.

12 So Junction Acre's desire to be a
13 5,600 sow farm is to be a viable,
14 sustainable, long-term business with good
15 relationship both in the community and to
16 the livestock industry.

17 So the pork industry is good business
18 is my message here. And the pork industry
19 consumes about 10 percent of both corn and
20 soybeans.

21 The pork industry specifically in
22 Illinois is about 94 million bushels and
23 28 million bushels of soybeans. Sows and
24 gilts at Junction Acres will consume

1 approximately 180,000 bushels of local
2 corn each year.

3 PSM managed herds consume around two
4 and a half million bushels of corn. That
5 is locally produced, milled at the NSI
6 mill here in Carthage.

7 So those sow farms in the neighboring
8 area and wean to finish farms and
9 facilities, boar studs that are in this
10 area are being fed out of the NSI mill,
11 and that is local corn.

12 More specifically, if we look at
13 Hancock County -- these are USDA numbers.
14 Hancock County planted approximately
15 172,000 acres of corn and our 2010 average
16 yield of around 150 bushel -- some were
17 better but some might not have been that
18 good either in 2010. So 150 bushels to
19 the acre, if we look at semi truck traffic
20 and hauling that corn out of the field,
21 that is around 25,000 semi loads of corn.
22 That is approximately 1,000 bushels on
23 that semi.

24 If we look at Junction Acres, while

1 Junction Acres is going to require a good
2 deal of corn, it is going to be about
3 between four and five semi loads of feed,
4 approximately two, sometimes three loads
5 of baby pigs. But if we look -- that is
6 on a weekly basis.

7 If we look specifically at corn, that
8 is about 200 semi loads of corn.

9 So from semi traffic up and down the
10 road, Hancock County and Junction Acres is
11 about four loads of corn -- if we are
12 looking specifically at the corn, four
13 loads of corn or five loads roughly of
14 feed on a weekly basis.

15 That's a picture of the NSI million.

16 Tonight -- I have talked about 15
17 minutes. I have about five or ten left.
18 I appreciate your patience as I ramble on
19 about who we are and show you a lot of
20 smiling pictures of our kids, but we also
21 recognize today is about the neighbors.
22 And we live here, so we want to be good
23 stewards and we desire to be managing
24 these farms with the best technology

1 available today. We are concerned and we
2 hear the concerns when folks are worried
3 about their air or they are worried about
4 their water.

5 What I would like to share is that we
6 recognize those and we try to identify a
7 safe location. Junction Acres -- and
8 Chris West will talk more specifically
9 about where it is located in distances --
10 but Junction Acres is stuck back in the
11 trees. Trees on three sides. Has more
12 than the required setback separation and a
13 good deal of trees between many of the
14 neighbors in the area.

15 So it is our goal to identify
16 locations that are safe, surrounded by
17 trees, and then follow that up with good
18 stewardship, good management of those
19 facilities.

20 We also recognize there are concerns
21 about regulation. And these are some
22 examples that we have shared before that I
23 want to review again with you.

24 The Pinnacle truck wash, and more

1 specifically Pinnacle Genetics, is a sow
2 farm in McDonough County. Pinnacle
3 Genetics had an EPA violation where they
4 had several issues, but the main issue
5 that was discussed was the management of a
6 machine shed that was being used to wash
7 their livestock trailer. That was
8 unacceptable to the Illinois EPA in the
9 manner that that was being handled, as it
10 was being washed out of that livestock
11 trailer. So a compliance agreement was
12 reached, an EPA septic tank system was
13 installed, and that facility is an
14 excellent facility with an excellent
15 record of compliance.

16 Wildcat Farms is a newer farm. Some
17 of you may live near Wildcat Farms.
18 Wildcat actually had an Illinois EPA
19 violation over a cleanout that was hit
20 with a mower. Manure came out of a -- a
21 cleanout is a sewer line that allows you
22 to have access to underground manure
23 storage. They are only used for the
24 shallow pits. And at this farm there

1 happened to be 2-foot shallow pits.

2 Junction Acres will have shallow pits
3 for the farrowing, so it will be similar
4 to having the same type of cleanout, which
5 is an access pipe coming out of the
6 ground.

7 At Wildcat a neighbor was hired to
8 mow. The mower hit the cleanout, knocked
9 it over, and when manure backed up through
10 that cleanout it came out on the ground.
11 It ran approximately 200 feet before it
12 was identified. That was self reported,
13 self cleaned up, and a compliance
14 agreement was held. And that's been fully
15 in compliance ever since.

16 So we raise both of these as
17 examples, without getting into every
18 situation at every farm, examples of how
19 we are going to strive to achieve that
20 same level of respect and compliance with
21 all regulatory agencies because it is the
22 right thing to do in the livestock
23 business today.

24 This is an example of how cleanout is

1 handled today. We put these posts around
2 it so if there is tall weeds or grass or
3 for any reason we had to get back here in
4 the snow, you can see this.

5 We have shared this with the field
6 officers at the Illinois EPA and we know
7 that they have used it with other people
8 to show an example of what they would like
9 to see.

10 We also understand that there is
11 further concerns about things like water
12 and protecting the environment as a
13 general sense. How are we going to handle
14 that?

15 Our plans at Junction Acres would be
16 to have 12 months of storage. We like to
17 haul a little bit in the spring and a
18 larger amount out in the fall, but we
19 actually have underground pit storage for
20 12 months, which far exceeds the
21 requirement by the state.

22 Our compost structures are also a
23 question for many people. I will share I
24 believe they are over built. They are

1 actually quite large concrete structures,
2 concrete walls, concrete floors with a
3 roof. So we can have concrete on three
4 sides and a gate at the front to protect
5 them from -- protection of that dead
6 animal that is placed in sawdust and
7 covered with sawdust.

8 This is just a picture of a compost,
9 one half where there would be bays on this
10 side, bays behind you and a concrete wall
11 at the end. So there are three sides with
12 air and a roof to protect it from weather.

13 So my short message, I guess to
14 narrow it down, is we want to be here. We
15 want to be your neighbor. And having
16 grown up in this area, I would like to be
17 here a long time.

18 So we have added a few more
19 neighborhood slides. Some of you know
20 Dr. Kelly Griener and some of you may
21 recognize the kindergarteners. This was
22 actually in 2009 so these kids -- some of
23 you may also remember the Easter egg hunt
24 that we brought back on the college campus

1 and things we do to try to include
2 ourselves as neighbors in the community.
3 We also support the Food Bank.

4 This one actually happens to be in
5 Rushville, but we also work through Webber
6 Meats here in town and we support, provide
7 pork products both locally to the Food
8 Bank and contribute to the Food Pantry and
9 also to the Food Banks around the state.

10 Economically we believe we are a good
11 neighbor. Economically Junction Acres'
12 partners will contribute a total of
13 \$11 million.

14 That includes the animals, the
15 operation, the cost of feed, labor,
16 everything to get it up to where it is
17 producing baby pigs out the door.

18 They are going to utilize, as we said
19 before, 180,000 bushels. They are going
20 to apply nutrients on 970 acres estimated
21 at fertilizer value for 175-bushel acres
22 corn. That value is over \$240 an acre, if
23 we go back and look at the NP&K value of
24 those nutrients applied.

1 We also believe we are a good
2 neighbor because we are going to employ --
3 18 employees is a fair number to estimate.
4 And that payroll is around \$700,000 a year
5 for those employees.

6 The Hancock County tax rates are a
7 little different than McDonough County,
8 for those of you that are going to compare
9 notes as we have looked at these.

10 The tax rates that we used -- and
11 this is an estimate -- was the previous
12 tax bill for this property from Pilot for
13 2010. And then Gary Donnelly in our
14 office took the estimates of the building,
15 construction costs, removed from that the
16 underground manure storage, because the
17 EPA has a pollution allowance where they
18 take out of that overall construction
19 cost, the cost for underground manure
20 storage because they consider that
21 valuable for the prevention of pollution.
22 So they put a value on that and say you
23 can remove that construction value from
24 your overall costs.

1 Gary, sorry if I am butchering this
2 explanation.

3 The numbers here are after any
4 allowance has already been removed.

5 So we are estimating this as it
6 relates to after any kind of a removal for
7 any pollution allowance out of the
8 facility.

9 So what this is telling us is this
10 facility will pay approximately \$112,000
11 per year in real estate taxes.

12 That Pilot Grove Township in
13 particular will be somewhere in the
14 neighborhood of \$17,000 total.

15 So this looks a little bit different
16 than some of you that visited with us in
17 McDonough County but not too much
18 different.

19 And then finally I just want to
20 reinforce that we live here. That some of
21 you probably recognize Abby and Wyatt.
22 Their parents are here tonight. Grandpa
23 is here tonight.

24 So we enjoy what we do.

1 Livestock Management Facilities Act.

2 The site overview what we are looking
3 at here is -- this is a county wide view.
4 And you see, up in the top right-hand
5 corner you will see the location.

6 Here is a closer in view. And then
7 right in the middle we have the facility.
8 And then a closer view again showing the
9 facility planned location within that
10 rectangular outline there.

11 Here is how the facility is proposed
12 to be laid out.

13 We have up at the top a gestation
14 barn. And as Mr. Goetsch mentioned
15 earlier, 101 feet by 520 feet. Farrowing
16 barn, 162 by 580. Another gestation barn,
17 101-foot by 520 feet. A gilt developer
18 barn, 101-foot by 260 feet, and a nursery
19 barn roughly 48 feet by 52 feet.

20 These are, you know, accurate
21 dimensions and a layout of how this
22 facility is being proposed.

23 The eight siting criteria that I am
24 going to go through here tonight, in

1 general number one we have the
2 registration and certification
3 requirements.

4 Number two, the design, location and
5 operation standards.

6 Number three, the location
7 compatibility.

8 Number four, floodplain and aquifer
9 protection.

10 Number five, minimize environmental
11 impact.

12 Number six, odor control and/or
13 reduction.

14 Traffic patterns. Minimize the
15 impacts of those.

16 And is the facility consistent with
17 area development?

18 I am going to go through each one of
19 these one by one. We are going to have --
20 the full definition is up there. I am not
21 going to read the full definition. But
22 siting criteria number one, registration
23 and certification requirements.

24 Again, as was mentioned earlier, the

1 facility submitted the Notice of Intent to
2 Construct to the Department of Ag on
3 September 30 of last year, 2011. That
4 notice of intent was deemed complete by
5 the Department November 9 of 2011.

6 Part two of the siting criteria,
7 number one is the Waste Management Plan.
8 According to the Livestock Management
9 Facilities Act, any facility that exceeds
10 1,000 animal units, while being less than
11 5,000 animal units, is required to put
12 together, to develop a nutrient management
13 plan and keep it on site within 60 days
14 after commencing operation.

15 The farm is prepared to develop not
16 only a nutrient management plan but a
17 comprehensive nutrient management plan.
18 There are several items in several areas
19 that are not called for by regulation that
20 we are including that make out a
21 comprehensive nutrient management plan.
22 Such as tillage practices in the field.
23 That's one thing. We also look at soil
24 loss factors. Those are things that make

1 out a comprehensive nutrient management
2 plan that would not necessarily be in a
3 nutrient management plan.

4 The farm will submit to the
5 Department of Ag the waste management plan
6 certification, certifying to Hancock
7 County the waste management plan has been
8 prepared.

9 The farm will keep the CNP at the
10 facility as well as all records of
11 livestock waste disposal on file at the
12 farm.

13 The nutrient management plan, the
14 comprehensive nutrient management plan and
15 all associated records will be available
16 at the farm at any time for Department
17 inspections.

18 What I will talk about a little bit
19 and what we try do is show it in a visual,
20 but the goal of this CNP is to utilize the
21 waste produced by the hogs at agronomic
22 loading rates that meet the needs of the
23 locally grown crops in an environmentally
24 sound fashion.

1 We have the crops to feed the
2 animals, the animals provide the manure
3 that fertilizes the crops. So it is a
4 circle there.

5 This goal will be accomplished by
6 developing a CNP which includes the total
7 annual manure volume produced by this
8 facility; historically proven yields in
9 the application areas for this facility;
10 manure analysis from this facility to
11 provide the new Trent content of the
12 manure; agronomic loading rates of manure;
13 land application provisions for setbacks,
14 and incorporation of standards and
15 documentation and continued documentation
16 of all phases of the plan.

17 Siting criteria two deals with the
18 design and operation standards.

19 The facility will be designed
20 according to Midwest Plan Service,
21 concrete manure storage handling. Midwest
22 Plan Service is a university based
23 publishing cooperative. It is a
24 midwestern university based cooperative

1 dedicated to publishing and disseminating
2 research based and peer reviewed
3 publications.

4 This particular document includes
5 concrete specifications, reinforcement
6 requirements, water stop requirements.

7 The design for this proposed farm
8 will consist of construction plans for, as
9 I mentioned earlier, two gestation barns,
10 a farrowing barn, a gilt developer barn
11 and a nursery barn.

12 This is a facility that will lay out
13 very similarly to the facility that's
14 being proposed. We have a gestation barn,
15 another gestation barn, a farrowing barn
16 in the middle and a gilt developer and a
17 small nursery barn.

18 So orientation will be slightly
19 different most likely but the layout will
20 be basically identical. And these barns
21 are of a very similar size to what is
22 being proposed for this farm.

23 Again, the two gestation barns that
24 we have here, this is some pictures inside

1 of a gestation barn. This is what will be
2 similar to what would be proposed here.

3 We have the farrowing barn in the
4 middle there again. And inside of a
5 farrowing room here as well.

6 Gilt developer barn, there would be
7 some of the pens for the gilt development
8 barn. The idea is to show you the inside
9 of a barn to show you how this will look
10 once it is up and running.

11 And then the small nursery barn.
12 There is a nursery pen in a very similar
13 facility.

14 Part two of siting criteria two deals
15 with the location and setback distances.

16 As Mr. Goetsch mentioned, these have
17 been met. We have -- both the occupied
18 residence and populated area setbacks have
19 been met and exceeded.

20 The farm location was deemed complete
21 by the Department November 9, 2011.

22 Part three is the proposed operation.
23 Any facility, any farm of this size, must
24 be managed by at least one Certified

1 Livestock Manager. This facility will be.
2 And this program was developed by the
3 Department of Ag to educate livestock
4 managers on manure management and handling
5 and systems.

6 Managers of farms over 1,000 animal
7 units are required to attend a training
8 course and pass an exam before they
9 receive this certification. Also a
10 facility of this size, as I mentioned
11 earlier, must develop and implement a
12 Livestock Management Plan.

13 Siting criteria three, location
14 compatibility. Rural areas within Hancock
15 County are not zoned. The Department of
16 ag deemed the setbacks for the facility
17 complete November 9, as I mentioned
18 earlier. And the farm is compatible with
19 the surrounding area in that this area is
20 a rural agriculture area.

21 We mentioned setbacks based on animal
22 numbers earlier. So I wanted to go
23 through this and show you the calculation
24 that we did to come up with these animal

1 unit numbers.

2 We have 8,000 planned animals that
3 are over 55 pounds. The way the Livestock
4 Management Facilities Act breaks this
5 down, there is a calculation, or there is
6 a number that we use for animals over
7 55 pounds and one for animals that are
8 less than 55 pounds.

9 So at this facility we will have
10 5,800 mature sows and 2,200 grower gilts
11 for breeding replacement, for a total of
12 8,000. That will equal 3,200 animal
13 units. There will be 1,000 young gilts
14 and 9,026 baby pigs for a total of 10,026
15 animals less than 55 pounds, for 300.78
16 animal units.

17 Those totals will be 3,500.78 animal
18 units, which leads to an occupied
19 residence setback of 1,760 feet and a
20 populated area setback of 3,520 feet.

21 What we have here is the setback map
22 that was submitted to the Department of Ag
23 and approved.

24 We have the blue rectangle in the

1 middle represents the facility location,
2 the proposed location. The black oval,
3 the first circle or oval outside of that,
4 represents the residential setback. The
5 orange circle outside of that, or oval
6 outside of that, represents the populated
7 area setback.

8 Siting criteria four, floodplain and
9 aquifer. What I want to show you here is
10 a floodplain map for this part of the
11 county. And in particular what I want to
12 show you is this blue hatched area. That
13 represents the floodplain, the 100 year
14 flood. So all of this area down here,
15 that represents the 100 year flood. And
16 then here in the middle we have the
17 proposed farm location. So you can see
18 there is a setback, there is a separation
19 distance between the floodplain and the
20 proposed farm location.

21 The next part of the aquifer and
22 floodplain that we look at are karst
23 areas. Karst by definition is land
24 surfaces containing sinkholes, springs or

1 unconfined areas underneath the ground or
2 underneath the land surface.

3 What we have here is a map developed
4 by the Illinois Geological Survey, and it
5 shows karst areas up in northwestern
6 Illinois and then karst areas in western
7 Illinois. And then we have up here in the
8 northern part of the county, this is where
9 the proposed farm is located. So well
10 outside of any areas identified as having
11 karst.

12 As I just mentioned, as the map
13 showed, the farm is not located -- is not
14 planned to be located in an area
15 identified as containing karst.

16 Aquifer, that is another part,
17 another thing we look at when we conduct a
18 site investigation at the facility.
19 Aquifer by definition is sandstone that is
20 5 feet or more in thickness or fractured
21 carbonate that is 10 feet or more in
22 thickness or a sand gravel, sand gravel
23 mixture such that there is at least 2 feet
24 or more present within any 5-foot section

1 of a soil boring.

2 We conducted a site investigation for
3 the proposed location. We advanced soil
4 borings up to 13 feet below the ground
5 surface. Each and every boring was at
6 least 5-foot below the planned bottom of
7 the barns. No aquifer material was
8 encountered in any of the borings.

9 This is meant to give you an idea of
10 how we conduct the borings and where we
11 choose to locate the borings.

12 The green line across the center here
13 represents the ground surface as it
14 currently lays. This hatched line
15 represents a proposed location for a
16 building. And right through the center of
17 that is a soil boring.

18 So what we are looking at doing is
19 advancing these at least 5 feet below the
20 planned bottom of this structure, looking
21 for aquifer material.

22 Siting criteria five, minimize the
23 environmental impacts. We look at doing
24 that several ways. Number one is proper

1 sizing. We want to make certain there is
2 adequate storage in excess of the required
3 150 days. This farm is proposed to have
4 storage in excess of 365 days. As
5 Dr. Hollis mentioned earlier, we are more
6 than doubling the proposed storage here.
7 We want to make certain there is always
8 enough storage at the farm.

9 We also make certain that this is a
10 closed system. By that, by that I mean
11 there is no uncontrolled release of
12 livestock manure. The animals are in the
13 barn, the manure goes from the animals
14 through the slatted floors directly into
15 the pit. So there is -- there will be no
16 uncontrolled release. It doesn't go
17 anywhere else. All clean water is
18 diverted away from the facilities, away
19 from the farm buildings. That serves a
20 twofold purpose. The rainwater that falls
21 outside the barn doesn't come into contact
22 with the manure because that is protected
23 underneath the barn in the pits protected
24 from precipitation. We also divert that

1 rainwater away from the building so it
2 doesn't run into the pits, thus reducing
3 our storage days.

4 We also make certain that the farm is
5 designed so as to prevent a release of
6 livestock waste. Solid reinforced
7 concrete construction with a minimum of
8 grade 60 steel rebar water stop placed in
9 all construction and stoppage joints and
10 all surfaces in contact with livestock
11 manure meet the permeability standards set
12 forth in the Livestock Management
13 Facilities Act.

14 Siting criteria six, odor control and
15 reduction. Junction Acres will implement
16 a comprehensive odor control plan. This
17 starts with the controlled land
18 application of the manure produced by the
19 farm. Routine maintenance of the
20 facility, of the farm buildings, feed
21 management plays a big role, as well as
22 the location of the farm.

23 When I mention the controlled
24 application of manure, the farm is

1 proposing to utilize injection as the
2 method for manure application. This is
3 placing the manure directly from the
4 tillage equipment that is being used
5 directly into the ground so it minimizes
6 contact with the air, thus totally -- or
7 not totally but thus reducing greatly the
8 opportunity for air to come in contact
9 with that and thus produce odors.

10 Injection is widely accepted as the
11 best available technology for manure
12 application.

13 All livestock manure will be custom
14 applied by a Certified Manure Applicator.
15 Application equipment will contain safety
16 controls such as equipment will be
17 visually monitored continuously, emergency
18 shutoffs in the cab, as well as
19 communication between personnel available
20 at all times.

21 I am going to go through a couple of
22 examples of different types of manure
23 equipment here, all utilizing injection.

24 This is a manure tanker. And then

1 you see the tool bar here in the back. We
2 are injecting the material directly into
3 the soil.

4 Here is another manure tanker with a
5 different injection tool behind it.

6 Here is a dragline setup. This is
7 pumped directly from the pits through
8 lines that can be moved and then applied
9 directly onto the soil.

10 Junction Acres has at least
11 1,209 acres locally per year available for
12 livestock manure applications.

13 As Dr. Hollis said earlier, we are
14 proposing to use approximately 970 of
15 those acres of a corn/corn rotation to
16 utilize the manure annually. This
17 application rate is equivalent to
18 approximately four-tenths of an inch of
19 rain. The farm will also utilize regular
20 maintenance to reduce odors generated by
21 the facility and to minimize dust
22 originating from the facility. This
23 regular maintenance will include visual
24 walk-throughs at the facility. This will

1 occur every day somebody will be walking
2 through there so that there is no manure
3 buildup above the slatted floors or on
4 walkways. That way the manure is placed
5 where it is supposed to be kept, in the
6 pit below the building.

7 The regular cleaning of fans to
8 prevent the accumulation of dust and thus
9 to allow the fans to operate at their
10 maximum efficiency.

11 The facilities will be thoroughly
12 pressure washed and sanitized between each
13 production cycle. This again minimizes
14 the amount of odor causing particles that
15 are able to leave the facility through the
16 ventilation fans.

17 The farm will ensure that the
18 facility's fans operate efficiently, thus
19 again minimizing dust buildup.

20 Regular facility maintenance is known
21 to reduce odor concentrations and odor
22 intensity.

23 The facility will immediately
24 incorporate an annual diet formulated to

1 allow the most efficient utilization of
2 proteins and nutrients in the feed. This
3 practice allows the animals to utilize the
4 food and not -- and also reduce the
5 overall odors from the facility by
6 reducing excess nutrients excreted.

7 The more efficiently the animal can
8 use that feed, the less that comes out the
9 other end.

10 The facility complies and exceeds all
11 facility setback distances as established
12 by the Act.

13 The residential setback has been
14 exceeded approximately by 270 feet. The
15 populated area setback exceeded by over
16 3,500 feet.

17 The comprehensive odor control plan,
18 again farm location and maintenance,
19 proper nutrition and injection of the
20 manure. The farm has diligently planned
21 an overall odor control strategy by
22 incorporating numerous odor control
23 techniques and technologies.

24 The farm will also continue to look

1 for and incorporate other technologies as
2 they become available. This strategic
3 plan incorporates reasonable and
4 innovative technologies that will allow
5 the facility to operate with minimal odor
6 impact to the surrounding area.

7 Number seven, siting criteria seven
8 is the traffic patterns. Down at the
9 bottom we have the proposed farm location
10 here represented by this rectangle. We
11 have the planned out lane to the closest
12 road and then head north on County Road
13 2400, head back west on East County Road
14 2400 and then head north to State Highway
15 9/94.

16 That is the planned traffic route
17 proposed by the farm.

18 If we look at these, we break these
19 down a little bit more, directly east of
20 the proposed farm we have a daily average
21 of 50 vehicles, weekly average of 350
22 vehicles. This comes from the Illinois
23 Department of Transportation.

24 The farm will average seven trucks a

1 week annually. These are both feed
2 transportation, animal transportation
3 trucks.

4 If you look at the seven trucks
5 weekly versus the 350 vehicles weekly just
6 east of the farm, it is about 2 percent of
7 the average daily vehicle traffic.

8 If we go up to the highway we have a
9 daily average of 1300 vehicles, a weekly
10 average of 91 vehicles -- 9100, excuse me.
11 About 88 and a half percent of those
12 vehicles are passenger cars and trucks.
13 11 and a half percent are multiple unit
14 vehicles, semi trucks, tandem axil
15 instruction, single axil trucks.

16 If we break that down, those seven
17 trucks would account for about .7 percent
18 of the average daily multiple unit vehicle
19 traffic on Illinois Route 9/94 just to the
20 north of the farm there.

21 Junction Acres traffic will comply
22 with the same seasonal posted weight
23 limits as all other traffic in the area.

24 Siting criteria eight, is the

1 facility consistent with area development?
2 We believe the farm is consistent with
3 existing and planned community development
4 of this rural agriculture area by
5 demonstrating compliance with both zoning
6 and setback requirements. The farm will
7 meet all -- will meet all of the
8 requirements of the Livestock Management
9 Facilities Act.

10 Again, I echo what Dr. Hollis said.
11 I appreciate the opportunity to come up
12 here and to describe how we feel, that we
13 have met these eight siting criteria.

14 We thank you very much.

15 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Do you
16 happen to have a hard copy of either of
17 your presentations?

18 MR. HOLLIS: You can have the
19 powerpoint.

20 MR. WEST: I have a disk.

21 MR. HOLLIS: My powerpoint is
22 in the computer.

23 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
24 you. Thank you very much.

1 We will now open the meeting for
2 questions that you may have of the
3 Facility or of the Department.

4 If you have a question that you would
5 like to ask, please raise your hand and
6 when called upon please state your name
7 and then spell your last name, please.
8 Please indicate to whom you are directing
9 your question.

10 I will remind you that this portion
11 of the meeting will be limited to
12 questions only.

13 After this question and answer
14 session there will be a session dedicated
15 to public testimony where you can provide
16 your oral comments. So please limit this
17 session to questions only.

18 Are there any questions? The lady in
19 the lavender.

20 MS. ADAMS: My name is Barbara
21 Adams, A-D-A-M-S.

22 I was wondering, you talked about
23 this setback in a group of trees. I
24 wondered what kind of trees they were? If

1 you had done a survey of what kind of
2 trees they were?

3 MR. WEST: Which trees are you
4 referring to?

5 MS. ADAMS: You said at this
6 location it would be hidden back in the
7 trees.

8 MR. WEST: No, I don't believe
9 there has been a survey done what kind of
10 trees there are, no.

11 MS. ADAMS: Are they all trees
12 that the leaves fall off of? Are they
13 evergreen trees? Or you don't know any
14 specifics?

15 MR. WEST: I couldn't tell you
16 exactly what kind of trees there are out
17 there, no.

18 MS. ADAMS: The reason I am
19 asking is we have a wind break that is an
20 evergreen, and I walk out of the house
21 and I think, well, you can't smell the
22 hog confinement today, but you walk past
23 the evergreens and then you smell it. So
24 you really need evergreen trees to hold

1 down the smell is my thinking.

2 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Another
3 question?

4 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: Could
5 you tell me --

6 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Ma'am
7 your name?

8 MS. MOORE: Karen Moore,
9 M-O-O-R-E.

10 On this particular site could you
11 tell me where the dead building is, the
12 compositing building?

13 MR. HOLLIS: I can tell you
14 where we are looking at putting it but I
15 can't tell that you there is a final
16 decision made of where it will be placed.

17 MS. MOORE: Is there one on
18 this picture up here?

19 MR. HOLLIS: Sorry. Yes. On
20 this picture here this is the post
21 structure right here. So at this
22 particular farm the compost structure is
23 located right there in front of that
24 area.

1 MS. MOORE: Then the fence is
2 on the open side, is that it?

3 MR. HOLLIS: The fence --

4 MS. MOORE: Didn't I
5 understand. There is --

6 MR. HOLLIS: This farm does not
7 have a fence.

8 MS. MOORE: The building --

9 MR. HOLLIS: This farm does not
10 have them.

11 MS. MOORE: Any coyote, animal
12 or anything could come in and drag dead
13 pigs out?

14 MR. HOLLIS: The farm pictured
15 here is not Junction Acres.

16 MS. MOORE: I know that, but
17 you said this would be set up -- Junction
18 Acres would be set up similar to this.

19 MR. HOLLIS: The compost
20 structure we would propose today would be
21 built differently than this compost
22 structure. The compost structure we
23 would propose today would be concrete on
24 three sides complete and the front, the

1 concrete comes about 8 feet from each
2 direction and there is about a 30-foot
3 opening in the middle approximately.
4 Twenty maybe. I mean, it is much wider
5 than the tractor bucket. So there is
6 concrete on a little more than three
7 sides and gates on the front. This
8 picture here is open on the other side.

9 MS. MOORE: Then how do you
10 keep birds like hawks and Eagles from
11 dragging out pigs?

12 MR. HOLLIS: It can't be done.

13 MS. MOORE: It can't be stopped
14 then?

15 MR. WEST: There is a couple of
16 ways that we deal with that as well. If
17 you go through any university based
18 compositing setup where, for example,
19 Illinois State, Dr. Walker at Illinois
20 State or Ohio State or any of the
21 universities that have done studies on
22 this, the best way to kind of preempt
23 that type of issue is to have a proper
24 cover of material over any animal that is

1 compositing.

2 So if you layer enough of the
3 material on top of that -- you have to do
4 that as well to ensure that the compost is
5 working, but it also serves another
6 purpose. It keeps the animals from,
7 number one, smelling them, seeing them,
8 and so therefore it keeps them away from
9 it so they are not, they don't have access
10 to them as well.

11 So the fence is kind of a secondary
12 way to handle that. It also discourages
13 people from walking in as well. These are
14 bio-secure facilities and we are very
15 careful on who has access to what and then
16 walking into the farm to help prevent for
17 disease control.

18 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Over on
19 my right, the gentleman with the black
20 hat.

21 MR. CONIGLIO: Tony Coniglio,
22 McDonough County Board. Tony,
23 C-O-N-I-G-L-I-O, common spelling. I love
24 doing that.

1 How are you going to dispose for
2 animals that die? You haven't mentioned
3 that. Because they all aren't going to
4 make it 100 percent. And the lady asked
5 about coyotes and stuff getting them. Are
6 they going to be disposed of outside or do
7 you have a disposal facility for them?

8 MR. HOLLIS: The compositing
9 that we are discussing would be the best
10 method that we have found for management
11 of both the sows that will die and the
12 baby pigs that will be stillborn or die.
13 And so every day, including weekends and
14 holidays, every day, any animal that dies
15 in the facility is transferred from the
16 facility to the compost structure.
17 Sawdust material is utilized to bury that
18 dead animal in the sawdust material, and
19 then nature takes its course. It is
20 composted at that facility.

21 MR. CONIGLIO: Also with that
22 many animals, what is the death rate out
23 of 5,500 or whatever the figure is?

24 MR. HOLLIS: It would vary, but

1 common death rates would be 5 percent of
2 the sow inventory on an annual basis, or
3 10 percent of the baby piglet mortality
4 on an analyzed basis, on a production
5 cycle. Those are reasonable estimates.

6 MR. CONIGLIO: Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Right
8 next to him.

9 MR. NELSON: Mike Nelson,
10 N-E-L-S-O-N.

11 Flesh decomposes, bones do not. What
12 do you do with the bones?

13 MR. WEST: Actually, sir, the
14 bones do decompose as well. Through this
15 compositing system -- and you can -- I
16 mentioned Dr. Walker earlier, but he's
17 done a tremendous amount of study at
18 Illinois State University about how this
19 process works and the best way and the
20 best products to use. And I say
21 product -- the best carbon sources to use
22 to get these bones to break down. So
23 that's what this is intended to do.

24 MR. NELSON: How long is that

1 going to take?

2 MR. WEST: It depends on the
3 size of the animal.

4 If your question is looking at a full
5 grown mature sow versus a piglet,
6 obviously we are talking different time
7 periods.

8 It also depends on how you manage it.
9 If you are very active in turning the
10 material over and keeping it working and
11 managing it correctly so you are
12 recording, you are monitoring the
13 temperature in there and the moisture
14 content so it reaches the internal
15 temperature that it needs to for the
16 biological activity to take place, you are
17 talking probably a minimum of 60 days up
18 to 120 days, in that time frame.

19 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Back
20 there.

21 MR. EVANS: My name is Steve
22 Evans, E-V-A-N-S.

23 Mr. West, I believe that's the name,
24 sir --

1 MR. WEST: Yes, sir.

2 MR. EVANS: What would be the
3 volume in gallons of manure produced at
4 Junction Acres in a year?

5 MR. WEST: The volume produced
6 or the volume stored? I didn't hear
7 what --

8 MR. EVANS: How much manure do
9 you have to get rid of in a year at
10 Junction Acres or similar facilities?

11 MR. WEST: We would anticipate
12 based on book values -- and that is when
13 we calculate this out we use university
14 numbers to look at production. You know,
15 if you go by those numbers you are
16 somewhere around 5 million gallons a
17 year.

18 Before we write any nutrient
19 management plan -- the issue with some of
20 those book numbers, they don't necessarily
21 fit or conform to some of the feed rations
22 that are being used. They are a little
23 dated. So before we can fully write any
24 nutrient management plan we test the

1 manure at the farm so that we have a full
2 nutrient value of the manure that is
3 actually being produced at the farm and we
4 will calculate that out. So when we plan
5 out the manure applications we will have a
6 better, more site specific representation
7 of what we are going to be producing
8 there.

9 MR. EVANS: What is your best
10 estimate, sir, for the volume of manure
11 produced at Junction Acres?

12 MR. WEST: Probably somewhere
13 north of 6 million gallons.

14 MR. EVANS: Is your firm the
15 party that actually writes the waste
16 manure management plan for Professional
17 Swine Management?

18 MR. WEST: Yes.

19 MR. EVANS: So you have written
20 plans for the facility like the one we
21 see on the board and other facilities?

22 MR. WEST: Yes.

23 MR. EVANS: Wouldn't it be
24 helpful to the Board to bring one of

1 those plans in from an existing facility
2 so they can view it and help them making
3 the decision?

4 MR. WEST: I guess that would
5 be -- I don't know if that would be
6 helpful or not.

7 MR. EVANS: Is it easy, sir,
8 for you to access the slide that showed
9 the traffic pattern?

10 MR. WEST: It shouldn't be too
11 difficult. I am still up there. Okay.

12 MR. EVANS: Yes, that one.

13 You mentioned, sir, that the traffic
14 on the east side had a count of
15 approximately 50 vehicles per day, is that
16 correct?

17 MR. WEST: I believe that --
18 let me see if I can find that road. Yes,
19 you are correct. That was what the
20 Department of Transportation gave us.

21 MR. EVANS: Can we go back to
22 the slide that shows the picture again,
23 sir.

24 Where the light blue arrow is in the

1 lower central part on that road, you are
2 saying that you have figures that showed
3 that that has 50 vehicles a day on that
4 road?

5 MR. WEST: Yes, sir.

6 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

8 Over here in the center.

9 MR. MARKEY: My name is Bob
10 Markey, M-A-R-K-E-Y.

11 My question is how is Durham Township
12 going to get paid for keeping the roads up
13 when the building site is sitting in Pilot
14 Grove Township? And what are they going
15 to do in the spring when they post the
16 roads and you can't hardly get down in a
17 pickup and they get sloppy in the spring?
18 What are they going to do then when the
19 main road coming in there is on Durham
20 Township but they are not going to get
21 paid from taxes at all because it is all
22 going to Pilot Grove Township? Thank you.

23 Also, I think there is like 200 loads
24 of corn going into this massive hog unit.

1 200 loads of corn going into this huge hog
2 unit, how is the roads going to hold up on
3 that?

4 MR. HOLLIS: The corn would be
5 included in the feed. So the original
6 question is between Pilot Grove and
7 Durham Township, and that's not for me to
8 solve. That's for those -- but I will
9 say that the farm will abide by all
10 requirements.

11 MR. MARKEY: I am just asking
12 the question. It looks like a pretty big
13 factory there for Durham Township.

14 MR. HOLLIS: The farm will
15 abide by all requirements and the farm
16 will work with the road commissioners the
17 same that we do in any other townships
18 that we work with today.

19 MR. MARKEY: What are they
20 going to do in the spring when they post
21 the roads? And they will post the roads.

22 MR. HOLLIS: I believe we have
23 dealt with that at other farms where we
24 have managed with the situation

1 accordingly.

2 MR. MARKEY: I know when I haul
3 cattle out in the spring I have to wait
4 until the road is unposted, which is the
5 way it should be. I wonder how are you
6 going to get feed to those hogs? Because
7 they will be posted.

8 MR. HOLLIS: The feed supplier
9 that supplies other farms we work with is
10 here tonight, and we will let him comment
11 on it later if he would like to.

12 I think we have worked fairly and
13 successfully at many of these farms and we
14 have a good history of managing through
15 all seasons.

16 MR. MARKEY: Good luck. Thank
17 you.

18 MR. WEST: Let me add -- you
19 mentioned the 200 loads. I think that
20 was in Dr. Hollis' presentation when we
21 talked about annually approximately 200
22 truckloads of corn used, and that is
23 counted into the overall feed
24 transportation that were in my slides.

1 So we are talking about, you know, seven
2 a week total between the feed and the
3 animal transportation. So those 200
4 loads would be included in those one a
5 day --

6 MR. MARKEY: I just know from
7 past experience county roads can't hold
8 up a straight truckload of gravel or
9 feed. We are talking about semi loads
10 after semi loads of feed.

11 That is just my question, how are
12 they going to hold up when the local
13 roads, we have trouble in the spring now
14 getting -- the road that Steve Evans was
15 talking about, last spring you couldn't
16 hardly get a pickup down through it.
17 Seriously, you couldn't hardly drive
18 through that road. There is no --

19 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Do you
20 have another question?

21 MR. MARKEY: No. Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Right
23 behind you.

24 MS. BUNDY: My name is Pam

1 Bundy, B-U-N-D-Y.

2 I have a question concerning one of
3 the slides. You said that your payroll
4 annually is about 700,000 on a facility
5 this size. I was wondering if that
6 included benefit package as well as wages
7 or if that was strictly wages?

8 MR. HOLLIS: Yes, that is an
9 estimate of overall payroll, benefits,
10 total.

11 MS. BUNDY: What would you say
12 your benefit package was valued at then?

13 MR. HOLLIS: I'm sorry, I am
14 not the right one to answer that
15 question.

16 It is competitive, and we have
17 actually -- and we will share it again
18 with the County Board -- requested that
19 the Rural Economic Development Center at
20 Western evaluate that. And so that
21 evaluation will be shared with the County
22 Board.

23 MS. BUNDY: Okay.

24 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any

1 other questions? Up here. Can you stand
2 up, sir?

3 MR. BLUE: Steve Blue, B-L-U-E.
4 I am road commissioner in Fountain Green
5 Township.

6 I understand there is going to be a
7 facility built in that township. My
8 question is would you be interested in
9 entering into an agreement on helping to
10 maintain the road?

11 MR. HOLLIS: I can't speak for
12 the farm that is proposed in Fountain
13 Green Township, but I appreciate you
14 coming tonight and introducing yourself.

15 There are other people sitting here
16 in the crowd that want to get to know you
17 better and understand what your issues
18 would be with that road.

19 Simple question, I don't have a
20 simple answer to it.

21 The long answer is we have bought a
22 lot of gravel in a lot of townships in
23 those situations where there are issues.
24 So I hope that is fair enough for an

1 answer tonight.

2 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any
3 other questions?

4 Right behind that gentleman.

5 MR. STUCKWISCH: I won't need
6 that microphone.

7 Harold Stuckwisch,
8 S-T-U-C-K-W-I-S-C-H, Hancock County Board.

9 How often do you have to haul these
10 hogs in and out of here on a weekly basis?

11 MR. HOLLIS: No, there are
12 gilts, breeding gilts, which would be
13 300-pound animals hauled in for breeding,
14 and then there are baby pigs hauled off
15 the farm twice a week. So once a week
16 there will be a smaller load, potentially
17 a gooseneck load of sows that would leave
18 to go to sow slaughter facilities, and
19 twice to sometimes three times a week a
20 semi load will leave the farm with the
21 baby pigs which were approximately
22 15 pounds.

23 MR. STUCKWISCH: How big of a
24 facility do you have to store grain, your

1 feed, and how long will that last? Will
2 you have any hauled in?

3 MR. HOLLIS: We will have feed
4 hauled in weekly. So four, sometimes
5 five trucks a week. Rough estimate would
6 be one truck a day would haul feed. But
7 there is bins of multiple sizes and
8 tandem. Many of those will hold seven
9 days worth of storage. So if we have a
10 snowstorm like we had last year we try to
11 plan ahead, haul ahead of it if we have
12 an event. So --

13 MR. STUCKWISCH: The point I am
14 trying to get to is can't you build grain
15 bins big enough, or can you or do you
16 build grain bins big enough where you can
17 store that feed for like at least 30 days
18 so when we put a weight limit on the
19 roads that you won't have to have trucks
20 come in and out of there? And if not,
21 why can't you?

22 MR. HOLLIS: It is more about
23 feed quality, because the feed is made as
24 complete feed and is not stored for 30

1 days. So it's more about feed quality
2 and on time ingredient distribution to
3 the sow for nutrients.

4 So these are not just hauling --
5 these bins are not just storing individual
6 ingredients, it is a blended complete
7 feed. And it is practical for seven days.
8 It would be a stretch to go ten. It is
9 impractical to go 30 days.

10 MR. STUCKWISCH: So when we put
11 load limits on for 30 days, which
12 sometimes isn't long enough, there is no
13 way you can comply with them rules? You
14 are going to have to run trucks on those
15 roads?

16 MR. HOLLIS: We will have to
17 run some weight on those roads unless
18 they are posted for no weight. But we
19 would anticipate we are going to be
20 treated the same as everybody else in the
21 township.

22 MR. STUCKWISCH: Okay. Thank
23 you.

24 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Behind

1 you.

2 MR. EDDINGTON: Jerry
3 Eddington, E-D-D-I-N-G-T-O-N.

4 I believe you mentioned that the
5 majority of your manure spreading occurred
6 in the fall.

7 I am partial owner of land to the
8 east of your facility. We rent that land
9 out for deer hunting in the fall. I was
10 wondering how the spreading of the manure
11 coexists with recreational use of the
12 land?

13 MR. WEST: Let me -- if we are
14 referring to deer hunting, I can
15 personally answer that. I grew up deer
16 hunting. I grew up around hog
17 facilities. My brother-in-law had a
18 facility a couple hundred yards from my
19 house that had about 4,000 animals in it.
20 It does not affect the deer hunting
21 whatsoever. They get used to it, to
22 the -- any sounds and any odor.

23 From my experience it does not affect
24 it at all.

1 MR. EDDINGTON: I am not so
2 concerned about the deer and their
3 involvement with the odor but the clients
4 who pay to come in and use that ground
5 for deer hunting.

6 We used to let locals hunt there
7 forever, for 25, 30 years. The taxes are
8 such now that if we can reclaim a bit of
9 the taxes that we owe on this ground for
10 the rent of it, we feel like we have to do
11 that. We are very sorry that we can't be
12 that good of a neighbor, I guess, with our
13 good friends who live in that area.
14 However --

15 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Do you
16 have a question?

17 MR. EDDINGTON: Life being as
18 it -- you did not address my question in
19 the sense that I proposed it, and that is
20 the -- I am wondering if we will lose our
21 business of bringing in deer hunters to
22 use that land?

23 MR. HOLLIS: I would like to
24 answer his question. And I appreciate

1 the question, Mr. Eddington. It is a
2 fair question.

3 And we do have outfitters that park
4 their trailer that they rent out to other
5 people adjacent to the parking lot at a
6 couple of the farms that we service. And
7 so those gentlemen we approached and we
8 asked this very same question, do they
9 have any trouble at all finding people
10 that are willing to come to hunt the
11 timber adjacent to those farms? And the
12 answer was no.

13 So I would be happy to introduce you
14 to those gentlemen. And I think there are
15 fair questions about that that we believe
16 have already been addressed.

17 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay,
18 in the back.

19 MS. BUNDY: Pam Bundy,
20 B-U-N-D-Y.

21 I was just curious, on the borings of
22 the aquifer, what was the specific date
23 that you did those and who was the outfit
24 that did that?

1 MR. WEST: Actually my company
2 did that, and actually we just did those
3 borings Tuesday, yesterday actually. So
4 we wanted to get it as close to the
5 meeting as possible so that we could
6 represent what was actually there so we
7 could talk about it at the meeting.

8 MS. BUNDY: So that information
9 is fairly easy to process in that short
10 of a time frame?

11 MR. WEST: Sure. When we do
12 the borings and we are looking for
13 aquifer material, it is a visual
14 interpretation. So we are looking at it
15 in 6-inch increments. So we are looking
16 at it as we are pulling it out of the
17 ground.

18 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Anyone
19 else? Up here.

20 MS. WHITAKER: My name is Linda
21 Whitaker, W-H-I-T-A-K-E-R.

22 I wanted to know if when you are
23 figuring semi truck traffic that you
24 present, that if you figured in the trucks

1 that spread the fertilizer? Because I
2 ride my bicycle up and down that 2400
3 Road, and anyway, the time I spent on that
4 road in 45 minutes I saw -- I couldn't
5 believe the number of trucks I saw. And I
6 saw them for several days. So that was a
7 significant amount of traffic just in a
8 matter of days. So I wondered if that was
9 included in your figures?

10 MR. WEST: Can you explain what
11 trucks again?

12 MS. WHITAKER: Trucks that
13 carried the fertilizer from this pig farm
14 nearby, I think it is from the same
15 owners, to the fields near the same
16 location?

17 MR. WEST: I thought you were
18 referring to something else.

19 I guess I can only assume that it
20 was -- I don't know that. That data comes
21 directly from the Illinois Department of
22 Transportation, so I use what they give
23 us. I guess I can't answer your question
24 100 percent. I don't know.

1 MS. WHITAKER: Most likely not
2 unless they happened to pick those
3 particular days.

4 MR. WEST: I know part of how
5 they document that is they lay marker
6 lines over it and then they actually
7 physically record which -- you know, how
8 much traffic is in a certain area. I
9 don't know how they record every vehicle
10 on every road in the state. I don't know
11 that.

12 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Over
13 here, the gentleman in the black shirt.

14 MR. STEVENS: I am Todd
15 Stevens, S-T-E-V-E-N-S. I am LaHarp
16 Township Road Commissioner.

17 During the construction of this
18 project, during the spring the road does
19 say -- comes up where it is impassible and
20 they have to close it, what do you do in
21 that case?

22 MR. WEST: Well, we will try to
23 handle that in multiple ways.

24 One of the ways that we do that is by

1 constructing a batch plant on site so that
2 we don't have the concrete trucks running
3 up and down the road. That is what we
4 have done on some of the facilities. That
5 has always seemed to help gentleman
6 with -- in your position to help upkeep
7 the road in those times.

8 It is -- honestly, that is a
9 difficult time of the year for everybody,
10 you know, let alone any construction. So
11 that is one of the things we will
12 definitely look into doing.

13 MR. STEVENS: Thank you.

14 MR. HOLLIS: I would like to
15 add to that, I also believe that the
16 requirement for satisfying that is
17 communication, because there are so many
18 things that change, so having the
19 appropriate people in our business that
20 are communicating on a daily basis and
21 opening communication on a daily basis
22 are how those things get addressed
23 quickly before there is damage that could
24 have been prevented earlier.

1 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Over
2 here in the center.

3 MR. HUNERDOSSE: My name is Ken
4 Hunerdosse, H-U-N-E-R-D-O-S-S-E.

5 I have a simple question. What is a
6 starting wage for a worker that works
7 within the facility? Not one of the
8 office workers or anything like that but
9 one of the lower, bottom scaled workers,
10 what is their starting salary or wage?

11 MR. HOLLIS: That's a fair
12 question I don't have an easy answer to.
13 It is north of \$20,000 a year. We just
14 recently changed from salary to hourly.

15 Am I making you nervous? We have our
16 HR staff here tonight.

17 So I don't deal directly with all of
18 those people but I am trying to speak to
19 your question. It is north of \$20,000.
20 And those people -- some farms are hourly
21 and so many farms are salary. But what I
22 can definitely share is that we strive to
23 be above average. And we are going to
24 strive to be growing the wages in the

1 economy of the region, and that's why we
2 are including the study by the Rural
3 Development Economic Group at Western.

4 MR. HUNERDOSSE: My follow-up
5 then is what do you consider average?

6 MR. HOLLIS: Nod yes or no.
7 Somewhere in that 23 or \$24,000 range.

8 MR. HUNERDOSSE: I would
9 actually like to hear it in an hourly
10 rate. You are moving into an hourly
11 rate --

12 MR. HOLLIS: I am going to stop
13 there. There are people that can address
14 that better than I that will talk about
15 it I am sure tonight when they comment.
16 But we would have farm staff that would
17 have, generally speaking, 6:00 a.m. to
18 2:00 p.m. in a general sense workday and
19 then they would take a day off of weekend
20 work. If they work a weekend they take
21 a -- we also strive to have people at the
22 farm every day, and so when we have
23 holidays or we have weekends we flex
24 rotate those farm staff. So it is more

1 than 40 hours a week work, as much
2 agricultural work is, but it also is
3 trying to get as close as we can to a
4 normal workday so farm staff gets home to
5 meet their kids when they get off the
6 school bus if that is what they want to
7 do. Or if some people want to work later
8 in the afternoon they come in mid or late
9 morning.

10 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: The
11 gentleman three rows back.

12 MR. MARKEY: Bob Markey,
13 M-A-R-K-E-Y.

14 My question is about property values.

15 Besides us that built a new home
16 within a mile of this facility, there is
17 three other families that live just a
18 little bit over a quarter of a mile that
19 has just small acreage. As the years go
20 on here in the future, we feel that like
21 personal taxes, real estate taxes will
22 continue to increase, while our property
23 values will decrease because of the
24 proposed hog buildings.

1 What's the average percent -- what's
2 the average percent of property
3 depreciation by neighbors living close to
4 one of these buildings?

5 MR. HOLLIS: I think your
6 question was two part. Do we anticipate
7 increase or decrease? And if we do, what
8 percent. Is that your question?

9 I would refer to the Iowa study.
10 There is numerous studies that evaluate
11 property value. I believe we have to look
12 at the rural economy that we are in at
13 western Illinois and the counties in our
14 part of this state and the reflection of
15 the most common comparison that we can
16 use. And in the Iowa study that I am
17 familiar with, it was a combination of up
18 to 4 percent increase or down to 6 percent
19 decrease. But at the end of their study
20 they basically said it was awash because
21 there was both up to a 4 percent increase
22 or down to a 6 percent decrease.

23 MR. MARKEY: Well, I think I
24 can speak for our neighbors, we just feel

1 like, you know, we hear about how many
2 taxes this is going to create, which it
3 will create taxes, but we are also
4 concerned because our taxes will continue
5 to increase and we are really concerned
6 about values that we built over the
7 lifetime.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. BUNDY: Pam Bundy,
10 B-U-N-D-Y.

11 This is back to the payroll. And I
12 was curious, you said salaries around
13 \$20,000 a year, I was wondering if the
14 employees had to pay any part of that
15 toward their benefit package or if the
16 package is completely given to them
17 through the employer?

18 MR. HOLLIS: Actually this is
19 going to be -- his question was about
20 starting salaries. So there is actually
21 a range, so there is a broad range of pay
22 throughout that facility. And in our
23 benefits plan the individual has theirs
24 provided and also offered to their

1 family, but they would pay for that.

2 MS. BUNDY: So out of their
3 wage they don't have to pay any
4 additional cost for their individual
5 insurance then, correct?

6 MR. HOLLIS: That's correct.

7 MS. BUNDY: Okay.

8 MR. WEST: Okay. Over here.

9 MS. JAMES: Stacie James,
10 J-A-M-E-S.

11 I have two questions for Mr. West.
12 Well, two categories of questions.

13 One is regarding your aquifer study.
14 How many borings did you do per
15 building within the site?

16 MR. WEST: A minimum of one per
17 boring. And we did choose a couple
18 locations outside of that and do two more
19 borings. So five buildings, five
20 borings, plus two, is seven for the site.

21 MS. JAMES: Okay. And
22 basically if you look at an aquifer map
23 of the area, there is a shallow or a
24 potential shallow aquifer present, there

1 is also a number of nearby wells that are
2 less than 50 feet deep, so I find it kind
3 of interesting that you didn't encounter
4 any aquifer material, so I am going to
5 basically submit as --

6 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Do you
7 have a question?

8 MS. JAMES: My -- well, I guess
9 my follow-up question to that would be
10 given the potential existence of a
11 shallow aquifer in the area, given the
12 existence of shallow wells in the area
13 and given the fact that the site
14 potentially drains into the Lamoine River
15 watershed, would you consider building
16 your pits to the standards required if
17 aquifer material is present to reduce the
18 chance of the groundwater becoming
19 contaminated given that pits can leach
20 waste into groundwater?

21 MR. WEST: As I mentioned, we
22 encountered no aquifer material in any of
23 our soil borings.

24 We will follow the regulations to the

1 letter. If we were to have found any and
2 that calls for different construction
3 standards, that's the way we would go. We
4 did not find any.

5 MS. JAMES: Next question
6 regards building perimeter tiles. Do you
7 plan to have any?

8 MR. WEST: Certainly, there
9 will -- yes, there will be some on the
10 deep pitted structures.

11 MS. JAMES: Where do you plan
12 for them to discharge to?

13 MR. WEST: To the surface.

14 MS. JAMES: And given that your
15 facility is going to go in between
16 interim and stream to the west and a
17 drainage to the east, my concern is will
18 the tubing be in essence discharging to
19 those drainages?

20 MR. WEST: Well, the actual
21 location has not been determined. It
22 will be. At this point it is going to be
23 proposed to the surface, to exit onto the
24 surface. We are talking about clean

1 water here. We are talking about
2 groundwater taken away from the perimeter
3 of the facility.

4 MS. JAMES: Well, given that
5 the lawsuit the State of Illinois versus
6 Professional Swine Management, three of
7 your facilities had pollution issues with
8 the air perimeter drainage tubing and the
9 water was not exactly clean. Again it is
10 a lawsuit. The results I suppose are
11 being discussed, but, you know, it is not
12 necessarily always going to be clean
13 water, and so that is why I am asking
14 questions about your discharge locations.

15 So the question would be, would you
16 consider having your discharge points
17 being to some sort of filter to prevent
18 the chance of the nearby drainage ways
19 being polluted in the instance that your
20 tubing water would be contaminated?

21 MR. WEST: The goal would
22 always be to discharge into a vegetated
23 area for multiple reasons.

24 We will look into all of that once we

1 determine the exact location of this.

2 MS. JAMES: My last question is
3 what is the high water table depth?

4 MR. WEST: I don't know that
5 for this particular area at this moment.

6 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Back
7 row again.

8 MS. BUNDY: Pam Bundy,
9 B-U-N-D-Y.

10 Since you don't know exactly where
11 the buildings are going to be placed on
12 this site, how did you know where to do
13 your borings?

14 MR. WEST: Well, we have a
15 layout and we have a general idea of
16 where those are going to go. If that
17 layout changes in any way, we will have
18 to go back and do it again.

19 So if we rotate those buildings
20 90 degrees or 30 degrees, or whatever that
21 would be, it would still be within the
22 footprint, the rectangle that we have
23 shown. But if those buildings are rotated
24 such that it falls outside of our borings,

1 then we come back and do them all over
2 again.

3 MS. BUNDY: What is that range?

4 I mean if the building had to be
5 moved a little bit, how would you know
6 when you needed to do another boring?

7 MR. WEST: If the boring is no
8 longer within the perimeter of that
9 building we come back and do another one.

10 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Back
11 row.

12 MR. DOWELL: My name is Robert
13 Dowell, D-O-W-E-L-L. My question would
14 be for the Department of Agriculture, I
15 think Mr. Goetsch, I believe.

16 My question is in the Macomb meeting
17 they alluded to the reason there are being
18 so many built here in Illinois is because
19 there is a respiratory disease killing the
20 small pigs in Minnesota and Iowa, and I
21 just wondered if there had been a study or
22 if there will be a study to find out how
23 long we can go here and continue building
24 before we are in the same shape as

1 Minnesota and Iowa?

2 MR. GOETSCH: I don't know that
3 I have an answer.

4 I am not aware of -- I guess I don't
5 believe that that is the -- that is the
6 sole reason.

7 I think that we just happen to be in
8 a location where we have adequate land, we
9 have adequate feed supplies. I mean all
10 of the ingredients are here for the
11 livestock industry to be interested in
12 expanding. So I think that is the main
13 reason why we seem to be experiencing an
14 interest in expanding livestock in the
15 state.

16 I don't believe that it is solely
17 being caused by a disease concern in other
18 states.

19 MR. DOWELL: Well, that is what
20 was brought up at the Macomb meeting,
21 that the respiratory -- there was a high
22 mortality rate for the small pigs. And
23 that's the reason I was asking the
24 question here, is there a study plan or

1 anything that is going to say five years
2 down the road are we going to be in the
3 same shape as Minnesota or Iowa, or ten
4 years, where they have to go to Missouri
5 or Indiana or someplace else to start it
6 over again?

7 That was my only concern, is how long
8 do we have here before this respiratory
9 thing here takes over like it is in Iowa
10 and Minnesota?

11 That was -- you know, if there should
12 be some kind of a study if that is having
13 a problem there, we should be addressing
14 it here before we get into the same shape.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. GOETSCH: I certainly will
17 pass that on to our veterinarians at the
18 Department.

19 Dr. Hollis, did you want to comment?

20 MR. HOLLIS: Yes. If I could,
21 I would like to comment briefly to that.
22 It is the PRRS virus that you are
23 referring to. It's a swine virus that
24 has nothing to do with health or

1 contagious to you.

2 We do participate in two studies
3 currently that are in the elimination and
4 control of PRRS virus. We are also in
5 a -- we share your same concern, and we
6 also participate in one that is Type II
7 negative, so trying to help sites that
8 want to go negative to that virus. And
9 then the second is in a sustainability
10 of -- we have actually titled it the HAM
11 Project, Hancock, Adams and McDonough.
12 And we are trying to continue to foster
13 that HAM Project for the PRRS elimination.

14 That is a good question. Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Over
16 there.

17 MR. DOWELL: My name is Steve
18 Dowell, D-O-W-E-L-L.

19 I would like to get back to the
20 wages.

21 You said that your employees worked
22 over 40 hours a week. I was wondering if
23 you paid time and a half for any overtime?

24 MR. HOLLIS: No, that's not an

1 overtime pay. It is not 40 hours every
2 week and it is not 60 hours every week.
3 But no, there is not an overtime pay.

4 MR. DOWELL: I guess my concern
5 is -- you are a corporation. You know, I
6 realize overtime ain't for the average
7 farmer. But any small business, its
8 employees, if they work over 40 hours a
9 week he has to pay them time and a half.

10 MR. HOLLIS: That is a fair
11 question. But we are going to pay
12 competitively the same as any other
13 agriculture business. And there are
14 agriculture businesses that go through
15 seasons when their hours get longer, and
16 production teams are no different.

17 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Over
18 here.

19 MS. MARKEY: My name is Angela
20 Markey, M-A-R-K-E-Y.

21 I was wondering if you test your hogs
22 for MRSA?

23 MR. HOLLIS: No, but we do
24 participate in comprehensive diagnostic

1 studies. And the risk of contracting
2 MRSA from a pig farm is miniscule.
3 Somewhere in the neighborhood of a
4 lightning strike.

5 So we do participate in comprehensive
6 diagnostic studies.

7 MS. MARKEY: On your hogs?

8 MR. HOLLIS: Yes. We would
9 expect that Junction Acres will perform
10 routine diagnostic, both bacterial and
11 viral. And we think that the scientists
12 that are studying MRSA are the ones to go
13 to. And we trust their judgment, and
14 their judgment is the risk of MRSA is
15 absolutely miniscule. Your risk of
16 contracting MRSA at the general public,
17 at the school gymnasium or hospital, are
18 considerably greater and a far greater
19 priority on the ranking priorities
20 through the Centers for Disease Control.

21 MS. MARKEY: So are you saying
22 that none of your hogs have ever tested
23 positive for MRSA?

24 MR. HOLLIS: Not that I have

1 seen, no.

2 MS. MARKEY: Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Could
4 you give us a very brief explanation of
5 MRSA?

6 MR. HOLLIS: MRSA is M-R-S-A,
7 all in capital letters, that represents
8 Methicillin Resistent Staph Aureus.
9 Staph aureus is the bacteria, and it is
10 resistant to a common -- not so common
11 today -- antibiotic called methicillin
12 that is used to evaluate staph aureus.

13 It is a great concern to health. I
14 appreciate the question. It is an
15 excellent question.

16 MRSA is of great concern to human
17 health. It is not a concern to human
18 health workers or to the general public
19 based on pig farms.

20 So it is a great concern, if MRSA as
21 a bacteria is not common in the livestock
22 population, and the risk of it coming from
23 Junction Acres or any other pig farm is
24 miniscule.

1 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
2 you. Further questions? Over here.

3 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Thank you for
4 coming. I have a question for the
5 Department of Ag.

6 Daniel Moorehouse,
7 M-O-O-R-E-H-O-U-S-E. Thanks for coming
8 again.

9 How many CAFOs are located in Hancock
10 County?

11 MR. GOETSCH: I don't have a
12 figure for you. I know there are several
13 of these types of facilities that have
14 been built in the last ten years but I
15 don't have a specific number.

16 MR. MOOREHOUSE: How many are
17 regulated by you in Hancock County? Or
18 how many have applied for, you know, a
19 license from you?

20 MR. GOETSCH: Like I said, I
21 don't have a figure.

22 The Livestock Management Facilities
23 Act has been in place for about 15 years.
24 I think we have had -- and Brad, you can

1 correct me if I'm wrong -- about 1,500
2 applications. And those range all of the
3 way from two cows and a pig in the back
4 yard all of the way up to a sow farm or a
5 large dairy and everything in between. I
6 would guess there has probably been a
7 dozen maybe sow farms of this size
8 probably in the last ten years.

9 MR. MOOREHOUSE: In Hancock
10 County?

11 MR. GOETSCH: No. I mean
12 statewide. Probably in this area, in
13 this county, four.

14 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Can you get
15 that information to the County Board or
16 us?

17 MR. GOETSCH: Sure. Certainly
18 we can go back and pull out of the file.
19 I don't have it with me now.

20 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Could you do
21 that?

22 MR. GOETSCH: Yes.

23 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Okay. Second
24 question that goes along with that, how

1 many animal units do you know of that are
2 licensed in Hancock County?

3 MR. GOETSCH: I don't have it
4 with me but I can certainly provide that
5 to the County Board as well.

6 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Thank you.

7 Now, to Professional Swine Management
8 or Junction Acres, I have a few questions.

9 How close is the nearest creek or
10 stream?

11 MR. WEST: The nearest one
12 would be southeast of the farm. I don't
13 know the exact distance but it is
14 slightly over a quarter of a mile and
15 under a third of a mile.

16 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Okay. So why
17 did you locate your facility so close to
18 that creek?

19 MR. HOLLIS: Actually it is not
20 very close. I mean, if you consider the
21 application ground which had an
22 appropriate setback, we follow the
23 appropriate guidelines to stay away from
24 streams and waterways. And then when we

1 site a facility, we look for a location
2 that has a tree buffer and has access
3 without proximity to waterways.

4 Again, appropriately following the
5 guidelines of the Livestock Management
6 Facilities Act. So we don't feel it is
7 too close.

8 MR. MOOREHOUSE: And the slope,
9 you know, it is in a wooded area, wooded
10 areas if you look on topographical maps
11 have more slope, you know. A lot more
12 slope, you know. So when you look at an
13 aerial photo, you look at -- so what is
14 the slope, you know? And you said a
15 quarter of a mile. What is the slope in
16 that quarter of a mile and what would be
17 the chance -- and the soil types, if you
18 were to have an event, that instead of it
19 absorbing into the soil, would flow down
20 into the creek, stream, Lamoine River,
21 fishponds, et cetera?

22 MR. WEST: Well, I will try to
23 answer it in what I believe is the way
24 you asked it.

1 What is the slope between the Lamoine
2 River and the facility?

3 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Yes.

4 MR. WEST: I don't know that
5 exactly. I know that where the facility
6 is planning on going it is relatively
7 level. It is not perfectly level. But
8 the idea is to pick the most level and
9 not put it on sloped ground because
10 construction costs get crazy when you
11 start cutting and filling in large
12 amounts like that.

13 These facilities are designed in such
14 a way that that is really not an issue as
15 far as the location compared to a stream
16 or a creek or what have you. The idea is
17 these are designed in such a way that they
18 have no releases. They are also bermed in
19 such a way that fresh water goes away from
20 the facility and not coming into it so
21 that we maintain the maximum amount of
22 storage space.

23 If we are talking about land
24 applications where I think maybe typically

1 a more logical concern or more regularly
2 asked question, we have setbacks that we
3 have to watch and we have to put in place
4 from any manure application, from any
5 waterway, creek, stream, water body,
6 wells. Those are all setbacks put in
7 place by law and we have to put into the
8 nutrient management plan. And when the
9 manure application is taking place those
10 setbacks have to be maintained, and so
11 there wouldn't be any manure application
12 within those areas.

13 MR. MOOREHOUSE: And the soil
14 type, what would be the soil type and,
15 you know, the slope from the -- say like
16 the distance from the facility to where
17 the ground starts sloping down into the
18 woods?

19 MR. WEST: I have not looked at
20 that because there is no construction
21 planned for there.

22 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Really?

23 MR. WEST: I couldn't tell you
24 what that soil type is.

1 MR. MOOREHOUSE: You don't know
2 and have no plan for, you know, an event
3 or something that might happen outside of
4 the facility and, you know, once it
5 leaves that square rectangular box you
6 don't know the slope or the soil type or
7 how fast it will transport down to the
8 creek?

9 MR. WEST: No, I don't. I
10 don't.

11 But let me answer your question in a
12 different way. In the CNP that we are
13 developing a very important part is called
14 the emergency action plan. So it is put
15 in place. It is site specific and it is
16 put in place to deal with any emergencies.
17 And those -- that emergency action plan is
18 to be put up in areas where anybody that
19 sees any kind of accident, whether that be
20 human health, electrical issues, heating
21 and air issues, any kind of environmental
22 issues, there are phone numbers on the
23 emergency action plan so that people can
24 call.

1 on occasion, depending on how we need to
2 approach the ground and where we need to
3 go.

4 So we feel like that offers us the
5 ability to get to locations that are out
6 of sensitive concern like yours and to a
7 flat, safe location.

8 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Thank you.

9 Now, did you check for wells or water
10 recharge areas near the facility where you
11 plan -- and the areas where you plan to
12 dispose of your waste? Because you know,
13 closed wells, you know, you are going to
14 get contaminated -- so did you check or do
15 you have a plan or did you do any soil
16 drilling down to see if there is any
17 aquifers in the area you plan to dispose
18 of your waste?

19 MR. WEST: Well, the well
20 search is one of the things that we are
21 required to do in the development of that
22 comprehensive nutrient management plan.
23 So although we have not done that to
24 date, it will be done before the CNMP is

1 completed.

2 MR. MOOREHOUSE: So you sited
3 the plan and sited the place where you
4 are going to put it before you even did
5 the well search?

6 MR. WEST: No. Two different
7 things. You said where the manure is
8 going to be applied. That is --

9 MR. MOOREHOUSE: And where the
10 site is.

11 MR. WEST: I didn't hear you
12 say the site. If I missed that I
13 apologize.

14 Where the manure is going to be
15 applied, that will all be addressed in the
16 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan. A
17 part of that is a well search. We have to
18 identify where the wells are because there
19 are setbacks from those wells.

20 As far as the location of the
21 facility, there are no wells that we are
22 aware of within that footprint.

23 If somebody has knowledge of those,
24 we would want those immediately so that we

1 can, you know, take the appropriate
2 actions.

3 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Do you plan to
4 do borings on areas that you are going to
5 dispose of the waste?

6 MR. WEST: No, we do not.

7 MR. MOOREHOUSE: So there may
8 be a water recharge area in the area you
9 are going to dispose of the waste and not
10 know about it and contaminate the
11 groundwater?

12 MR. HOLLIS: A farmer with
13 their cultivator is over that ground
14 multiple times, so we are going to take
15 their guidance, understand that ground
16 and that relationship with that grain
17 farmer.

18 MR. MOOREHOUSE: So you are
19 telling me do you or do you not know the
20 area -- that you are not going to do the
21 boring in those areas and are you going
22 to research if there is any water
23 recharge areas in the areas that you are
24 going to dispose of the waste on by

1 asking the local farmer about the soil?

2 MR. WEST: As I mentioned, we
3 will do the research in the application
4 areas.

5 MR. MOOREHOUSE: About wells.
6 How about groundwater recharge areas
7 and --

8 MR. WEST: If there are other
9 sensitive areas we will do that as well.

10 MR. MOOREHOUSE: And you are
11 going to find these sensitive areas how?

12 MR. WEST: Through water survey
13 maps, through soil surveys. Anything
14 else that we can come up with that --

15 MR. MOOREHOUSE: But you are
16 not going to go out yourself, other than
17 look at some databases 20 years old
18 and --

19 MR. WEST: Actually, you
20 brought up a good point. We do actually
21 walk the fields that are in the nutrient
22 management plan. We walk those with the
23 farmer so that we can identify where the
24 waterways would be, because sometimes we

1 can't identify those on aerial photos.
2 Either they are new, there are new
3 terraced systems, new water control
4 structures -- so we have to identify
5 those for our maps.

6 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Okay. And I
7 think that's all. Thank you very much.

8 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
9 questions?

10 Over here in the center.

11 MR. HUNERDOSSE: Ken
12 Hunerdosse, H-U-N-E-R-D-O-S-S-E.

13 Just a moment ago you said that you
14 were going to do well surveys and -- I
15 can't remember the term he used -- water
16 replenishment or something like that
17 before you make application of manure in
18 the fields. Is that correct?

19 MR. WEST: We have to identify
20 the wells.

21 MR. HUNERDOSSE: Pardon?

22 MR. WEST: We have to identify
23 the wells within an application field.

24 MR. HUNERDOSSE: Then may I ask

1 you this question? I was working on a
2 roof just across the road from the field
3 where this is going to go. I witnessed a
4 truck -- many trucks coming in, filling a
5 tractor with manure and knifing it in
6 within 150 feet of one well and within
7 60 feet of another well already on this
8 property.

9 Now, can you tell me why that is
10 being done when you haven't done your
11 research yet?

12 MR. WEST: Where were the wells
13 at?

14 MR. HUNERDOSSE: The wells are
15 on Dorothy Whitaker's property and Jake
16 Wood's property. They are just across
17 the road. One within 150 feet, one
18 within 60 feet of a major spill from the
19 trucks that were unloading or dumping
20 into the tractor.

21 MR. WEST: Where was the manure
22 from?

23 It wouldn't have been from this
24 facility.

1 MR. HUNERDOSSE: I don't know
2 because I can't see the trucks all of the
3 way through. I just know I witnessed
4 truck after truck come in and they were
5 being knifed in, into the property and
6 onto the ground that you guys just
7 recently purchased, and probably pretty
8 close to closing time. It was that
9 close.

10 MR. WEST: I can't answer that
11 question. I wasn't part of that manure
12 application and I am not -- I would
13 really like to know where those wells are
14 at though.

15 MR. HUNERDOSSE: I'll address
16 that later.

17 MR. WEST: I would appreciate
18 that.

19 MR. HUNERDOSSE: I would like
20 to know, you guys are saying you are
21 going to follow these rules, but I have
22 already seen and witnessed that you are
23 not following the rules, and I would like
24 to know how we can trust you --

1 MR. WEST: That wasn't this
2 facility.

3 MR. HUNERDOSSE: -- when we are
4 witnessing the exact opposite? That's my
5 question, how can we trust you?

6 MR. HOLLIS: I think you are on
7 the -- sorry, I am probably not answering
8 the question you want to ask but I am
9 going to answer what I think I saw on the
10 television news.

11 You were showing Wildcat Farms, and
12 Wildcat Farms doesn't have a well --
13 actually Wildcat has a pond and uses rural
14 water, so I am not --

15 MR. HUNERDOSSE: What you are
16 referring to on the television is a
17 totally different story.

18 If I may show you -- do you want me
19 to bring this up? It would make things
20 easier for communication.

21 Right here is the property that you
22 are -- your proposed property, correct?
23 Right here is -- right here. This is the
24 farm ground that you guys purchased,

1 correct? This is the farm ground. I am
2 familiar with the area. This is the farm
3 ground that was sold, the property that
4 you guys bought. This is the home where
5 Jake Woods lives. There is a well here
6 that is within 60 feet of your property.
7 Dorothy Whitaker, who lives right here,
8 her well is within 150 feet of your
9 property. You all are in there applying
10 manure in this area within days after the
11 purchase. This is the property we are
12 talking about right now where you are
13 building Junction Acres. That's what I am
14 talking about.

15 MR. HOLLIS: Let me start to
16 address it and then I will let Mr. West
17 address it.

18 The land that Junction Acres will own
19 will be approximately 20 acres where those
20 buildings sit. So Junction Acres, LLC
21 will own that. The land that was sold at
22 auction and whatever manure application
23 you are referring to -- I will take your
24 point and look into it and try to

1 understand it. I don't have an answer for
2 you tonight because that had nothing to do
3 with Junction Acres. And frankly
4 Professional Swine Management doesn't own
5 the land. So I'll look into it and try to
6 figure out what you are referring to and
7 understand it.

8 Your other question would be if
9 Junction Acres buys 20 acres, where are
10 they going to apply the manure? I will
11 let Mr. West answer that relative to the
12 information you shared, which is where the
13 wells are located.

14 MR. HUNERDOSSE: My question is
15 exactly what is the setback for applying
16 on the surface from a well? I think that
17 is another one that probably needs
18 answered.

19 MR. GOETSCH: In the Livestock
20 Management Facilities Act there is a
21 required setback of 150 feet from a
22 potable water supply well for the land
23 application of manure.

24 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Back

1 row?

2 MS. BUNDY: Pam Bundy.

3 There are seven hog confinements, and
4 like I said they are within a 4-mile
5 radius of where Junction Acres is going to
6 be built. The seven would include
7 Junction Acres. They are varied sizes.
8 Three of them managed by PSM.

9 What my question is, is there is only
10 so much farmland in that area to go around
11 to have this manure knifed in. Do you
12 communicate with other hog confinement
13 owners as far as where this manure is
14 going?

15 What is the process as far as getting
16 this manure knifed in? And when it is
17 saturated, when the area is saturated do
18 you truck it away from this area? Or what
19 is your plans for that since there are so
20 many other hog confinements in a 4-mile
21 area?

22 MR. WEST: To answer the first
23 part of your question whether or not
24 facilities communicate or -- to get down

1 to the basis of that question, we are not
2 allowed to duplicate manure applications.
3 You are allowed to apply only what we are
4 putting into our manure management plan.
5 So the same field can't be used in two
6 different management plans.

7 There is obviously then your -- you
8 know, one plan would show it okay, but two
9 plans you are over applying it.

10 Second part of your question I can't
11 remember. I apologize.

12 MS. BUNDY: Okay. Due to the
13 quantity of the number of hog
14 confinements in the area with the limited
15 number of acres available to knife this
16 manure in, what are your plans when the
17 area is already saturated? And what, do
18 you truck it outside the area? Or I mean
19 how do you -- how do you plan to handle
20 the amount of waste and how --

21 MR. WEST: Well, I think what
22 you are getting at is if there are too
23 many in one area and if the ground
24 becomes to a certain point where you can

1 no longer apply there, whether it be
2 non-crop ground or what have you that
3 doesn't use those nutrients, then we have
4 to find areas that we can apply these to.
5 But that is, you know, one of the things
6 when a facility is sited, that is
7 definitely one of the things that is
8 looked at. It would be really
9 irresponsible to put a facility in place
10 and not have anywhere to go with the
11 manure.

12 MS. BUNDY: Right. How many
13 acres does Junction Acres plan to use to
14 knife in the manure?

15 MR. HOLLIS: As Mr. West
16 already presented, there are verbal
17 agreements with 1,209 acres today. There
18 is expectation we could use as much as
19 900 annually. And the farm will
20 use phytase. It is actually phosphorous
21 that is most commonly concerned about
22 build up.

23 I am getting out of my realm. But
24 no, I don't -- I don't agree with the

1 point that you are trying to make of it
2 becoming saturated. I would disagree with
3 that because these are nutrients utilized
4 in crops and diets are managed with the
5 appropriate ingredients for those
6 nutrients, so I think having 1,200 acres
7 available today is tremendous.

8 MS. BUNDY: So of those
9 1,200 acres, are they like adjacent to
10 Junction Acres? Are they -- you showed a
11 couple where you like piped it out. I
12 mean --

13 MR. HOLLIS: I am going to jump
14 ahead of the question and say that all
15 crop farmers like to keep the crop
16 rotation and their fertilizer plans to
17 themselves, so I am not going to tell you
18 where they are.

19 MS. BUNDY: I wondered if they
20 were close?

21 MR. HOLLIS: I am going to
22 share.

23 MS. BUNDY: Piping or trucking?

24 MR. HOLLIS: I am going to

1 share, yes, we are going to utilize an
2 umbilical line and nearby land
3 application, absolutely, as much as
4 possible.

5 MS. BUNDY: Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Over
7 here in the center.

8 MR. KING: My name is Jim King,
9 K-I-N-G.

10 The question I have is of Mr. West,
11 is how do the trees deter the odor and the
12 air particles and stuff from the hog
13 confinements?

14 MR. WEST: There is a couple of
15 ways that that happens. Number one, it
16 provides an air disturbance so there is
17 no straight winds coming through. It
18 allows the air to be disturbed and moved
19 up into higher elevations so that it is
20 not at the nose level.

21 Another way that trees are known to
22 be an odor reduction technology, if you
23 want to use that term, is odor travels on
24 dust particles primarily. That is the

1 primary carrier. So we talked about
2 different ways that the farm itself will
3 reduce the dust from the facility. The
4 trees also, you know, act as a buffer for
5 that. They capture those dust particles.
6 Or if they don't capture them themselves,
7 they cause them to be lifted higher into
8 the air stream so that they are not at the
9 nose level, I guess is what we like to
10 say.

11 Those are the two things that I think
12 are widely known that trees do.

13 MR. KING: Thank you.

14 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: Are all
15 trees created equal?

16 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: We are
17 back over here to "Common Spelling".

18 MR. CONIGLIO: I have got a
19 short question that I would like to have
20 a short answer and not a speech.

21 Has the State of Illinois ever turned
22 down an application for one of these mega
23 hog facilities in western Illinois?
24 That's my question.

1 is you as the County Board have to make a
2 recommendation based on the information
3 that is available now, whereas the
4 Department has the luxury of learning from
5 what you go through and issues that you
6 might identify that are lax in an
7 application, we can then go back to the
8 Applicant and say, you know, hey, there is
9 a problem with "X" or there is a problem
10 with "Y", or you didn't meet this
11 particular criteria because of this or
12 this or that, what can you do to change
13 your application?

14 A case in point, we just recently
15 approved a somewhat controversial facility
16 proposed in Livingston County. The County
17 Board there pointed out they had some
18 significant concerns about water supply
19 and whether or not the particular facility
20 was going to be able to not just have an
21 adequate water supply but would they be
22 taking water from the neighbors. As a
23 result we required the Applicant to, in
24 their case, to use the Illinois State

1 Water Survey to do a study to determine
2 whether or not there was adequate resource
3 in the area and whether or not the
4 withdrawal of water from the ground for
5 that particular facility would have an
6 adverse impact on the neighbors. So your
7 input is very important.

8 MR. CONIGLIO: Well, so much
9 for the short answer. But -- okay, but
10 it's nonbinding.

11 We took a vote and these fellows and
12 gals will take a vote also, and our vote
13 really means nothing. It is nonbinding.
14 We don't make any decision on it. You
15 folks at the State of Illinois do. And of
16 course, trust me, I am with the State of
17 Illinois or with the government.

18 I am having too much fun. Sorry.

19 MR. GOETSCH: I guess I would
20 like to say I disagree with -- I think
21 your recommendation does mean something
22 and I think that a project that
23 ultimately would be approved benefits
24 from the input, just like there have been

1 cases where the County Board has
2 developed information that ultimately
3 pointed out that a facility didn't meet a
4 requirement and therefore that project
5 was not approved.

6 So I think it may not give you the
7 last word but I think it gives you a very
8 important voice in the process.

9 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
10 questions?

11 Right behind you.

12 MS. FISCHER: Rebecca Fischer,
13 F-I-S-C-H-E-R.

14 It is a follow-up kind of to Tony's
15 question.

16 If Illinois is number four, can you
17 educate me what are the top three pork
18 producers, what states?

19 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: Iowa,
20 Minnesota, North Carolina.

21 MS. FISCHER: Is it Illinois'
22 goal to get up into the top three?

23 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: For the
24 benefit of everyone, could you repeat the

1 answer that was given in the audience?

2 MR. WEST: The answer to the
3 question of who are the top three states,
4 Iowa, North Carolina and Minnesota are
5 the top three.

6 MS. FISCHER: Okay.

7 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Did you
8 have a follow-up question, ma'am?

9 MS. FISCHER: My next question
10 is the pigs that leave the facility, do
11 they ultimately end up back in Illinois
12 as everybody's Easter ham, or what is the
13 market for these pigs?

14 MR. HOLLIS: We would hope so,
15 actually. I would say yes, that there is
16 a combination of local producers and out
17 of state producers that will purchase
18 these pigs. A couple of them that would
19 purchase the majority are two independent
20 farmers, individuals located in
21 Minnesota. I know that one of them would
22 market through the Swift brands. So
23 those pigs will go to Marshall Town,
24 Iowa, and be marketed. You can purchase

1 them at your store. And the other would
2 be through Hormel. We would like to see
3 them back on the shelf.

4 MS. FISCHER: I am not trying
5 to be judgmental or anything but I happen
6 to notice that you are both drinking
7 bottled water. Do your employees drink
8 bottled water at your facilities and do
9 the pigs drink bottled water?

10 I don't mean -- from that I mean do
11 you have to import the water for the pigs
12 also? Do they drink the water that is on
13 the facility?

14 MR. HOLLIS: The showers in the
15 office are commonly on rural water.
16 Junction Acres' owners have told us that
17 rural water is located north of this
18 facility, not all of the way down that
19 county road that comes directly south of
20 the state highway but part of the way.

21 So yes, I think Junction Acres'
22 desire would be to identify rural water
23 for showers and for the office.

24 We will have a pond built on the

1 property and catch rainwater, and for you
2 guys that live nearby, probably stock it
3 with fish. And so there will be a pond
4 available for drinking water and rural
5 water for backup most commonly.

6 MS. FISCHER: My last question
7 is -- educate me, how many times a day
8 does a baby pig poop versus a mother pig?
9 I am just curious. I really would like
10 to know that. That cannot be regulated.

11 MR. HOLLIS: I am going to
12 guess the baby pig once an hour and the
13 momma maybe three times a day. That is
14 just a guess.

15 MS. FISCHER: Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any
17 further questions?

18 Up here.

19 MS. MOORE: Karen Moore,
20 M-O-O-R-E.

21 I have several questions, and most of
22 them are not related.

23 Could you tell me what LLC stands
24 for?

1 MR. HOLLIS: Yes. That would
2 be Limited Liability Company, a
3 designation of the corporate structure of
4 the company.

5 MS. MOORE: What does limited
6 liability mean then?

7 MR. HOLLIS: It frankly is a
8 representation of the state of Illinois
9 corporate structure so that, Mrs. Moore,
10 if you and I and someone else came
11 together in a company structure, each one
12 of us are limited to the liability of our
13 percentage in that company. That company
14 still has liability. So that company has
15 come together to allow unequal partners
16 to share all of the total liability of
17 the company, but each to the extent of
18 the percentage of the partnership.

19 I don't know if I have answered your
20 question but hopefully that will.

21 MS. MOORE: Fine. My
22 understanding, you do not have any
23 designs drawn up yet for this site
24 specifically?

1 MR. WEST: That is correct.

2 MS. MOORE: How soon would you
3 have those -- will they have to be done
4 before the Department can approve this?

5 MR. WEST: Most definitely so,
6 yes.

7 MS. MOORE: How can the County
8 Board make an informed decision without
9 any specific designs since you wouldn't
10 have them done before the county votes?

11 MR. WEST: I guess what I would
12 recommend and what has been done in the
13 past on facilities like this, or
14 livestock facilities in general, you
15 know, is we explain how this will be
16 designed. They will be designed in such
17 a way that they will be approved by the
18 Department of Ag or the facility will
19 never be built. That is the guideline
20 that the County Board I guess in my
21 opinion should -- how they should look at
22 it.

23 MS. MOORE: So then the Board
24 votes on each criteria is my

1 understanding, so they will have to
2 decide then if they feel that you have
3 met each of the eight criteria. And how
4 can they do that when you have not -- as
5 I said, you have not given them all of
6 the information they really need to make
7 a decision?

8 MR. WEST: The County Board
9 wouldn't have the design plans anyway.
10 Those go to the Department of Ag.

11 MS. MOORE: That's correct, but
12 how can they make an informed decision
13 without the design plans?

14 MR. HOLLIS: I appreciate your
15 question, but that is an incorrect
16 explanation or incorrect understanding of
17 the siting criteria.

18 The siting criteria was defined by
19 Mr. West and the siting criteria have been
20 met.

21 We now as PSM are going to direct
22 Junction Acres to prepare construction
23 plans, to submit those to the Illinois
24 Department of Agriculture. The Illinois

1 Department of Agriculture will compare
2 those to what has been discussed tonight
3 and what those criteria are. So the
4 County Board really are voting on the
5 eight siting criteria which have been
6 presented and which have been met, and
7 that is not the construction plan.

8 Is that a fair way to say that?

9 MR. WEST: I believe so.

10 MS. MOORE: Another question I
11 have is about the truck wash. My
12 understanding is that is contained in a
13 pit. Or how is that contained, the water
14 from that?

15 MR. WEST: There is no truck
16 wash at this facility, ma'am.

17 MS. MOORE: There will be none?

18 MR. WEST: No.

19 MS. MOORE: Okay.

20 Also, will this facility be taxed as
21 rural or commercial?

22 MR. HOLLIS: I am going to
23 defer that to the gentleman who will
24 discuss his calculations who put those

1 together. And I don't have an
2 understanding of that. We basically used
3 the same tax rate that we have used at
4 the other farms in Hancock County and
5 specifically to this ground, the numbers
6 that were taxed for this ground
7 previously.

8 MS. MOORE: Also, you said that
9 you were building a pond and probably
10 would stock it with fish and the
11 neighbors would be welcome to come fish.

12 I would think you would be concerned
13 about disease being brought on the
14 facility with allowing people to walk on
15 willy-nilly to fish.

16 MR. HOLLIS: We won't allow
17 them to walk on willy-nilly.

18 MS. MOORE: In other words,
19 what process would they go through then?

20 MR. HOLLIS: I'll give you
21 Dr. Doug Growth's home phone number and
22 they can call him at home, preferably
23 nights and weekends -- but we have farms
24 with -- stock fish farms that people have

1 approached us about fishing, and they
2 don't have any hog contact. But those
3 relationships are individual and, of
4 course, they follow by the security.

5 MS. MOORE: I knew you were
6 very stringent about letting people come
7 on your facility because of disease
8 purposes and I just had a question about
9 that. Thank you.

10 MR. HOLLIS: I appreciate the
11 question. Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Just a
13 couple more questions.

14 In the back there.

15 MR. ANDERSON: Nick Anderson,
16 A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N.

17 This is for Warren. The commonly
18 spelled name, Tony, referred to the county
19 vote and its importance in your decision
20 making process. If a county votes yes,
21 does that give you a rubber stamp to go
22 ahead with a green light without following
23 the LMFA?

24 MR. GOETSCH: No, not at all.

1 Although even though the county is --
2 even though the county is -- we are
3 certainly interested in what the county's
4 wishes are but we are more interested in
5 why the county makes the recommendation
6 that they make.

7 In other words, what issues have they
8 identified that either are lax in the
9 application or why do they believe that
10 the application meets the criteria?
11 Because that is really I think what is
12 important to us, because our charge is to
13 make sure that a facility is only -- a
14 project is only approved if it meets all
15 of the criteria.

16 MR. ANDERSON: Do you recall
17 the recommendation from McDonough County
18 Board against or for?

19 MR. GOETSCH: I thought --

20 MR. ANDERSON: 10/7 for.

21 MR. GOETSCH: I don't recall.

22 MR. ANDERSON: But they did
23 recommend it?

24 MR. GOETSCH: I believe that

1 they did.

2 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.

3 MR. GOETSCH: But I would say
4 that we haven't made our final
5 determination, because again, we are
6 trying to -- we will make sure that all
7 of the criteria have been appropriately
8 addressed regardless of what the County
9 Board vote was.

10 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: We have
11 been going for almost an hour and a half
12 here on the questions so we need to get
13 this wrapped up, so just a couple more.

14 Back over here in the center.

15 MS. JAMES: This is a question
16 for -- Stacie James. This is a question
17 for Mr. West.

18 You mentioned that the concrete will
19 meet allowable permeability standards.
20 Can you explain what that means and if
21 that translates into a certain amount of
22 waste lost into the ground as a result of
23 allowable permeability?

24 MR. WEST: The permeability

1 standards that I mentioned is a
2 construction standard that is identified
3 in the Illinois -- it does not translate
4 to any kind of manure lost in the
5 facility.

6 MS. JAMES: What does it refer
7 to?

8 MR. WEST: What does it refer
9 to?

10 MS. JAMES: What does
11 permeability refer to?

12 MR. WEST: The rate of movement
13 of one thing through another.

14 MS. JAMES: What would that
15 thing be?

16 MR. WEST: Well, in this
17 circumstance it would be the wall or
18 floor of any facility that is being
19 regulated here.

20 MS. JAMES: You said it is
21 movement of a thing, so I assume --

22 MR. WEST: Okay. In this
23 instance it would be whatever this
24 facility would be containing.

1 MS. JAMES: Which is waste?

2 MR. WEST: That's correct.

3 MS. JAMES: So why does the
4 permeability standard not translate into
5 waste lost to the groundwater?

6 MR. WEST: That is strictly a
7 construction standard. That does not
8 mean there is going to be water movement
9 through the walls of the structure. If
10 that is -- I believe that is the
11 direction you are going. It does not
12 translate to that directly, no.

13 MS. JAMES: What is the
14 expected life span of the facility?

15 MR. HOLLIS: We have got -- I
16 shouldn't say -- Professional Swine
17 Management manages facilities that are 15
18 years old. I see no reason to believe
19 those facilities wouldn't continue
20 another ten years or greater that are
21 existing structures. We go in and make
22 modifications to the internal equipment
23 or ventilation. But useful life,
24 depreciated out under a 15 year economic

1 depreciation, useful life certainly could
2 be greater than that.

3 MS. JAMES: And I guess what
4 determines why you shut a facility down?

5 Is there something that wears out
6 that results in that decision?

7 MR. HOLLIS: I don't know how
8 to answer your question.

9 No, I am not aware of that situation.

10 MS. JAMES: Well, I have heard
11 in other settings that the expected life
12 of these facilities can be about 20
13 years, and I just have no idea what is
14 the basis for that longevity estimate.

15 MR. HOLLIS: My only answer
16 would be experience. Experience.

17 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Right
18 behind her.

19 MS. MARKEY: Hi. Angela
20 Markey. I have questions about the
21 water.

22 Will you be drilling any wells?

23 MR. HOLLIS: I would say we
24 don't know the answer to that at this

1 time.

2 I would start with the pond, but
3 there is no current plan to drill a well.

4 MS. MARKEY: Is there a pond
5 currently there?

6 MR. HOLLIS: No, there is not.

7 MS. MARKEY: So you will be
8 getting your water from rural water for a
9 while?

10 MR. HOLLIS: The pond will be
11 built during the construction phase and
12 water will be collected and made
13 available to livestock when it is
14 appropriate.

15 MS. MARKEY: So how much water
16 per day will this facility be using?

17 MR. HOLLIS: A rough estimate
18 would be 4 gallons per sow per day, so in
19 a general sense you are talking
20 20,000 gallons per day.

21 MS. MARKEY: Okay. If you are
22 using rural water, how is that going to
23 affect us people who already have rural
24 water? Is it going to affect our

1 pressure?

2 MR. HOLLIS: I would say that's
3 a fair question for the rural water
4 district. We haven't seen that occur,
5 but it is a fair question that you would
6 have to work through with the rural water
7 district.

8 In most cases our goal would be to
9 only water livestock during emergencies
10 when we had to use rural water. Most
11 commonly we would water the livestock from
12 the pond.

13 MS. MARKEY: Okay.

14 I had another question about odor
15 control.

16 In the December issue of National Hog
17 Farmer an article was written from manure
18 management stating pine nuggets and lava
19 rock can be used as an energy efficient
20 bio filter media to treat gas emissions.

21 Is PMS -- I mean PSM using this
22 current technology?

23 MR. HOLLIS: No, PSM is not
24 utilizing that technology. But we have

1 looked at that, and our concern today is
2 rodent and maintenance of something like
3 that. So our primary concern from a
4 veterinarian speaking about the
5 operation, my job and the reason I am
6 hired is to prevent disease transmission,
7 so our concern with many of the bio
8 filter and those issues is bio security
9 and rodents. And it looks like a rat
10 trap.

11 The other, such as building a wall,
12 plastic and putting covers, we have also
13 evaluated but none have proven to be
14 effective long-term or efficient to
15 maintain.

16 MR. WEST: If you don't mind, I
17 would echo that and I would also expand
18 on it slightly.

19 PSM -- and don't -- that mistake is
20 made at least once every meeting. PSM and
21 the industry in general is looking hard
22 for that silver bullet, the one item that
23 will make every livestock facility a zero
24 odor facility. There are several issues

1 on every technology, but as I mentioned in
2 the presentation, it is a continual
3 evaluation. If there is something that
4 comes up that works, works for odor, works
5 for the facility, is efficient and can be
6 maintained in such a way that it continues
7 to work, it is something that would be
8 evaluated and used if possible.

9 MS. MARKEY: So are you using
10 anything other than the trees for odor
11 control?

12 MR. WEST: Most definitely.
13 The trees are just another in the line of
14 things that we are proposing to use.

15 Dr. Hollis mentioned the use of
16 phytase in the diet. Phytase is an
17 ingredient that helps to remove the
18 phosphorous from the manure so that it is
19 not excreted. You look at facility
20 maintenance, regular maintenance, regular
21 washing, you know, regular fans, keeping
22 those clean, operating efficiently.
23 Diets, diets are extremely important when
24 we are talking about odor, because if you

1 can use that feed ration, the more
2 efficiently that you can remove -- that
3 you can use that, the less that is being
4 excreted. That is a continual process as
5 well, is trying to find the perfect
6 ration. So that is one of the components.

7 We talked about injection. Injection
8 is one of the -- the single greatest thing
9 that we can do for odor protection.

10 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: I would
11 like to thank you very much for your
12 questions. Based on the number of people
13 who have signed up for oral testimony, we
14 could have yet a couple of hours here
15 dealing with oral testimony, so we are
16 going to wrap up the questioning phase
17 right now and I think we are going to
18 take about a ten minute break or so.

19 We will be back in about ten minutes.

20

21 (Whereupon the hearing
22 was in recess.)

23

24

1 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: I have
2 the sign-up sheets that were in the back
3 of the room listing the people who wish
4 to provide oral testimony. I will go
5 down the list and call the names of those
6 who wish to testify. When called upon,
7 please step up to the microphone here in
8 the center aisle. State your name and
9 spell your name for the court reporter.
10 I will then swear you in. Please
11 remember that you have three minutes to
12 speak.

13 First person on the list is Robert
14 Markey. It begins with an R. I am not
15 sure if it is Robert.

16 MR. MARKEY: I really didn't
17 want to be first.

18 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: State
19 your name and spell your last name.

20 MR. MARKEY: Bobbie Markey,
21 M-A-R-K-E-Y.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Please
24 proceed.

1 MR. MARKEY: My name is Bobbie
2 Markey. I live approximately 1 mile from
3 the proposed confinement building and
4 within 2 miles of where I was born and
5 raised. I am a small farmer and a
6 livestock producer for 40 plus years. I
7 have always dreamed about building a
8 house on my property by LaCrosse. In
9 April of 2011 that dream came true. We
10 chose to build in this location because
11 of the beauty of the land and what it has
12 to offer, the rolling hills, wildlife,
13 mushroom hunting, hickory hunting with
14 the grandkids, trail riding, having
15 family outings with campfires and hayrack
16 rides. Just having good neighbors. I
17 have cows on this pasture. And there is
18 nothing more beautiful to me than
19 sitting, watching a calf sucking on its
20 mother.

21 My dream never included an 18,000
22 head hog confinement building being built
23 next to my ground and the odor that comes
24 with it. This facility will greatly

1 impact our outdoor living.

2 We are fortunate, we live 1 mile from
3 the confinement. Others aren't so
4 fortunate, like Dorothy Whitaker, Mr. and
5 Mrs. James King who live just greater than
6 one-quarter of a mile from the confinement
7 site.

8 Hog confinements have to be 2 miles
9 from each other to prevent the spread of
10 disease, which I understand. But why
11 isn't it the same for families who live on
12 their family farms, pay taxes and have to
13 endure the odors from these confinements?
14 Why are their setback distances a quarter
15 of a mile? That is hard for my little
16 brain to realize that. And think I am
17 mowing a yard longer than that.

18 What is more important, profit or
19 principle?

20 Why should our lifestyles change so
21 Junction Acres can profit at the expense
22 of their neighbors?

23 What are your plans for odor control?

24 A representative from PSM came to our

1 house and told us that they would be using
2 the trees for odor control. There are
3 very few trees between the proposed
4 confinement and Dorothy's house and
5 Mr. Wood's house. IF PSM plants trees,
6 this will take years for them to grow,
7 offering no protection for many years.
8 How is planting trees considered
9 innovative technology?

10 The plaintiff in Ward versus PSM in
11 Schuyler County alleged unbearable odor
12 from manure pits and dead animals left
13 piled in the open air from fields where
14 manure is spread.

15 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Twenty
16 seconds.

17 MR. MARKEY: If PSM was using
18 reasonable odor reduction, it would have
19 been used when it began operation in
20 March 2007.

21 The odor from the storage facility
22 can be reduced by manure separator or a
23 digester. Why aren't these practices
24 going to be used?

1 Just the last question, if your
2 mother lived where Dorothy Whitaker lives
3 now, would you still support the building
4 of this huge confinement?

5 Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Are
7 there questions for this witness?

8 I see none. Thank you.

9 Next on the list is Jim King.

10 MR. KING: My name is Jim King,
11 K-I-N-G.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 MR. KING: As I stated before,
14 my name is Jim king. I currently live
15 2,850 feet west of the site of Junction
16 Acres, LLC's proposed facility. We have
17 occupied this residence for the last 32
18 years.

19 I feel that the proximity of this
20 facility and my wife's medical condition
21 is far too close to our residence based on
22 environmental studies.

23 I would now read a letter from her
24 primary care APN.

1 Sandra King -- it says: To whom it
2 may concern, Sandra King is a patient of
3 our clinic and has diagnosis of Diabetes
4 type Two, hypertension, hyperlipidemia,
5 COPD. She had lymphoma cancer in '92 and
6 recently carcinoma of her lung and part of
7 that lung was removed. This patient's
8 activities may be affected by the air
9 quality.

10 In researching the hog confinement
11 health risk there was a study done in 2002
12 by Iowa state University and the
13 University of Iowa. The study concludes
14 that it's not just a matter of mal odor,
15 the manure pits become aerobic and putrid,
16 polluting the air with partake matter and
17 many gases, including ammonia and hydrogen
18 sulfide that can lead to a wide range of
19 health complaints. Exposure to hydrogen
20 sulfide is known to cause nausea,
21 headaches, diarrhea and even
22 life-threatening pulmonary edema. On the
23 whole, CAFO workers are known to be a hard
24 bunch. The author of the 2002 ISU,

1 University of Iowa study pointed out those
2 in the general community, including
3 children, the elderly, those with chronic
4 impairments such as pre-existing asthma or
5 COPD, are expected to be much more
6 susceptible to CAFO exposure.

7 Another article by Dr. Lincoln, an
8 M.D., in October of 2004 indicated that I
9 was living within 2 miles of 4,000 sow
10 operation, reported problems such as chest
11 tightness, shortness of breath, wheezing
12 significantly more than the nonliving --
13 the people not living near the CAFO
14 facility.

15 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Twenty
16 seconds.

17 MR. KING: Okay. Just in
18 conclusion, as a result of these studies
19 and the effect on air quality, I think
20 that it will definitely limit my wife and
21 myself from enjoying outdoor activity as
22 well as enjoying fresh air, i.e. open
23 windows during the warmer periods of the
24 year.

1 Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Are
3 there questions for this witness? Yes.

4 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: Do you
5 think because of your wife's --

6 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Sir,
7 could you state your name?

8 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Daniel
9 Moorehouse, M-O-O-R-E-H-O-U-S-E.

10 Do you think because of your wife's
11 illness you may have to move, relocate,
12 sell your property? And how will this
13 affect your life?

14 MR. KING: Well, currently,
15 right now, we did some research and
16 within a 4-mile parameter of this
17 facility that is proposed there is --
18 this will be the seventh hog operation in
19 that area.

20 Now, like I said, I live a little
21 over half a mile from it. And with all of
22 the surrounding ones, I think the air
23 quality sooner or later is going to be to
24 the point that, yeah. I mean, I have

1 lived there 32 years. I don't want to
2 move. But if it comes down to it, maybe
3 that may be a choice.

4 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

5 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Is your air
6 quality there now good?

7 MR. KING: Right now as far as
8 I know, yes.

9 MR. MOOREHOUSE: So the other
10 hog farms around you?

11 MR. KING: I don't know that.
12 I mean, you know, like I said, she is not
13 experiencing serious problems at this
14 point in time, but like I said, if they
15 continue, you know, to materialize, this
16 one going now, when's the next one and
17 next one after that? So sooner or later
18 it is probably going to get the best of
19 her.

20 ANGELA MARKEY: Angela Markey,
21 M-A-R-K-E-Y.

22 Do you think you will have any
23 trouble selling your home?

24 MR. KING: I don't know. It

1 depends on who wants it and how bad they
2 want it. You hear a lot of things. I
3 don't know if there have been any studies
4 done really to facilitate or to actually
5 say that, you know, it does deteriorate
6 in your home as far as the value goes,
7 whether you know, somebody is going to
8 want to move in there with this facility
9 going in, you know.

10 Like I said, I don't plan on selling
11 it, but some of these days my kids are
12 going to be probably owning that property
13 and, you know, they are going to probably
14 have to do something with it.

15 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
16 questions?

17 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:

18 MR. MAIERS: Tim Maiers,

19 M-A-I-E-R-S.

20 You mentioned an Iowa study done in
21 2002.

22 MR. KING: Yes.

23 MR. MAIERS: Are you familiar
24 with the Iowa Department of Public Health

1 study that revealed no statistically
2 correlation between swine farms and
3 asthma prevalence?

4 You mentioned asthma. Are you
5 familiar with that study?

6 MR. KING: The report that I --
7 the report that I looked at, the research
8 that I did look at indicated and stated
9 that, you know, that, you know, asthma
10 was one of the things that, you know, it
11 would affect.

12 MR. MAIERS: But you are not
13 aware of the Iowa department of --

14 MR. KING: No, I did not --

15 MR. MAIERS: It said the
16 opposite of that.

17 MR. KING: No, I was not.

18 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any
19 other questions?

20 Thank you.

21 Next is Ken Hunerdosse.

22 MR. HUNERDOSSE: Ken
23 Hunerdosse.

24 (Witness sworn.)

1 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

2 MR. HUNERDOSSE: My comments
3 basically are directed to the County
4 Board.

5 That is that I believe Junction Acres
6 does not have an adequate plan that
7 complies with the second of the eight
8 criteria to be met before construction.

9 It is well-known that the property is
10 useless to live on without water. I first
11 became involved resisting Junction Acres
12 because there was too many confinement
13 factories in a 4-mile circuit. I have
14 never been an activist of any kind, if as
15 I became involved I discovered that the
16 proposed location is right on top of a
17 shallow water aquifer described as less
18 than 50 feet. That aquifer is the one
19 that Jake Wood's well and Dorothy
20 Whitaker's well draws from that we spoke
21 of earlier. Jake Wood's well is only
22 16 feet deep and water level is only
23 7 feet from the ground surface. Dorothy
24 Whitaker's well is deeper at 22 feet, but

1 yet the water is only 8 feet from the
2 ground surface. This tells us that the
3 aquifer is very likely that deep.

4 Any surface or knifed in application
5 of manure nearby is going to go right into
6 that same aquifer that these wells draw
7 from.

8 Also the lay of the land in the
9 proposed site and surrounding property all
10 drains towards the LaMoine River.

11 You can say that PSM has plans to
12 construct what was referred to as a secure
13 holding tank, yet they have spills and the
14 concrete joints are only sealed by rubber
15 which will deteriorate, especially exposed
16 to liquid manure.

17 PSM will make claims that they are
18 environmentally friendly, and that their
19 intention, but their records proves that
20 not to be true.

21 PSM is the defendant in a lawsuit
22 not so much for odor but for their sloppy
23 waste management practices. There are
24 nine facilities run by PSM that are

1 listed in the suit. The suit was not
2 levied by some wacko activists but by the
3 Attorney General of Illinois.

4 Along with this letter are copies of
5 the suit. I have included them in
6 packets that I gave out to the Board
7 members.

8 When they have an accident, and I do
9 mean when, the spill will soak into the
10 aquifer and/or drain into the LaMoine
11 River via the LaMoine Creek.

12 I wanted to ask who is going to pay
13 for the cleanup when the EPA discovers
14 spills? It is very costly. And PSM may
15 declare they don't have the money. It
16 will be you members of the Board
17 struggling to come up with taxpayer
18 money.

19 And then I want you to look at the
20 statements that PSM recently made in
21 Rushville. And I have a document
22 attached to that where they make a claim
23 if they had that sort of thing because of
24 a conflict of their insurance company it

1 would put them out of business. PSM
2 additionally would like a tax abatement.
3 Therefore that \$100,000 in revenue would
4 be much less much. Is it worth the risk
5 of having to pay for environmental
6 cleanup that will surely be into the
7 million of dollars?

8 There are longtime residents of this
9 county that will be severely affected by
10 the proposal. Are you going to sacrifice
11 them for short-term gain with long-term
12 negative liabilities?

13 Are you really willing to turn
14 Hancock County into the hog confinement
15 capital of the country?

16 Will you move into the area?

17 Who will move into the area? How
18 many will leave? And all because of the
19 idea of getting a little bit of money.

20 We talked a little bit about
21 property values. And I would like to
22 address that marketability is one thing
23 we need to discuss. Because the property
24 might be worth something but who is going

1 to buy it if the marketability is low?

2 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Are
3 there questions for this witness?

4 I see none. Thank you.

5 Next up is Pam Bundy.

6 MS. BUNDY: Pam Bundy,
7 B-U-N-D-Y.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

10 MS. BUNDY: My letter is mainly
11 forwarded to the Hancock County Board as
12 well.

13 We have been trying to gather
14 information on this proposed site such as
15 waste management plans, engineering plans
16 and nutrition plans. This is vital
17 information that needs to be shared with
18 the neighbors of this site and the County
19 Board.

20 The Board must make their decision
21 based on whether or not Junction Acres has
22 met the eight siting criteria.

23 Without this information, it will be
24 impossible to make an educated decision

1 about how PSM will minimize the likelihood
2 of any environmental damage to the
3 surrounding area from spills, runoff and
4 leaching as requested in criteria number
5 five.

6 We are being told that PSM has a
7 wonderful reputation and that we should
8 trust their judgment, that this is going
9 to be wonderful for the county and that
10 they will bring much needed revenue in as
11 well.

12 That is an easy statement to make
13 when you are not living close to one of
14 these facilities.

15 If you are putting all of your trust
16 in PSM and only considering money, you
17 need to take your blinders off and see the
18 big picture.

19 That picture includes the fact that
20 Attorney General Lisa Madigan has filed a
21 complaint against PSM to the Illinois
22 Pollution Control Board referencing
23 numerous violations at nine of their
24 facilities.

1 This does not indicate to me that
2 they are very trustworthy. Instead it
3 proves that accidents can happen, spills
4 do occur and residents close to these
5 facilities and the taxpayers end up paying
6 the consequences.

7 The Board must also realize that a
8 CAFO friendly rural community can soon
9 find itself unattractive to other economic
10 development opportunities.

11 The decision to rely on CAFOs as a
12 primary path towards economic development
13 may be difficult for a community to
14 reverse in the future.

15 Revenues from the facilities may be
16 tempting in the beginning but over years
17 may end up costing more due to road
18 deterioration, health hazards and decline
19 in population due to limited job
20 diversity.

21 This county, specifically the 4-mile
22 radius of Junction Acres, is saturated
23 with hog confinements. The toll on the
24 environment is inevitable, especially if

1 Junction Acres is allowed to be built.

2 More regulations are needed, and we
3 are in the beginning stages, such as when
4 antismoking laws came into effect. Don't
5 let our county end up like so many others
6 you read about.

7 Take the blinders off and see the big
8 picture and you will find that Junction
9 Acres has not submitted the vital
10 information needed to fulfill the eight
11 criteria.

12 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
13 you. Questions?

14 Mr. Anderson?

15 MR. ANDERSON: Would you
16 require all of your farmer neighbors to
17 provide you a nutrient management plan
18 when they spread fertilizer commercially?

19 MS. BUNDY: Probably not
20 necessarily.

21 MR. ANDERSON: There is a
22 difference?

23 MS. BUNDY: I think due to the
24 size of this facility that is what

1 concerns me most.

2 MR. ANDERSON: Do you own
3 livestock?

4 MS. BUNDY: A little bit.

5 MR. ANDERSON: Do you provide a
6 plan to your neighbors?

7 MS. BUNDY: No. But like I
8 said in answer to the first question it
9 was due to the size of this facility. We
10 have like four cows.

11 MR. ANDERSON: And your
12 neighbors know where you apply manure?

13 MS. BUNDY: They know where my
14 livestock is.

15 MR. ANDERSON: Do you --

16 MS. BUNDY: I have four cows
17 and five horses.

18 MR. ANDERSON: Would you be in
19 favor of your commercial farmer using
20 commercial fertilizing to provide you
21 that information, their nutrient
22 management plan when they put fertilizer
23 out on their property? Do you want those
24 neighbors to report to you?

1 MS. BUNDY: Being neighborly
2 with a facility this size --

3 MR. ANDERSON: I am talking the
4 other neighbors that apply commercial
5 fertilizer at the same rate.

6 MS. BUNDY: Commercial
7 fertilizer as in non-manure type
8 fertilizer?

9 MR. ANDERSON: Nitrogen --

10 MS. BUNDY: No, it won't bother
11 me because it wouldn't affect me like the
12 odor and that sort of thing.

13 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any
14 other questions?

15 MR. MAIERS: You had mentioned
16 there is too many hogs in the area. In
17 your opinion then what should the
18 distance be and how do you determine how
19 many -- what would you say then is the
20 right amount? How would you determine
21 that and what would you base that on?

22 MS. BUNDY: Well, I think the
23 quarter mile setback is extremely close.
24 I think I would like to see it at least

1 be a mile and a half to 2 miles due to
2 the -- a lot of the things that we have
3 discussed tonight.

4 MR. MAIERS: Between farms
5 or --

6 MS. BUNDY: As far as a setback
7 area.

8 MR. MAIERS: You mentioned too
9 many farms in the 4-mile radius. Are you
10 saying there should be 2 miles from each
11 farm?

12 MS. BUNDY: No. Talking about
13 the setback area from the proposed
14 buildings to residence.

15 MR. MAIERS: Should be 2 miles?

16 MS. BUNDY: Yes, based on my
17 personal opinion.

18 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Can you
19 state your name, please?

20 MS. JOHNSON: Melissa Johnson,
21 J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

22 You speak of facilities such as this
23 defer from economic development in your
24 area.

1 What other kinds of economic
2 development aside from agriculture do you
3 feel would be possible in the LaCrosse
4 area?

5 MS. BUNDY: Not only in the
6 LaCrosse area, could refer also to the
7 county, but in LaCrosse as well we --
8 there is obviously people who lease their
9 land for deer hunters, which they have
10 voiced that concern tonight. And that
11 would be on a case by case basis if
12 Junction Acres is built whether it is
13 affected or not. We don't know that, I
14 guess.

15 We have heard pros and cons to both
16 sides. I know there is a lot of people in
17 the area that lease their ground to deer
18 hunters. As far as the County, you know,
19 we have got, you know, a lot of recreation
20 and that sort of thing. Like people trail
21 ride. We get a lot of these facilities
22 and you have got to deal with the odor.

23 I ride my horse one day to the south
24 of me and, you know, I turned around and

1 came back because it was kind of bad, you
2 know. But that was just me.

3 We do have a lot of people come in
4 with -- you know, actually thousands of
5 people that come to Carthage throughout
6 the summer from the west that tour Nauvoo
7 and other facilities here. You have to
8 wonder if that would be affected. You
9 know, there are -- it just depends on how
10 many more facilities are being proposed, I
11 guess.

12 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any
13 other questions?

14 Yes, sir.

15 MR. BLEVINS: Chris Blevins,
16 B-L-E-V-I-N-S. My question is in regards
17 to Nick's. I just want to know, so you
18 do not believe that commercial fertilizer
19 can contaminate your groundwater?

20 MS. BUNDY: I believe it can.
21 I definitely believe it can. It is just
22 not as noticeable because there is -- the
23 odor isn't there.

24 MR. BLEVINS: So if it is not

1 noticeable it doesn't matter if it
2 contaminates your water or not,
3 groundwater?

4 MS. BUNDY: No, it matters, but
5 that is another whole issue when you are
6 talking about commercial fertilizer.
7 That would be another whole hearing.

8 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any
9 other questions?

10 Yes, sir.

11 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Dan
12 Moorehouse, M-O-O-R-E-H-O-U-S-E.

13 I was wondering, you know, you have a
14 lot of criticism here about your viewpoint
15 from several people in the audience. Do
16 you concern, you know, your livelihood --
17 what is your concern? Why are you here?
18 Please tell us your story.

19 MS. BUNDY: Well, I am going to
20 be approximately a mile and a half from
21 this area. Just especially when you drew
22 the map of the 4-mile radius, I was very
23 shocked because it includes close to 450,
24 500 people, because that includes

1 Burnside.

2 Like I said, if Junction Acres gets
3 built, there will be seven confinements, I
4 said, they are various sizes within that
5 4-mile radius. I have a lot of concerns
6 when it comes to distribution of the odor.
7 That is a lot of manure to get knifed in
8 that area in relationship to all of the
9 confinements there are there.

10 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any
11 other questions?

12

13 MS. TWADELE: Laura Twadele,
14 T-W-A-D-E-L-E.

15 Pam, why did you build your house
16 there?

17 To be out in the country?

18 Was it for economic development of
19 LaCrosse area?

20 No, it was to build a nice private
21 place.

22 MS. BUNDY: Yes.

23 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Further
24 questions?

1 Thank you very much.

2 Next on the list is Stacie James.

3 MS. JAMES: I will pass.

4 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Miss

5 James passes.

6 Next is Daniel Diamond.

7 Pass.

8 Next is Linda Whitaker.

9 MS. WHITAKER: My name is Linda
10 Whitaker.

11 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

14 MS. WHITAKER: I am reading
15 this for my mother. My mother is Dorothy
16 Whitaker. Okay. Here is what she has to
17 say.

18 I received Notice of Intent from
19 Frank and West Engineers on behalf of
20 Junction Acres Swine, LLC, Professional
21 Swine Management, to construct a hog
22 factory 2,030 feet from my front yard and
23 home and to store their sewage in a pit in
24 the ground.

1 We have a good spring fed well that
2 others get their drinking water from. It
3 is 30 feet deep, has 22 feet of water in
4 it year round. The water is always
5 plentiful and good even during severe
6 droughts. And I can contest to that
7 because I have drank it lots. One day
8 shortly after the ground was purchased I
9 saw a field across east of my house no
10 less -- they were at the same time also
11 transferring hog waste from semi trailer
12 after semi trailer to the tractor tanks,
13 spilling a tremendous amount of waste on
14 the edge of the road and road surface in
15 front of Jake Woods.

16 This careless act happened several
17 days and 60 feet from Jake Woods.

18 My son-in-law also witnessed this
19 happening as he was there replacing my
20 roof at that time.

21 This is all on the land adjoined
22 by -- the same property where they intend
23 to house nearly 18,000 hogs.

24 Also I understand the structure is

1 supposed to be a quarter of a mile away
2 from a residence. This is too close.
3 This may damage my well and ruin the air I
4 breathe. When they show this kind of
5 disregard for ordinances it gives more
6 discard for the law. What else would they
7 try to get away with?

8 This area is saturated with hog
9 factories.

10 I have lived at my current location
11 since 1960. My children want to enjoy
12 this property for fishing, hunting and
13 farming. It is up to our elected
14 officials to act in our behalf and protect
15 our property and health.

16 When I looked out my door this
17 evening I got a good whiff of my good
18 neighbor, Wildcat, more than 2 miles away.

19 She got some of her information from
20 Rebecca Harness, Illinois Department of
21 Agriculture Bureau of Environment.

22 Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any
24 questions for this witness?

1 I see none. Thank you.

2 MS. JAMES: I have a question.

3 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Sorry.

4 MS. JAMES: Stacie James,

5 J-A-M-E-S.

6 My question is did your mother report
7 this alleged illegal waste application to
8 the Department of Agriculture or the
9 Illinois EPA?

10 MS. WHITAKER: I don't believe
11 she did.

12 MR. HUNERDOSSE: I am the
13 son-in-law. Since she is reading for
14 Dorothy --

15 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Are you
16 her husband?

17 MR. HUNERSDOSSE: Husband and
18 wife.

19 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: State
20 your name.

21 MR. HUNERSDOSSE: Ken
22 Hunersdosse, H-U-N-E-R-S-D-O-S-S-E. I
23 swear this is true. Okay.

24 Dorothy didn't know where to report

1 it, and truthfully neither did I. Both of
2 us were appalled when we saw it because it
3 is going so close to the wells, but we
4 didn't know where to report it or who to
5 report it to or anything like that. So we
6 were just ignorant what could be done.

7 MS. JAMES: Is there any photo
8 documentation?

9 MR. HUNERSDOSSE: I wish I
10 could have, but all I said is we were
11 appalled and didn't know where to report.
12 We also figured if we did report, what
13 good would it do?

14 MS. JAMES: Well, the Illinois
15 Environmental Protection Act as well
16 as -- I am probably supposed to be asking
17 a question.

18 May I ask a question of the
19 Department?

20 In the instance that you hear about
21 something like this do you act upon it?

22 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: It is
23 time for questions for these witnesses
24 and --

1 MR. GOETSCH: I would like to
2 talk to you afterwards.

3 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: We will
4 get some information from you.

5 Any other questions?

6 Thank you.

7 Next up is Wayne Humphrey.

8 MR. HUMPHREY: Wayne Humphrey,
9 H-U-M-P-H-R-E-Y.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

12 MR. HUMPHREY: My name is Wayne
13 Humphrey. I am addressing the Hancock
14 County Board. My wife and I own 80 acres
15 on the east side of the road within just
16 a few hundred feet of this proposed hog
17 confinement. My great grandfather bought
18 this farm in 1869. This farm has been in
19 my family continuously for 143 years.

20 In January 2005 my wife and I became
21 owners of this farm, and we have every
22 intention of passing it on to our children
23 and grandchildren.

24 In many ways this farm seems like

1 more than a farm to us. In the spring we
2 go there to look for mushrooms and deer
3 antlers and wild flowers. In the summer
4 we go there to bale hay and eat
5 blackberries. We hunt for artifacts and
6 fossils. Maybe some day my great
7 grandfather's buried treasure. We love to
8 bird watch there. One year I found the
9 woodpeckers nest in the willow tree by the
10 creek. I had been following them for two
11 weeks. I would catch a glimpse of them
12 and hear them, and I finally found their
13 nest. I could have sat there forever and
14 watched them. In the fall we go there to
15 eat persimmons and pick up walnuts and
16 acorns. The center piece of my daughter's
17 wedding was a small oak tree that had
18 sprouted from the burrow east of the barn
19 that takes four of us to reach around.

20 In the winter we go there to cut
21 brush or cut firewood, just to walk in the
22 snow and enjoy the quiet and the fresh
23 air.

24 Sometimes I forget that our place is

1 a farm. It kind of seems like a
2 playground to me.

3 My friends hunt deer in my timber
4 every fall. Several trophy deer have been
5 taken off of my farm. My friends have
6 told me that they do not look forward to
7 sitting in deer stands all day with the
8 smell. No fence that I can put up will
9 prevent the stink from this stink factory
10 from trespassing on my property.

11 I am asking the Hancock County Board
12 and the Department of Agriculture to
13 protect my right to enjoy my property. I
14 was here first.

15 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
16 you.

17 Are there questions for this witness?
18 I see none.

19 I am not sure about your statement
20 enjoying persimmons.

21 MR. HUMPHREY: Yes, they are
22 nicer this year.

23 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
24 you. Next up is Bill Crabill.

1 MR. HUMPHREY: I am Bill
2 Crabill, C-R-A-B-I-L-L.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

5 MR. CRABILL: Some months ago
6 we had this with the County Board for
7 wind farm but it blew down. Now we
8 have a hog farm. And I am not for it.
9 Period.

10 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
11 you.

12 Are there questions for this witness?

13 I see none.

14 Thank you.

15 Next we have Gary Donley.

16 MR. DONLEY: My name is Gary
17 Donley, D-O-N-L-E-Y.

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

20 MR. DONLEY: I would like to
21 make a few comments about something that
22 does have a fair amount of
23 misunderstanding. That some of that
24 misunderstanding has been voiced here

1 this evening. That being some of the tax
2 attributes, the tax implications that are
3 associated with Junction Acres.

4 The figures that Dr. Hollis presented
5 up there were done on an old broken down
6 calculator that I have on my desk that
7 nobody will take, but I truly believe they
8 are 100 percent accurate and they do
9 represent the value that I anticipate and
10 will calculate would be assessed Junction
11 Acres if it is built as designed without
12 regard to any abatement, any tax treatment
13 that is available.

14 All of those are taken into account
15 to the maximum extent they are available
16 and the result was \$112,000.

17 My quick notes are \$66,000 to the
18 local school districts, \$17,000 to the
19 local township, and the rest of that money
20 divided among the other taxing districts
21 that are a part of that area of Hancock
22 County.

23 Beyond that, the 18 people that work
24 at Junction Acres or would be employed,

1 they are tax paying members of the
2 community, they have Social Security tax,
3 they have income tax, they go to the local
4 stores and spend sales -- spend their
5 money. Their sales tax goes to the state,
6 local and county coffers. And so I wanted
7 to point out a few of the things
8 associated with some of the tax attributes
9 based on Junction Acres being built.

10 One of the questions earlier, one of
11 the observations is how are those
12 buildings taxed? The tax on these are the
13 same as any other farm building.

14 The assessment -- we would expect
15 them to be treated equally and equitably
16 to any other facility built in Hancock
17 County, be it the neighbor's house,
18 somebody's grain bin, another person's
19 machine shed or one of the four or greater
20 hog farms in that 4-mile circle that has
21 been referred to.

22 So we expect no special treatment and
23 would expect none.

24 But the \$112,000 is the real number.

1 That is -- that would be based on the
2 dimensions and the assessments within the
3 county for buildings of this type.

4 MR. GOETSCH: Just one quick
5 question, because it has been said two or
6 three different times different ways.
7 Your number includes taking a benefit for
8 tax abatement on pollution control
9 structures. So your number considers
10 that you would get a relief, if you will,
11 from IEPA for the manure storage
12 structure portion of the facility, is
13 that correct?

14 MR. DONLEY: Mr. Goetsch, let
15 me answer the question in this fashion.
16 The value and the assessment of the tax
17 would be assuming that there is no
18 assessment on the pollution control
19 facility, which would be consistent with
20 how buildings are assessed within Hancock
21 County today with or without an appeal
22 for an assessment reduction or the
23 assessment being moved to the Illinois
24 EPA jurisdiction and away from Hancock

1 County. So yes, there is no assessment
2 in there for the pollution control
3 facility. That abatement or that
4 adjustment is taken into account.

5 MR. GOETSCH: That's what I
6 wanted. Thank you.

7 MR. DONLEY: I hope I have
8 answered it absolutely and distinctly
9 but -- because that is the answer.

10 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
11 questions?

12

13 MS. MARKEY: Angela Markey,
14 M-A-R-K-E-Y.

15 Did you say \$7,000 of that money will
16 go to the township, of that tax money?

17 MR. DONLEY: \$17,000.

18 MS. MARKEY: \$17,000?

19 MR. DONLEY: Right.

20 MS. MARKEY: Do you feel that
21 will be a sufficient amount of money
22 to -- for repairs for road damage?

23 MR. DONLEY: This amount of tax
24 is the tax that is based on the

1 assessment and based on the tax rate for
2 this property. Whether it's enough money
3 to provide for every road commissioner's
4 wish or whether it provides for new
5 computers in LaHarp Elementary School
6 District or Illini West School District
7 is not for me to decide how that money --
8 if that money is enough to do the things
9 that the community wants it to do. But
10 these are similar to other assessments,
11 other taxes. And as has been previously
12 stated tonight, we worked with local
13 taxing, local road commissioners on
14 issues and sites and locations for
15 distances traveled somewhat to what would
16 be involved with a Junction Acres site.

17 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
18 questions? In the back.

19
20 MS. TWADELE: Laura Twadele.
21 Sorry, I could not hear when you were
22 replying to the Department of Agriculture
23 about what the tax abatement, the air
24 pollution abatement, did you say that was

1 figured into there?

2 MR. DONLEY: Yes.

3 MS. TWADELE: What percentage
4 rate did you use to figure that
5 abatement?

6 MR. DONLEY: Well, let me --
7 this is where I am afraid I am going to
8 hopefully not confuse you but I am afraid
9 that it might.

10 Let's start with the process in the
11 simplest form.

12 A building with dimensions that
13 Mr. West laid out, whatever that square
14 footage is, the assessor applies a tax
15 rate to that square footage. That tax
16 rate is indicative of a building above the
17 manure storage and pollution control
18 facility. So to say what percentage it
19 isn't, I find is a bit of an erroneous
20 question. I can only speak to what it is.
21 And it is the assessment for the square
22 footage based on the same assessment per
23 square foot that any other building would
24 be associated with that has similar

1 construction methods.

2 MS. TWADELE: What's the
3 difference then between the before tax
4 abatement and after the tax abatement
5 then?

6 MR. DONLEY: That tax abatement
7 can in its purest sense, can be quite
8 wide ranging. It might be 40 percent, it
9 might be 50 percent. But again, it's the
10 assessment and the tax that was -- that
11 has been illustrated earlier today is the
12 tax on the building as it is. Not on
13 what it isn't but on what it is.

14 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
15 questions?

16 MR. MARKEY: Bob Markey.

17 Am I correct or incorrect that PSM
18 after this facility is built, if it is,
19 after can they start filing for some act
20 to get their taxes reduced like they did
21 the one north of that one that is built
22 now on Wildcat?

23 Am I speaking right here?

24 MR. DONLEY: I am not sure

1 what --

2 MR. MARKEY: The question is,
3 after the site is built, you have your
4 taxes up here, or wherever they are at,
5 and in a two year period can they apply
6 for a tax abatement?

7 MR. DONLEY: No. They can
8 apply for a tax abatement that does not
9 lower the amount of tax that we have
10 discussed this evening.

11 MS. BUNDY: Pam Bundy,
12 B-U-N-D-Y. With your figure there, I
13 think I understand -- you are saying the
14 figure you gave is like a net figure,
15 correct?

16 MR. DONLEY: Correct.

17 MS. BUNDY: Okay. So what was
18 the difference between your gross figure
19 and the net figure?

20 In your example there that you were
21 using to get your -- I am trying to see
22 where you got your figure there.

23 MR. DONLEY: Thank you. Let me
24 explain hopefully one more time how I got

1 my figure.

2 The square footage of the building --

3 MS. BUNDY: What did that
4 total? I mean just your total figure. I
5 can figure out the square footage of the
6 building.

7 MR. DONLEY: Let me answer the
8 question.

9 The square footage of the facility
10 times the rate that the County Assessor
11 applies to that type of a building. It
12 might be \$18 a square foot, it might be
13 \$15 a square foot for the gestation barn,
14 farrowing -- multiply those dollars times
15 the square foot, \$112,000.

16 MS. BUNDY: Okay. That would
17 be the gross. What -- you said, you told
18 the Board there that the figure, the
19 \$112,000 included the abatement.

20 I guess I thought that was after you
21 had taken something off for a possible
22 abatement. I guess that's how it came
23 across to me.

24 So you are saying 112,000 is before

1 any abatement that may be applied?

2 MR. DONLEY: One more time.
3 The square footage times the assessment
4 is \$112,000.

5 MS. BUNDY: Okay.

6 MR. DONLEY: The abatement is
7 beyond that and is not a part of the
8 \$112,000.

9 MS. BUNDY: Got you.

10 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Dr.
11 Hollis, do you have some clarification?

12 MR. HOLLIS: No, I have a
13 question.

14 You anticipated the \$112,000 to be
15 reduced by the pollution allowance that
16 has to do with underground pit storage of
17 manure? You believe that \$112,000 will be
18 reduced by that? Is that what that is
19 about?

20 MR. DONLEY: No, it will not be
21 reduced.

22 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you.

23 MR. HUNERSDOSSE: Ken
24 Hunersdosse, H-U-N-E-R-S-D-O-S-S-E.

1 Are there any other abatements that
2 you can apply for?

3 MR. DONLEY: There are a number
4 of real estate tax preferential treatment
5 that local people can apply for. There
6 are none other that I am familiar with
7 that Junction Acres would qualify for as
8 it is designed.

9 MR. HUNERSDOSSE: I would like
10 to make a statement because I do some
11 taxes, and for clarification I think
12 people need to understand that abatement
13 reduces the assessed value of the
14 property. So people get confused that
15 that sometimes lowers the tax. Because
16 it doesn't really lower the tax, it
17 lowers the value of the property.

18 Am I correct in saying that? I am
19 asking you or him either one. I would
20 like that clarified for the record.

21 MR. DONLEY: Well, when an
22 assessment is reduced, ultimately that
23 can lead to a lower tax bill for that
24 particular individual.

1 MR. HUNERSDOSSE: But an
2 abatement is the tool used to reduce --
3 applying for the abatement reduces the
4 value of the property that is used to
5 figure the tax, is that correct?

6 MR. DONLEY: I think that is
7 probably a generally accepted description
8 of that, yes.

9 MR. HUNERSDOSSE: Okay. For
10 simple terms for people to understand is
11 what I was after.

12 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: If the
13 assessed valuation is reduced and the tax
14 rate is not changed then the tax paid
15 will be less?

16 MR. DONLEY: (Indicating.)

17 MS. BUNDY: Pam Bundy,
18 B-U-N-D-Y.

19 You had mentioned that you had talked
20 to the road commissioners. Which
21 townships' road commissioners did you talk
22 to?

23 MR. DONLEY: We have talked to
24 multiple.

1 MS. BUNDY: Of which, do you
2 know which townships?

3 MR. DONLEY: There are several
4 within the area that we work with in
5 multiple counties.

6 MS. BUNDY: You didn't talk to
7 the local, Durham, Fountain Green or
8 Pilot Grove road commissioners or
9 supervisors or road commissioners or
10 anything?

11 MR. DONLEY: I have not
12 personally. Though I don't know that
13 that would be universally -- I think
14 there are people within our group who
15 have talked with those individuals. I
16 have not personally.

17 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Yes, in
18 the back.

19 MS. SPIEKERMEIER: Beth
20 Spiekermeier, S-P-I-E-K-E-R-M-E-I-E-R.

21 I am actually the logistics
22 coordinator for the company so I am the
23 one that actually ends up talking to the
24 road commissioners. So if we have any

1 concerns or issues, they are more than
2 welcome to call us in the office. Any
3 concerns of road commissioners, truckers
4 driving where they are not supposed to,
5 they are more than welcome to call us.

6 MS. BUNDY: Would that
7 information be available to the --

8 MS. SPIEKERMEIER: I can give
9 you a phone number to call.

10 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
11 questions?

12 MS. MOORE: Karen Moore,
13 M-O-O-R-E.

14 I was the one that asked the question
15 about whether it would be taxed for
16 commercial or agriculture.

17 Are you aware in McDonough County
18 they are taxed commercially?

19 MR. DONLEY: No, I am not.

20 MS. MOORE: I spoke to the
21 Assessor's office at McDonough County
22 courthouse and that's what I was told.
23 So therefore, how does that -- are you
24 familiar with how that comes about? Do

1 the township, is that correct? I didn't
2 quite hear it.

3 MR. DONLEY: Yes.

4 MR. EVANS: How is that
5 divided, sir, between the township
6 general fund and township road fund?

7 MR. DONLEY: My notes would
8 indicate the road and bridge fund just a
9 little over \$9,000 and the township
10 general coffers \$8,100.

11 MR. EVANS: Did you also do the
12 worksheet for --

13 MR. DONLEY: Yes.

14 MR. EVANS: Could you explain
15 why the difference is so great from
16 roughly \$90,000 in tax to roughly --

17 MR. DONLEY: Yes, I sure can.
18 It is -- the bottom line here -- and bear
19 with me because I have got the
20 information in front of me.

21 When we add up from the county to the
22 school districts, community college on
23 down the line, the tax rate for this
24 property and Pilot Grove Township is

1 9.8989 percent. In McDonough County it is
2 20 percent less than that. It was a
3 little over 8 percent. You can tell the
4 local politicians. That may or may not
5 mean something, but that is the
6 difference.

7 MR. EVANS: As a Hancock County
8 resident I heard for years our taxes are
9 too low and McDonough is too high.
10 That's why I wanted to say it.

11 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
12 you very much. Next up we have Lee
13 something.

14 MR. WARD: My name is Lee Ward.
15 (Witness sworn.)

16 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

17 MR. WARD: I like bacon. I
18 like sausage and ham, and I really like a
19 good pork chop cooked on the grill with
20 custom pork seasoning from Owego,
21 Illinois or Riley's Award Winning
22 Seasoning. And that is a farm tradition
23 since 1974 from Pittsfield, Illinois.

24 Yes, I know my seasoning is an

1 Illinois product. I like to support
2 Illinois products.

3 I support production agriculture.
4 Production, that's the act of producing
5 something. Producing a product. In this
6 case the product is pork.

7 It is also the creation of value by
8 producing products and services. That
9 means jobs, payroll, taxes.

10 Contrary to popular belief, the
11 government does not create jobs, you do.

12 When you buy that bacon, somebody has
13 to grow the corn to feed the pig, raise
14 the pig, process the pig and bring your
15 bacon to the store.

16 I stood up in a meeting very much
17 like this in 2003. Must have been a more
18 important meeting, we had it at the
19 courthouse. And I stood up to support
20 Western Creek Farms which is west of
21 LaHarp.

22 This farm was operated by my daughter
23 and son-in-law. My grandchildren help
24 take care of the pigs on that farm. You

1 saw their pictures up on the screen
2 earlier.

3 I support production agriculture
4 because I like bacon.

5 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Are
6 there questions for this witness?

7 MR. MARKEY: I wanted to tell
8 you I love pork chops, but I have a
9 question for you. Would you want to live
10 a quarter of a mile from one?

11 MR. WARD: When my daughter and
12 son-in-law first built that farm they
13 lived less than a quarter of a mile from
14 it and I visited their home many times
15 there.

16 MR. MARKEY: I do not.

17 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
18 questions?

19 MR. HUNERSDOSSE: Ken
20 Hunersdosse.

21 My question here is first of all it
22 seems a little bit odd that in the
23 beginning we have heard roughly about an
24 hour and a half worth of PSM giving us

1 their pitch, and now when there is -- it
2 is time for open statements, do you think
3 it is fair you as a representative
4 basically of PSM -- and we have had so
5 many PSM people, or beginning to have so
6 many PSM people speak now -- do you think
7 it is fair to the rest of us to be taking
8 the time that -- to express our views?

9 MR. WARD: I guess you are
10 putting me on the spot a little bit, but
11 I do believe this is a public hearing.

12 MR. MARKEY: I understand, but
13 I am talking about fairness.

14 MR. WARD: That allows for
15 anybody that wants to come in and sign a
16 paper and abide by the rules of a public
17 hearing they should get their time.

18 MR. MARKEY: I understand the
19 rules. My question was do you think it
20 is fair?

21 MR. WARD: I guess I am not
22 qualified to answer that question.

23 MR. MARKEY: It is your
24 opinion I am asking so you should be

1 qualified to give your opinion.

2 MR. WARD: You are asking my
3 opinion, then yes, I think it is fair.

4 MR. MARKEY: Thank you. On
5 that building you were talking about,
6 what size are they compared to the ones
7 that are going to be proposed here? I
8 mean compare it.

9 MR. WARD: Western Creek Farms
10 is a lot smaller operation. I guess I
11 don't know the exact -- we have already
12 been through all of the numbers. We are
13 probably not going to go through all of
14 that again. But your point is it is a
15 smaller operation and I will concede that
16 point.

17 MR. MARKEY: By a fourth?
18 Would you say 25 percent?

19 MR. WARD: Yeah, I can't argue
20 with that. It is a different type of
21 operation. It is a sow farm, you know,
22 versus a wean to finish operation. So
23 they are not really 100 percent
24 comparable, but I will concede to your

1 25 percent number.

2 MR. MARKEY: Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Dr.
4 Hollis?

5 MR. HOLLIS: Sorry, I have to
6 ask a question.

7 Would it be accurate to say it is a
8 4,800 head site, and those 4,800 head
9 would be greater than 55 pounds, and so we
10 are talking four-tenths of an animal unit,
11 so it is more like about 2,000 animal
12 units and 3,500 animal units? So maybe --
13 would that sound accurate?

14 MR. WARD: Yes. I agree with
15 your statement also, Dr. Hollis.

16 Part of the reason that I just wanted
17 to talk about the fact that I like bacon
18 is because I didn't want to get into a big
19 debate on numbers.

20 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you.

21 MR. WARD: We have already
22 covered that tonight.

23 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
24 questions?

1 I see none. Thank you. Next we have
2 Joe Zumwalt.

3 MR. ZUMWALT: Joe Zumwalt,
4 Z-U-M-W-A-L-T.

5 (Witness sworn.)

6 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

7 MR. ZUMWALT: Thank you and
8 good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I am
9 Joe Zumwalt, President of the Hancock
10 County Farm Bureau, and I would like to
11 thank you, Dr. Hollis, Mr. West, and the
12 Department of Agriculture for the
13 opportunity to speak before you tonight.
14 I am here this evening to speak on behalf
15 and in support of the expansion of the
16 livestock industry here in Hancock County
17 as well as in western Illinois.

18 For the past few years Hancock County
19 Farm Bureau board has made the expansion
20 of and the defense of animal agriculture
21 one of its top priorities.

22 We believe that it is vitally
23 important that the livestock industry
24 continue to grow and prosper here in

1 Hancock County.

2 We understand that there are some
3 people in the room and groups inside and
4 outside of the industry that are
5 uncomfortable with how hogs are produced
6 today, but we are quick to make a stand
7 with this simple thought. We in
8 production agriculture have never and will
9 never lose sight of the values that have
10 faithfully guided Illinois farmers to
11 produce a safe product, provide quality
12 animal care and to protect our air, land
13 and water.

14 I would like to make note of two
15 topics of conversation we have hit on
16 rather extensively. Since the adoption of
17 the LMFA in 1996 this legislation has
18 provided a sound set of guidelines and
19 requirements for the design, construction
20 and operation of existing and new
21 livestock facilities. Livestock producers
22 around the state go to great measure to
23 comply with the requirements of this act.
24 That is why it also includes a strict set

1 of guidelines and criteria in regards to
2 siting new livestock facilities, as we
3 have discussed this evening.

4 We as a county Farm Bureau Board urge
5 the Department of Agriculture, the County
6 and the County Board to continue to adhere
7 to the rules and regulations brought forth
8 by the LMFA.

9 The other topic of conversation I
10 find interesting is if you look at some
11 statistics about Hancock County, our
12 population is just over 19,000. Our total
13 area is 794 square miles, which means
14 there are only 24 people per square mile
15 in Hancock County. A statewide average is
16 231. Our unemployment in Hancock County
17 is 9 percent. Given these figures, I
18 believe that there is perhaps no better
19 place in the state for the expansion of
20 livestock operations. By these statistics
21 it seems to me that Hancock County is an
22 ideal location for animal agriculture so
23 long as the expansion takes place in
24 accordance with the rules, regulations and

1 requirements set forth in the LMFA.

2 Another priority of the Hancock
3 County Farm Bureau Board has been that of
4 economic development. And we want to tout
5 a little bit the economic benefits added
6 livestock facilities will have. As Mr.
7 Donley said, namely in tax dollars, but
8 also jobs and things with our families.
9 We as a County Farm Bureau Board are fully
10 aware of the complexities involved in the
11 new and existing livestock facilities. We
12 understand and are compassionate to the
13 concerns surrounding neighbors and
14 communities and want to take their issues
15 into account. We are a part of the
16 community as well.

17 We also urge the Department of
18 Agriculture to give little credit or
19 weight to the words and testimony given by
20 those who seem to be professional
21 naysayers and objectionists to the
22 American Livestock Industry. Their
23 comments and arguments are often based
24 upon unscientific data rather than facts.

1 Please don't confuse this group with
2 several of the concerned neighbors in the
3 room.

4 The Hancock County Farm Bureau Board,
5 and I as President, speak here tonight in
6 strong support of the expansion of the
7 livestock industry throughout Illinois.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to
9 speak with you.

10 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
11 you. Are there questions for this
12 witness?

13 MS. BUNDY: Have you ever
14 shopped at Wal-Mart?

15 MR. ZUMWALT: Yes.

16 MS. BUNDY: Did you ever shop
17 at Royalty?

18 MR. ZUMWALT: Yes.

19 MS. BUNDY: How many times did
20 you go into Royalty versus Wal-Mart?

21 MR. ZUMWALT: Well, I don't go
22 into Wal-Mart very often, but obviously I
23 have gone to Wal-Mart more than Royalty,
24 but not very often.

1 MS. BUNDY: I was just curious.

2 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Right
3 in front of you.

4 MRS. MARKEY: I wanted to
5 clarify what you said. Your statement we
6 are uncomfortable with how hogs are
7 produced. We are not uncomfortable with
8 how they are produced. We are
9 uncomfortable to how close this facility
10 is to our homes.

11 MR. ZUMWALT: I wanted --

12 MRS. MARKEY: I wanted to
13 clarify that.

14 MR. ZUMWALT: On several
15 ways -- I wouldn't want to mistake what
16 you are saying with that. My statement
17 was obviously not directed to you. Like
18 I said with the other comment, I
19 understand your concerns as neighbors and
20 part of the community. Everyone on the
21 Farm Bureau Board is part of the
22 community. We raise hogs. We are part
23 of the community. But we have to promote
24 agriculture as much as possible, and when

1 I represent members of the County Farm
2 Bureau, that's what I have to do.

3 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Yes.

4 MR. MARKEY: It would really be
5 nice --

6 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Do you
7 have a question?

8 MR. MARKEY: Yes. How many
9 people, PMS managers or owners -- PSM
10 managers, how many of those people live
11 with the family farms?

12 We would like to see more of that.

13 We would understand your thinking
14 more to put these buildings closer to our
15 homes when no one else is -- they expect
16 us to. I don't quite understand that.
17 How many people --

18 MR. ZUMWALT: I guess with that
19 question --

20 MR. MARKEY: How many people?

21 MR. ZUMWALT: How many people
22 what?

23 MR. MARKEY: How many people
24 live -- that work for PSM have family

1 homes with these buildings, with these
2 factories?

3 MR. ZUMWALT: Well, I couldn't
4 answer that personally. I wouldn't know.

5 MR. MARKEY: So there are not
6 any?

7 MR. ZUMWALT: No, I just
8 wouldn't know the answer. I am a farmer
9 from western Illinois and I wouldn't know
10 how many --

11 MR. MARKEY: Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Ma'am.

13 MS. ADAMS: Barbara Adams,
14 A-D-A-M-S.

15 Where do you live and how far away
16 are you from a hog confinement?

17 MR. ZUMWALT: I live in Warsaw.
18 Probably the closest hog confinement is
19 within about 2 miles. I raised hogs up
20 until the flood of '93, and eagerly tried
21 to put in a new hog facility after the
22 flood of '93 but was not allowed to
23 because of requirements within the LMFA.

24 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Ma'am.

1 MS. MOORE: Karen Moore,
2 M-O-O-R-E.

3 Are you not showing a little bit of
4 favoritism among your Farm Bureau members
5 with your statement? Because I am sure
6 there are Farm Bureau members that are
7 against this, any type of large CAFO.

8 MR. ZUMWALT: Yes, there are, I
9 am sure of that. And the statement or
10 the stance that we have to take is to, I
11 guess, defend and stand for agriculture
12 as much possible. A majority of the
13 members of our county within the state
14 would be huge proponents of a livestock
15 facility so long as it adheres to the
16 rules, the criteria put forth in that
17 LMFA. And we would believe if you
18 weren't acceptable to that or if you
19 didn't agree with that, that the right
20 avenue would be to change the rules and
21 guidelines set forth in LMFA.

22 MS. MOORE: Did you say that
23 Hancock County has 19,000 --

24 MR. ZUMWALT: The population I

1 found from the last census is roughly
2 19,000 people.

3 MS. MOORE: Do you realize that
4 one of these CAFOs, that the hogs excrete
5 three times more excretion than a human
6 does and so you are going to have more
7 manure in Hancock County than what you
8 have got people?

9 MR. ZUMWALT: As a farmer I
10 would be glad to have that. That's --

11 MS. MOORE: That's an awful lot
12 of manure.

13 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any
14 further questions?

15 MR. SCHEETZ: Joe Scheetz,
16 S-H-C-H-E-E-T-Z.

17 Your statement here for the Farm
18 Bureau, is that more a personal statement
19 or are you going off of the bylaws of the
20 Illinois Farm Bureau as well as the
21 Hancock County Farm Bureau?

22 MR. ZUMWALT: I have personal
23 thoughts on it as well, but by and large
24 I feel I am representing a majority of

1 the members in the county. And the
2 majority of the members even that have
3 concerns here, you are involved in
4 agriculture. And in this stance I am put
5 in a position where I have to represent a
6 majority of those in agriculture. I also
7 feel strongly about livestock. I want to
8 see the promotion of livestock. And I
9 think it is probably the one thing that
10 we can promote greatly in Hancock County
11 anymore. We don't have the people we
12 had. We have the areas that we can build
13 the livestock industry even greater. And
14 unfortunately, you know, we are going to
15 have to build them in certain places.

16 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Ma'am.

17 MS. WHITAKER: Linda Whitaker.
18 Okay, if you lived in a home for 15 years
19 and they built one to your southwest a
20 mile and a half, a mile and a half to the
21 northwest and you have one about 3 miles
22 northeast, and now they want to build one
23 a mile -- less than a mile and a half
24 southeast, you would be okay with that?

1 MR. ZUMWALT: I would have to
2 be as a person who adheres to private
3 property rights.

4 In my opinion there is nothing more
5 important than a person's private property
6 rights.

7 MS. WHITAKER: Yes.

8 MR. ZUMWALT: I understand what
9 you are saying.

10 MS. WHITAKER: But they are
11 going to interfere with your property
12 rights because you get the smell and the
13 water --

14 MR. ZUMWALT: In my opinion
15 those are criteria, those are things that
16 come out of that LMFA Act. If we don't
17 believe in that, if we have problems with
18 that, that's what needs to be addressed.

19 MS. WHITAKER: Why can't they
20 build them somewhere else?

21 MR. ZUMWALT: If the rules and
22 requirements said that it has to be
23 2 miles, we would adhere to that.

24 MS. WHITAKER: That's for the

1 protection of the pigs, not the people.

2 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: In the
3 back.

4 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Daniel
5 Moorehouse. I am also from Warsaw.

6 You made a statement saying that your
7 members, most of your members would
8 approve of these large hog farm
9 facilities. Did you do a survey or is
10 that --

11 MR. ZUMWALT: I said the
12 majority of our members are very
13 confident in the way we produce not just
14 pork but beef, chicken. Any type of food
15 we purchase in the grocery store. A
16 majority of consumers are confident in
17 the products we have there.

18 MR. MOOREHOUSE: You didn't
19 answer my question. Could you please
20 answer my question?

21 Did you do a survey of your members
22 in Hancock County whether they are for
23 mega hog farms or not?

24 MR. ZUMWALT: No, we did not do

1 a survey that asked specifically that
2 question.

3 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
5 questions?

6

7 MR. MARKEY: Do you think that
8 PMS can manage farms --

9 MR. ZUMWALT: PSM?

10 MR. MARKEY: Sorry. PSM can
11 manage these farms and take care of the
12 environment controls that we need to be
13 taking care of as well as a family farm
14 owners that -- there are several of them
15 sitting here tonight -- that we would
16 like to see live on the farms and take
17 care of the hogs and livestock, can they
18 take care of them as well as these farm
19 livestock industry owned farms?

20 MR. ZUMWALT: It is my belief a
21 majority of these larger operations
22 started out as family farms, so the same
23 value and tradition is there. So yes, I
24 do.

1 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any
2 other questions?

3 MR. NELSON: Mike Nelson. Do
4 you call it a business instead of a farm?

5 MR. ZUMWALT: I call my farm a
6 business.

7 MR. NELSON: But you are a
8 farmer. They are not farmers. They are
9 working a business.

10 MR. ZUMWALT: I think a
11 majority -- I believe that a majority of
12 the people involved in it are farmers.

13 MR. NELSON: I don't think so.

14 MR. ZUMWALT: I think --

15 MR. NELSON: I think the
16 employees are not farmers. The employees
17 are -- some of them aren't even from this
18 country. They are not farmers.

19 Now, when you were farming you were
20 using your father, your neighbors, your
21 sons or whatever you had. They are using
22 people from out of the country that are
23 not -- may be or may be not legal, but
24 they are not farmers.

1 MR. ZUMWALT: I understand your
2 point.

3 From my aspect, I don't ever want to
4 limit my potential to grow. And I don't
5 think that there is one person here who
6 can say at what point I quit being a
7 farmer and what point I became a
8 corporation. I only want to be the one to
9 determine that.

10 MR. MAIERS: But there is not
11 one person that owns the corporation that
12 is working farming, or so called farming.
13 So they are not farmers.

14 MR. ZUMWALT: That's an
15 opinion, not a question.

16 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Go
17 ahead.

18 MS. MOORE: Karen Moore. My
19 understanding is that the three owners of
20 Junction Acres are veterinarians. Would
21 you consider them farmers?

22 MR. ZUMWALT: Yes, I would if
23 they are producing hogs.

24 MS. MOORE: Okay.

1 MR. ZUMWALT: I would also like
2 to make a point along with that, I guess
3 not just in regard to that question but,
4 you know, from the standpoint of the Farm
5 Bureau, of us involved with the Farm
6 Bureau, to advocate for the industry. It
7 is not our place to specifically advocate
8 or admonish a single person or entity.

9 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
10 you.

11 Next we have Derrick Helmars.

12 MR. HELMARS: Derrick Helmars,
13 H-E-L-M-A-R-S.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

16 MR. HELMARS: I am representing
17 a group of hunters, that we hunt just
18 right across the road east of where this
19 is going to be built. This is directed
20 to the County Board.

21 It has come to our attention that
22 there are plans to build a large hog
23 confinement near two farms that we lease
24 for hunting purposes. We are local

1 hunters. We don't hunt for profit. We
2 simply hunt for the enjoyment of spending
3 time with friends and our kids in the
4 outdoors, or the hunting experience is
5 being able to enjoy the peace and
6 tranquility of the outdoors in its natural
7 state. Also a chance to get outside,
8 enjoy the fresh air and get a break from
9 the hustle and bustle of everyday life.
10 We are very concerned and fairly competent
11 the proposed facility is going to destroy
12 our hunting experience in this area. The
13 first thing is the smell. Undoubtedly our
14 opportunity to enjoy the fresh air will be
15 gone. Sitting in the woods, smelling hog
16 manure does nothing to enhance the hunt.
17 It isn't very appealing to any of us to
18 think of sitting in the woods all day with
19 that smell lofting about.

20 We also are quite certain that the
21 traffic and noise level in the area is
22 going to increase. Yes, you always have
23 vehicles passing by, but at this point it
24 is fairly infrequent. With this proposed

1 facility traffic increases ten fold. And
2 the noise of workers and animals is going
3 to be a change. There goes the peace and
4 tranquility of the hunt as well.

5 Also with all of the additional
6 activities associated the confinement,
7 there is a negative impact on the wildlife
8 movement in the area.

9 Obviously, we are not animal rights
10 activists. We are not against anyone
11 doing what they want on their own
12 property.

13 However, this proposed facility is
14 simply going to ruin this area for what we
15 enjoy it for today.

16 Again, anyone has a right to do what
17 they want on their own property, but if
18 what is proposed to be done has a negative
19 impact on neighboring lands and homes, is
20 that right?

21 Is it fair to the other land and
22 homeowners in the area?

23 We are just a group of individuals
24 who love the outdoors and only hunt in the

1 area and we feel this facility is going to
2 destroy that experience entirely.

3 We know we are only a small voice but
4 we are asking to be heard. We are sure
5 most of the land and homeowners in the
6 area feel the same way as we do.

7 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Are
8 there questions for this witness?

9 MS. BUNDY: Pam Bundy,
10 B-U-N-D-Y.

11 Derrick, you said you hunted and
12 everything out there. You are fairly
13 familiar with the area. How many vehicles
14 would you say that you have witnessed
15 coming down that road in like -- what
16 would be your opinion of how many vehicles
17 travel that road in a week's time or a
18 year's time, whatever you want to say?

19 MR. HELMARS: I would say
20 mainly hunting on the weekends, you can
21 be sitting the timber all day and you may
22 not hear ten vehicles a day go down the
23 road.

24 I have heard a lot of talk about the

1 traffic, seven trucks a week. That
2 doesn't count all of the extra traffic
3 from the employees going in and out and all
4 of the movement from the facility.

5 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any
6 other questions?

7 Thank you.

8 MR. HELMARS: Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Next up
10 is Chris Blevins.

11 MR. BLEVINS: Chris Blevins,
12 B-L-E-V-I-N-S.

13 (Witness sworn.)

14 BY HEARING OFFICER FRANK:

15 Q. Okay.

16 MR. BLEVINS: On behalf of PSM,
17 I would like to give you a little
18 background information about where I am
19 from. So I have been in the swine
20 industry professionally for the last 16
21 years. I am not originally from Hancock
22 County. I have lived here for five
23 years. I purchased a home. This is
24 where I have chosen to raise my children.

1 I grew up on a family farm and I would
2 say I am a farmer. I am terribly
3 offended by that comment. And maybe I
4 shouldn't be. But growing up on a family
5 farm and choosing this path to stay in
6 the livestock industry is what I have
7 done.

8 I have two young children. They both
9 go to school here at Carthage Elementary.
10 And the tax dollars that can go into the
11 school system means a lot to me when I
12 look at the stuff that needs to be done to
13 the education system here. I want the
14 best for my kids' future.

15 Where I was previously and the
16 company I worked for, I lived within
17 150 feet of a CAFO. My kids played in the
18 backyard. I have no health issues.

19 As I stated, I have done it for 16
20 years.

21 My current job role with PSM, I am a
22 Senior Production Manager. I visit farm
23 to farm. I have to be concerned about bio
24 security and my travels between farms and

1 where they are at in our health pyramid to
2 ensure that safety. That way the piglets
3 that I produce are of the highest health
4 to the owners that get these.

5 And my goal by pursuing this career
6 path, looking at the direction of the
7 world's population is how are we going to
8 feed everybody at the end of the day? How
9 are we going to get there? And this is
10 what I have chosen to do.

11 I take care of a lot of employees
12 that work in the system. Safety is a huge
13 concern. Hydrogen sulfide has been
14 mentioned. Our employees during the
15 pumping process and any time there is a
16 risk -- and we ask them to wear them all
17 of the time -- they wear hydrogen sulfide
18 meters. To my knowledge in the last five
19 years I have yet to have one of those
20 meters go off.

21 So I am not terribly concerned about
22 that. That is kind of what we deal with
23 on the day-to-day basis.

24 The thought process of employees that

1 come in that are not from this area, I
2 can't help that. We take open
3 applications. I and another one of my
4 coworkers do a lot of the interviews. You
5 put in an application, you want to come
6 work for us, I am going to give you a fair
7 shake at the end of the day. I started
8 out at the bottom.

9 I believe I said this before, I
10 started out as a part time job for \$5.50
11 an hour 16 years ago and I have made it
12 into what it is today. It is a career
13 that supports my family. My wife does not
14 work. She volunteers at the elementary
15 school in the PALS program. And it is a
16 life decision we have made to take care of
17 myself and our family.

18 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
19 you.

20 Are there questions for this witness?
21 Mr. Hunersdosse.

22 MR. HUNERSDOSSE: How big of a
23 CAFO did you --

24 MR. BLEVINS: It would have

1 been 3,600 sows that I lived that close
2 to.

3 MR. HUNERSDOSSE: How close is
4 close?

5 MR. BLEVINS: It was right
6 about 150 feet from the back of one
7 gestation barn.

8 MR. HUNERSDOSSE: Thank you.

9 MR. BLYTHE: Alex Blythe,
10 B-L-Y-T-H-E.

11 You said you moved five years ago?

12 MR. BLEVINS: Yes.

13 MR. BLYTHE: Did you move right
14 next door to the building where you work
15 at so you can smell it and be around it
16 when you are off the clock?

17 MR. BLEVINS: Based on the job
18 position I have assumed in this company I
19 cannot live on a farm anymore because I
20 travel from farm to farm.

21 But long-term plans for me in life as
22 I head down the career path and eventually
23 retire, I would see myself probably owning
24 a -- and I will live right on the farm.

1 MR. BLYTHE: Thank you.

2 MS. BUNDY: Pam Bundy.

3 Is there any concern based on -- you
4 said you travel from farm to farm, is
5 there any concern or possibly growing
6 concern with the number of confinements
7 that are being proposed to come into the
8 area, is there any concern of yours as far
9 as the proximity of some of these to each
10 other?

11 Is there any risk involved with that?

12 MR. BLEVINS: There is always a
13 risk in anything you do.

14 The veterinary staff and everybody
15 that I work with, that is one of the
16 reasons that drew me here is I get the
17 opportunity to work with -- for most of
18 you who don't know it -- some of the top
19 notch swine veterinarians in the world.
20 It is amazing. They plan these out, the
21 tree barriers, and we follow bio security.
22 And that's why certain employees wouldn't
23 be here this evening. It is based on a
24 health pyramid and it is a matter of we

1 don't want anything going from place to
2 place. There are regular testing
3 diagnostics that is all part of that
4 regular vet business at every farm. So we
5 are very strict in what we do, and we do
6 that for the health and safety of the
7 farms.

8 MS. BUNDY: Is there any
9 geographic guidelines they use like, you
10 know, they don't want to get too close to
11 another one or anything based on that?

12 MR. BLEVINS: Like I said, our
13 veterinarian staff takes care of that.
14 They keep up on the latest research and
15 technology from around the globe.

16 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any
17 other questions? Thank you.

18 Next up, Melissa Johnson.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Melissa Johnson,
20 J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Good evening. I
24 support economic growth in Hancock County

1 through livestock production. My husband
2 began his love for raising hogs at a very
3 young age following his grandpa, Bob
4 Markey, Sr. around the farm, learning
5 everything he could. As soon as he was
6 old enough he began working for other
7 area farmers. After college he took a
8 job working at a farrowing operation and
9 later became a manager there.

10 In 2003 he saw an opportunity to
11 fulfill his dreams of becoming a hog
12 farmer by building a 4,800 head wean to
13 finish operation on our farm just west of
14 LaHarp.

15 That fall the Illinois Department of
16 Agriculture held an informational meeting
17 for our proposed facility much like this
18 one. At the time we had several neighbors
19 and community members there who voiced
20 concerns over our proposal. Their
21 concerns were mostly about odor and
22 property values.

23 After the meeting the Hancock County
24 Board did just what was asked of them.

1 They looked at the facility and agreed our
2 proposal did meet the eight siting
3 criteria set up by the Livestock
4 Management Facilities Act. They
5 recommended to the Department that our
6 application be approved.

7 Upon approval the construction began.

8 At that time my husband and I lived
9 on the site of our farm with our two-year
10 old son and a new baby. We continued to
11 live on the site for another year and half
12 until our family outgrew the small house
13 on the property. We then purchased a
14 larger home at fair market value and
15 invested in further improving the home so
16 we could remain just 2 miles from our
17 farm.

18 Another home about a half mile from
19 the farm sold a few years ago also at fair
20 market value.

21 In addition, another family is
22 currently constructing a new home less
23 than 2 miles away.

24 Our farm has given my husband and me

1 the opportunity to continue to live and
2 raise our children right here in Hancock
3 County.

4 I understand the many benefits these
5 farms provide for our community. It
6 provides tax dollars for our county and
7 for our school. The school that my
8 children attend and where I teach. They
9 provide jobs. Not just the jobs at the
10 farm, jobs for others as well by using
11 local banks, insurance people and repair
12 shops. The feed for the pigs is made from
13 locally grown corn and ground at a feed
14 mill right near Hancock County, providing
15 support for local grain farmers and more
16 jobs for feed mill workers and truck
17 drivers.

18 These days my son is the one tagging
19 along learning everything he can about
20 farming from his dad. And I am proud that
21 we are giving him the opportunity to have
22 a future in production agriculture.

23 Thank you.

24 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any

1 questions for this witness?

2 Thank you.

3 Next we have Lance Dunbar.

4 MR. DUNBAR: I am a little
5 nervous.

6 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: State
7 your name.

8 MR. DUNBAR: Lance Dunbar,
9 D-U-N-B-A-R.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

12 MR. DUNBAR: Normally my wife
13 carries candy in her purse, and she's not
14 here tonight, so bear with me.

15 I work for Professional Swine
16 Management. I have been with them about
17 ten years. I grew up on the family farm.
18 I do not live in your county but I grew up
19 on a family farm in Knox County.

20 I will tell that you the family farm
21 was in the family for 40 years. We always
22 had a few hogs and I went to state FFA for
23 production.

24 You know, we were concerned because

1 in the early nineties there was a CAFO
2 that wanted to move in across the street,
3 and we were definitely concerned. And
4 that neighbor calmed our concerns. And
5 that neighbor had to move out of the edge
6 of the city limits to come out in the
7 country so he could operate his business.

8 After high school I started on an 800
9 farrow to finish operation, and was there
10 from 1993 to 2002 when I started
11 Professional Swine Management.

12 I started on that farm as a farrowing
13 manager. I soon graduated into manager
14 after a couple of years. And I will tell
15 you that I lived right on a farm.

16 I have three kids currently that live
17 in Warren County. My wife is a school
18 teacher. I currently live -- right now I
19 live one-half mile away from a cow
20 confinement and I live 1 mile from a CAFO.

21 I would tell you that I own seven
22 acres and I own my home, and that's why I
23 haven't moved. After ten years of working
24 for this company I haven't moved to

1 Hancock County because I own my home.

2 I own a rental in that area. I am a
3 volunteer fireman, first responder, and a
4 township trustee. So I would consider
5 myself to be a very -- a pillar in that
6 community. That's one of the reasons why
7 I haven't moved to Hancock County.

8 But I would consider myself your
9 neighbor because I work for Professional
10 Swine Management, and if they are your
11 neighbor, I am your neighbor because I
12 work for them and have for ten years as a
13 production manager. And I would tell you
14 that I own seven acres with my home, and
15 my kids enjoy riding four wheelers, and it
16 has never affected my health. My kids are
17 in perfect health. I am in perfect health
18 and have no health concerns.

19 So I would just want to really
20 address that today, that I have never had
21 any issues in over 20 years.

22 So again, I appreciate raising pork.
23 I have done it all of my life and I want
24 to continue to provide safe and sufficient

1 food for my fellow residents and persons.

2 Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Any
4 questions for this witness?

5 MR. BLYTHE: How's the odor at
6 your place?

7 MR. DUNBAR: I would tell you
8 that generally I do not smell the farms.
9 Once in a while I will smell it when they
10 haul manure, but I realize it is
11 agriculture. Even if I wasn't in
12 agriculture I would realize that is part
13 of it. And once in a while I will smell
14 it. I will smell it when they odorate.
15 But I will tell you that this particular
16 farm does not take the same standards
17 that we do at Professional Swine
18 Management.

19 MR. BLYTHE: How big is that
20 CAFO?

21 MR. DUNBAR: That CAFO would be
22 probably about 800 sows farrow to finish.
23 So they would be a sow operation and
24 finish, whereas Junction Acres would be

1 farrow to wean. So they are different.
2 But they also operate a cattle
3 confinement right down the street, and I
4 would tell you it still hasn't affected
5 my quality of living.

6 As I say --

7 MR. BLYTHE: You are able to
8 open your windows and your wife is able
9 to hang clothes on the line?

10 MR. DUNBAR: Sure, she does,
11 every summer.

12 I would invite you to my home if that
13 is what it takes.

14 MR. BLYTHE: If you wanted to
15 live in Hancock County do you feel like
16 you would have any trouble selling your
17 home?

18 MR. DUNBAR: I would not have
19 trouble selling my home because I have
20 put everything into it because I own it.

21 MR. BLYTHE: You don't feel
22 like this has decreased your property
23 value?

24 MR. DUNBAR: No, not at all.

1 MR. MARKEY: I have got a
2 question on property values.

3 MR. DUNBAR: Yes, sir.

4 MR. MARKEY: I wanted to ask
5 this earlier and didn't get the
6 opportunity.

7 Am I correct or incorrect reading an
8 article that the health core has
9 recognized that factory farms can decrease
10 neighboring property values substantially
11 surrounding a proposed site like this?

12 And earlier Mr. Hollis said in
13 present and past years it is like up to --
14 maybe down 2 or 4, and here it says
15 substantially.

16 That gives me an idea it is a lot
17 more than 2 percent down. In fact, they
18 are talking 50 to 70.

19 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Sir, do
20 you have a question?

21 MR. MARKEY: Yes. I am asking
22 am I correct or incorrect?

23 MR. DUNBAR: I am not familiar
24 with that report, sir. I am not familiar

1 with the report. But I will tell you
2 that the same reports that -- other
3 reports have shown the exact opposite.
4 Would show it is awash. So I can't quote
5 those.

6 MR. MARKEY: It is an Appellate
7 Court decision.

8 MR. DUNBAR: Right, but I don't
9 have that.

10 MR. MARKEY: Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
12 questions?

13 Okay, seeing none, thank you.

14 Next up is Nick Anderson.

15 MR. ANDERSON: I will take a
16 pass.

17 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Mr.
18 Anderson passes.

19 Next is Laura Greiner. She left.
20 Okay. Laura Greiner left.

21 Clee Dixon?

22 MR. DIXON: Clee Dixon,

23 C-L-E-E, D-I-X-O-N.

24 (Witness sworn.)

1 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

2 MR. DIXON: I would like to say
3 that Professional Swine Management has
4 managed our unit for this will be our
5 tenth year. I feel like they have done
6 an excellent job. They keep our unit
7 clean. They keep it neat. They wash
8 everything imaginable down there.

9 I am happy with our manure
10 applicators. They wash their equipment
11 coming in and coming out.

12 I don't know how you could run a
13 cleaner unit than we have got.

14 And if the unit is managed right at
15 this site I am absolutely sure you will be
16 able to enjoy your property. I appreciate
17 your comments.

18 I don't know where people want us to
19 raise pork in the United States and
20 Illinois if we can't have any of these
21 sites. Our country has a heck of an
22 appetite for pork products, and there is
23 no better place suited to raise them than
24 right in the middle of a cornfield in the

1 midwest in a sparsely populated area like
2 this site is.

3 If we regulate and we restrict our
4 farmers from being able to raise pork in
5 this country or get them to an inefficient
6 state to where they are not competitive,
7 the pork is going to get raised somewhere
8 else.

9 I would a lot rather eat pork that is
10 raised in Illinois, very well regulated by
11 the Department of Agriculture and the EPA
12 than get us so inefficient that we can't
13 compete and China or Vietnam or Mexico
14 imports pork to us.

15 I don't know what they would grind to
16 put in their sausage patties. I don't
17 know what they would be health wise doing
18 with their hogs. I don't know what their
19 facilities would be like. And I want to
20 raise pork and eat pork that is raised in
21 a unit like mine.

22 We have donated pork to the food
23 pantries. Our unit -- I have bought pork
24 out of our unit. I don't think there is a

1 better, safer product that we could have
2 than pork raised in Illinois with our
3 regulations.

4 That's all I have.

5 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
6 you.

7 Are there any questions for this
8 witness?

9 MS. MOORE: Karen Moore.

10 What was the original size of your
11 site?

12 MR. DIXON: It was an 1,800 --

13 MS. MOORE: 1,800. You have
14 expanded I understand.

15 MR. DIXON: Yes.

16 MS. MOORE: What is it now?

17 MR. DIXON: Thirty-six.

18 MS. MOORE: 3,600?

19 MR. DIXON: Yes.

20 MS. MOORE: Thank you.

21 Did you have a difficult time
22 expanding? Did you have to go through all
23 of this again?

24 MR. DIXON: We didn't have any

1 problem.

2 MS. MOORE: You didn't have to
3 go to the Agriculture Department?

4 MR. DIXON: We didn't have
5 people that got signatures on us. We was
6 already pretty well an established hog
7 area. My neighbor, my dad, my uncle, my
8 brother, we all raised hogs to start
9 with. They all used our facility and
10 knew we would try to cooperate. Before
11 we would spread once in a while we would
12 see if they were having a party or weiner
13 roast or something and tried to work with
14 them.

15 MS. MOORE: So when you
16 expanded did you have to go through all
17 of the siting criteria?

18 MR. DIXON: I am quite sure
19 that they, the guys -- I didn't have
20 anything to do with the permit process
21 but I am sure they jumped through the
22 hoops.

23 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Yes,
24 ma'am.

1 MS. WHITAKER: Linda Whitaker.
2 I am going to ask you the same question I
3 asked another gentleman. So you would be
4 okay if you had one a mile and a half
5 southwest, mile and a half northwest, and
6 another one 3 miles east, you would be
7 okay with them building one southeast of
8 you another mile? You would be okay
9 living there?

10 MR. DIXON: I live close to my
11 unit. My dad lives close.

12 MS. WHITAKER: That's one. I
13 am talking four.

14 MR. DIXON: If they are well
15 managed they are not a problem.

16 MS. WHITAKER: That's not the
17 question. The question was --

18 MR. DIXON: I wouldn't have any
19 problem with another CAFO by me.

20 MS. WHITAKER: Even though you
21 smell the ones that are there now, you
22 would be okay with another one?

23 MR. DIXON: That would be fine.

24 MS. WHITAKER: So no matter

1 which way the wind blows you are going to
2 get it in your house, no matter which
3 direction the wind blows, you are okay
4 with that?

5 MR. DIXON: I just said that
6 would be fine with me.

7 MS. WHITAKER: Okay.

8 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: There
9 was another question in the back.

10 MS. BUNDY: Pam Bundy.

11 You said your facility is 3,600. I
12 mean, that is a far cry from 18,000. How
13 do you think -- or is there much
14 difference in how it will be operated or
15 managed due to the size of the facility?

16 MR. DIXON: They are not 18,000
17 sows.

18 MS. BUNDY: Didn't they say
19 18,000?

20 MR. DIXON: I heard 3,600 sows.
21 And I don't know how many pigs that would
22 translate, how many thousand pigs is on
23 our sight at any one time.

24 MS. BUNDY: I am going by the

1 letters of intent that my neighbors have
2 received. It totaled up 18,000 head.

3 MR. DIXON: Okay.

4 MS. BUNDY: Five buildings.

5 How many buildings is yours?

6 MR. DIXON: We have got five
7 buildings in our complex.

8 MS. BUNDY: Okay.

9 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Yes.

10 MS. MOORE: Karen Moore.

11 I believe you stated in a letter to
12 the editor to the McDonough Voice that you
13 had 32,000 head on your property.

14 MR. DIXON: No.

15 MS. MOORE: I am incorrect on
16 that?

17 MR. DIXON: Yes.

18 MS. MOORE: Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Yes.

20 MR. EVANS: I told you I would
21 ask you questions, sir.

22 Thank you for coming over earlier and
23 answering some questions that I asked you.
24 I appreciate that.

1 Where do you live from your facility?

2 MR. DIXON: I live northeast of
3 ours about a mile.

4 MR. EVANS: And you have a
5 brother who or a father who lives close?

6 MR. DIXON: Dad lives northwest
7 of the unit about a mile, my brother
8 lives southwest of the unit about a mile.

9 MR. EVANS: If I read your
10 letter to the editor correctly, you also
11 have a minister or pastor --

12 MR. DIXON: Our retired
13 minister lives about 1,300 feet west.

14 MR. EVANS: You also said when
15 you make a decision about spreading
16 manure that you will contact your
17 neighbors or talk to them about it?

18 MR. DIXON: Right.

19 MR. EVANS: I appreciate a
20 family farmer. I could live next to you
21 I think. Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
23 questions? Thank you.

24 Next up we have Adam Annegers.

1 MR. ANNEGERS: Adam Annegers,
2 A-N-N-E-G-E-R-S.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

5 MR. ANNEGERS: I was born and
6 raised in Henderson County, Stronghurst,
7 just a half hour north of here. My
8 family raised hogs, sheep and cattle.

9 In the early eighties when I was a
10 kid we had to sell our family farm and we
11 moved to town. But I have a passion for
12 raising livestock.

13 PSM has given me an opportunity to
14 continue to raise livestock. I have
15 worked for them for nine years. I have
16 worked for another company for three
17 years. So for the past 12 years I have
18 been working inside facilities like the
19 one proposed tonight.

20 I have no health issues.

21 I have four children who attend the
22 Carthage school system from preschool to
23 high school. I am a member of the
24 Carthage Fire Department. I am a shooting

1 sports instructor for Hancock County. I
2 volunteer coaching sports from baseball to
3 football. I'm very active with the
4 community.

5 I hope to continue to live in this
6 county and continue to raise pigs.

7 I do consider myself a pig farmer. I
8 don't own any of the buildings but I work
9 in them. I really enjoy this area.

10 I have managed three different sites
11 in the nine years for this company. I
12 have talked with neighbors at all of the
13 sites that I have worked at. If they ever
14 have any questions or concerns, I have
15 asked them to call me.

16 I have never had any issues with any
17 of the neighbors that live close to the
18 units.

19 I am also an avid deer hunter. Two
20 of the sites that I have worked at you can
21 look out the windows and see the deer walk
22 by. I have no problem with sitting in a
23 tree stand all day within two or 300 yards
24 of these buildings, and the hunt is not

1 affected at all from one of these
2 facilities.

3 Maintaining them correctly, managing
4 them correctly, there will be very little
5 odor issues from the neighbors. The
6 wildlife is not affected. I have not seen
7 any effects from wildlife or outdoors.

8 I hope some day when my sons or
9 daughter is old enough, if they would
10 choose to make their living raising
11 livestock, that they would work for PSM
12 also.

13 Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
15 you.

16 Are there questions for this witness?

17 I see none. Thank you.

18 Next up we will have Henry Wilson.

19 MR. WILSON: Henry Wilson,
20 W-I-L-S-O-N.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

23 MR. WILSON: My name is Henry
24 Wilson. I'm the soil and water

1 conservation manager for PSM. I have
2 been working for them shy of a year.

3 One very large part of my job is to
4 make sure that all of the farms that we
5 manage follow the CNMP that Mr. Chris West
6 writes. One really big part of the CNMP,
7 as I imagine you understand, is to make
8 sure all of the manure is applied at an
9 agronomic rate.

10 To do that, the first step in doing
11 that is every barn that we plan on pumping
12 out of we take a manure sample out of it
13 to determine the nutrient content of that
14 specific barn.

15 After that is done I get the
16 opportunity to talk to our local farmers
17 who we apply on to get a feel for what
18 fields they want the manure in, what crops
19 they plan on planting and what their
20 projected yields are going to be.

21 After I get a feel for that, I go
22 talk to our certified manure pumping crew
23 and they -- we determine the rate that we
24 are going to apply manure at. And then I

1 am very confident that the manure is
2 applied at the agronomic rates applied in
3 the CNMP that Chris West wrote.

4 That needs to be recorded in the
5 book. We record the acres, the gallons,
6 the crop, the field and where all of that
7 went. So we have all of that on record
8 with the CNMP, so everything is followed.

9 In addition to applying the manure at
10 an agronomic rate with the CNMP to follow
11 that we also have to record when the
12 buildings were walked around and inspected
13 to make sure there were no -- anything
14 from no cracks in the walls to nothing
15 being broke, to no fans being off,
16 anything, and make sure all of that is
17 fixed.

18 To follow the CNMP we also have to
19 make sure to record how many deaths there
20 are and record that compost is being taken
21 care of correctly.

22 So that CNMP that Chris West writes
23 isn't something that sits on the shelf and
24 nobody looks at. I look at it daily.

1 That is part of my job and I take it very
2 seriously.

3 Another smaller part of my job that I
4 have is to oversee the grounds maintenance
5 of all of the farms to make sure that our
6 farms are taken care of and aesthetically
7 pleasing. Things like grass being mowed,
8 landscape being taken care, weeds sprayed,
9 so they have a good outward appearance.

10 That is something myself and all of
11 our staff, we take a great deal of pride
12 in how our farms look.

13 And as an aside, I have a lot of
14 experience in a university setting and
15 agronomy, so I am well -- I'm not well
16 versed in pig production like my coworkers
17 are. So like many of you guys in the
18 room, I had very, very little experience
19 with CAFOs.

20 My dad raised pigs out in the woods.
21 So that was my experience raising pigs.

22 After working around a CAFO I can
23 actually say that my clothes don't stink
24 when I go home. I am around them about

1 every day, and my wife still let's me in
2 the house at night.

3 That's all I have.

4 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
5 you.

6 Are there questions for this witness?

7 MS. SPIEKERMEIER: Beth
8 Spiekermeier again.

9 What is your educational background?
10 Where did you go to school? What kind of
11 degree do you have?

12 MR. WILSON: I have a degree in
13 agronomy from Western Illinois and a
14 Master's in soil science from Iowa State
15 and a Ph.D. in environmental science from
16 Iowa State.

17 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
18 questions?

19 MR. MOREHOUSE: Do you look at
20 the soil match and all of that and the
21 soil types before you decide what areas
22 you are going to spread the manure on?

23 MR. WILSON: Sure. That is all
24 recorded in the CNMP.

1 MR. MOREHOUSE: You walk the
2 site and you -- is there any soil types
3 that you find that you wouldn't apply to?

4 MR. WILSON: Well, there are
5 soil types that are specific --

6 MR. MOREHOUSE: Is there any
7 soil types --

8 MR. WILSON: Let me finish.

9 MR. MOREHOUSE: Sorry.

10 MR. WILSON: There are some
11 like soil types that are -- some of them
12 are on a grade from soils in the low --
13 soil type on one year floodplain and up
14 the hill where it is on an upland, that
15 soil that forms down in the 100 year
16 floodplain, you wouldn't apply to soil
17 that typically floods like that. And
18 then typically also on a soil like that
19 that is in a 100 year floodplain it is
20 typically close to an open water source,
21 so we have to maintain setbacks outlined
22 in the LMFA.

23 MR. MOREHOUSE: Any other type
24 of soil that you wouldn't apply to?

1 MR. WILSON: If there is soils
2 that -- they are outlined in the CNMP by
3 Chris West. Really sandy soils subject
4 to high amounts of leaching you would
5 want to avoid. And also mainly soil
6 conditions is an important thing. So
7 when soils are too wet we won't apply. I
8 would say soil conditions --

9 MR. MOREHOUSE: So there are
10 times in your job you say this isn't a
11 place where I want to apply?

12 That has happened to you in the past,
13 you have said no, we can't do this, this
14 soil is too wet or this could be a
15 groundwater recharge area?

16 Have you ever refused to apply in a
17 certain area?

18 MR. WILSON: Well, most
19 likely -- I work with farmers likely who
20 he'll say -- you know, we get pushed back
21 more from the farmers. Farmers don't
22 want us going out on the ground when it
23 is too wet and causes compaction and
24 ruts. So we don't go on the farmer's

1 fields and tear them up to apply manure
2 so it is going to not be able to permeate
3 the soil. That is not what -- we want to
4 keep the farmers happy.

5 MR. MOREHOUSE: My question
6 though was have you ever said -- the
7 farmer says go apply. Have you said I
8 don't think it is safe because it might
9 affect groundwater safety?

10 You have been doing this job how
11 long?

12 MR. WILSON: Shy of a year.

13 MR. MOREHOUSE: Okay. Has that
14 ever happened in your opinion?

15 MR. WILSON: No. I follow the
16 CNMP that Mr. West writes.

17 MR. MOREHOUSE: You have never
18 said this is a soil type we shouldn't
19 apply to because it is probably unsafe?

20 MR. WILSON: No. I have never
21 had to.

22 MR. MOREHOUSE: Okay. Thank
23 you.

24 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Since

1 you are standing up, go ahead.

2 MR. WALKER: Dana Walker,
3 W-A-L-K-E-R.

4 Did you write Comprehensive Nutrient
5 Management Plans yourself?

6 MR. WILSON: No, sir.

7 MR. WALKER: Why not?

8 MR. WILSON: It's hired out to
9 the engineer.

10 MR. WALKER: Hired out to an
11 engineer?

12 An engineer is writing the Nutrient
13 Management Plan?

14 MR. WILSON: Yes.

15 MR. WALKER: Okay.

16 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
17 questions?

18 MR. MARKEY: Can this apply to
19 HEL land? And if so, if you are on HEL
20 land and you turn and you have a spill,
21 when you have that when you turn, what's
22 done about the runoff?

23 MR. WILSON: Around the edges
24 of the fields they are likely to disk

1 before the manure is applied, and that
2 allows the manure to soak.

3 Pumping crews are constantly checking
4 where -- not only in the field but also
5 along the hoses where the drag hose is at
6 to make sure there is no -- nothing wrong
7 with the hoses and nothing running off.

8 So that is constantly being observed.
9 But that is what is done.

10 MR. MARKEY: You are not
11 answering my question.

12 Can you apply to HEL land?

13 MR. WILSON: (Indicating.)

14 MS. TWADELE: How often can you
15 apply this manure to any particular
16 field? Once a year? Twice a year?

17 MR. WILSON: It depends on the
18 crop.

19 MS. TWADELE: Corn. An 80-acre
20 field of corn, can you apply it more than
21 once a year?

22 MR. WILSON: I can apply the
23 agronomic rate of nitrogen before the
24 corn is planted.

1 MS. TWADELE: Can you do it
2 year after year?

3 MR. WILSON: It depends how
4 high the soil test is.

5 MS. TWADELE: For nitrogen?

6 MR. WILSON: For phosphate.

7 MS. TWADELE: Anything else?

8 MR. WILSON: When the soil test
9 gets up to a certain point, the
10 phosphate, we have to switch to the
11 nitrogen.

12 MS. TWADELE: Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Yes,
14 ma'am.

15 MS. BUNDY: Pam Bundy.

16 Do you ever go in -- you have
17 obviously tested various fields for the
18 types of soil. Is the rate of application
19 ever changed due to the type of soil that
20 it is being applied to or is it just put
21 on at the same rate based on how many
22 gallons you need to distribute?

23 MR. WILSON: It is based on
24 soil tests and yield potential of the

1 crop. Soil type -- so, yes.

2 MS. BUNDY: But it is more --
3 you look more at the yield versus whether
4 the soil is heavy enough?

5 MR. WILSON: Within a field,
6 like an 80-acre field, the soil type
7 wouldn't vary much, so we base it --
8 within a given field it would be based on
9 the yield.

10 MS. BUNDY: Really?

11 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Sir.

12 MR. MARKEY: I have a question
13 again on applying, knifing in the
14 fertilizer.

15 That -- that land is all HEL land, is
16 that right, is that correct? I believe it
17 is.

18 MR. WILSON: I haven't looked.

19 MR. MARKEY: I believe it is.
20 There is a lot of ravines. It concerns
21 me, there are a lot of ravines, ditches
22 and runoff. All HEL land. Very
23 susceptible to runoff.

24 I am pretty concerned about it.

1 MR. WILSON: Well, that would
2 be something that would definitely be
3 monitored. That is something that is
4 constantly monitored.

5 MR. MARKEY: Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
7 questions?

8 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Do you monitor
9 the weather? Like if there is a rain
10 event coming do you say we are not going
11 to pump today?

12 MR. WILSON: Yes.

13 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Another
14 question about that. Do you walk the
15 fields and look for wells?

16 MR. WILSON: I personally do
17 not walk a field looking for wells.

18 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Does anybody
19 before you pump?

20 MR. WILSON: Chris West said
21 that they walk the fields.

22 MR. MOOREHOUSE: And look for
23 wells?

24 MR. WILSON: (Indicating.)

1 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Have you seen
2 him walk?

3 Do you ask the farmers is there any
4 wells out here that you know of?

5 There are lots of shallow wells.

6 MR. WILSON: As far as I know,
7 the way we look for wells is what Chris
8 said on the surveys.

9 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Hopefully the
10 shallow wells that were dug 100 years
11 ago, they are all put on the map, of
12 course?

13 Is that -- are you confident all of
14 those wells would be on that map? Are you
15 sure?

16 MR. WILSON: I am confident we
17 are following the rules.

18 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: All
20 right. Thank you very much.

21 Next up we have Barbara Adams.

22 MS. ADAMS: Barbara Adams.

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

1 MS. ADAMS: The Department of
2 Agriculture has a little brochure and it
3 is called Country Living. It lists
4 things that you would expect if you
5 wanted to move to the country. It talks
6 about gravel roads and you have a lot of
7 dust. You have tractors and equipment
8 moving up and down the roads. You will
9 have fieldwork early in the daytime, late
10 at night.

11 When you come to page 19 it talks
12 about when you want to move to the area,
13 you want to be careful about selecting a
14 good location. You want to see if there
15 is any animal confinements in the area.

16 So after you selected an area and you
17 built your home and you have lived there
18 for many years, what recourse is there
19 when a CAFO wants to move in?

20 Does the Department have a new
21 brochure about how to handle that
22 situation?

23 We have heard a lot about good
24 neighbors tonight. Sometimes I think the

1 best way that they can be a good neighbor
2 is to stay out of the neighborhood.

3 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Are
4 there questions for this witness?

5 I see none.

6 Thank you.

7 Next we have Daniel Moorehouse.
8 State your name.

9 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Daniel
10 Moorehouse, M-O-O-R-E-H-O-U-S-E.

11 (Witness sworn.)

12 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

13 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Okay. Thanks
14 so much for having us here, all of you
15 attending. I love to hear diversity of
16 opinion. That is what the government and
17 democracy is about.

18 I love pork chops too. I have a five
19 year old. He called and told me good
20 night. We all have kids. That's
21 terrific.

22 But what I want to ask -- and I tried
23 to allude to this earlier in my question,
24 is how many CAFOs are in Hancock County?

1 And I did a quick search on Google
2 Earth and looked around for 20 minutes and
3 I was able to find at least 15 CAFOs in
4 Hancock County.

5 They are pretty easy to spot, if you
6 have ever gone on Google Earth. They
7 might not be super scientific, but that's
8 what I got. I would love to get more
9 information from you guys.

10 Then on your website I searched a
11 list of notices of intent to construct. I
12 am sure you are aware of that. In Hancock
13 County this past 12 months you have people
14 who have applied to construct or make
15 their facility bigger, and there were five
16 of them. Only one of them hasn't been
17 approved, Junction Acres. And of the
18 total there is 10,191 new animal units
19 going to move into Hancock County if all
20 approve just for this one year. 10,000
21 animal units. Happy, happy Georgia.

22 I want to know, when is enough
23 enough?

24 How much is enough?

1 I don't know. It's your county. You
2 are the people here.

3 You know, if 10,000 move in a year
4 for the next ten years, that is 100,000
5 animal units.

6 How much is enough?

7 I know my five year old, he doesn't
8 know what 100,000 animal units are.

9 So I am asking you all, you live
10 here, you know, you are all my good
11 neighbors and you have all taken time off
12 to be here, how much is enough for Hancock
13 County?

14 How much does the County Board think
15 is enough?

16 You know, and quality of life issues
17 and people driving -- you know, I know our
18 population is going down and I know people
19 are struggling to get jobs, but is it
20 worth it?

21 Is it worth it to have 100,000 new
22 animal units over the next ten years?
23 Because 10,000 were applied for just this
24 year on your own website.

1 I would like to know more about that.

2 But 10,000 this year. How much is
3 enough?

4 Thank you so much for letting me
5 talk.

6 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
7 you.

8 Are there questions for this witness?

9 MR. WEST: I have a question
10 for you.

11 You were very interested in how we
12 look for wells and where the wells are.

13 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Yes.

14 MR. WEST: Do you know of any
15 wells?

16 MR. MOOREHOUSE: No. I live in
17 Warsaw, so I don't live over here.

18 MR. WEST: Okay.

19 MR. MOOREHOUSE: I am fortunate
20 I don't live by a CAFO. But I did do a
21 search, and of 5 miles -- like about
22 80 percent of Hancock County is within
23 5 miles of a CAFO. Not population but
24 land wise. So I don't know, something to

1 think about.

2 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
3 questions?

4 MS. BUNDY: Pam Bundy.

5 You mentioned the decline in the
6 population of Hancock County.

7 Do you feel that maybe that is
8 because -- this is personal opinion, you
9 don't have to cite any studies or
10 anything -- that it may be due to a lack
11 of job diversity in that county?

12 If we have all CAFOs you are limited
13 to the type of job you are going to have.

14 MR. MOOREHOUSE: People have
15 moved out -- I don't know why. Lots of
16 reasons. I don't know. Who knows?

17 But you know, you want to have Pella
18 come in? They may, they may not.

19 But it's our county.

20 Do you want to be the hog capital of
21 Illinois?

22 Because I looked around here, and
23 most of the counties around here didn't
24 have nearly the amount of hog factories

1 moving in.

2 Do we want to be the hog capital of
3 the world?

4 I thank Professional Swine
5 Management. They do, you know, a
6 wonderful job employing people and they
7 pay good money and I am sure they are all
8 good people, but when is enough is -- like
9 tips the balance? Is that -- well, okay,
10 it's enough.

11 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
12 questions?

13 MS. MOORE: Karen Moore.

14 Are you aware, Mr. Moorehouse, that
15 from the law enforcement standpoint that
16 meth labs are more likely to be built
17 around CAFOs because of the smell covers
18 the smell of the meth lab?

19 MR. MOOREHOUSE: No, I have
20 never heard of that.

21 Might be true but I don't know.

22 MS. MOORE: I have a grandson
23 in law enforcement and he made that
24 statement to me.

1 MR. MOOREHOUSE: I do know -- I
2 have heard in natural areas because they
3 are out of the way that that is a good
4 place for meth labs.

5 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: In the
6 back.

7 MS. SPIEKERMEIER: Beth
8 Spiekermeier.

9 Have you actually researched any
10 other counties to see how much --

11 MR. MOOREHOUSE: I did on this
12 website. I looked at all of the
13 surrounding counties.

14 MS. SPIEKERMEIER: Which
15 counties?

16 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Six or seven
17 to look at the numbers they had and
18 compare them. But no, my research
19 isn't -- because I don't have the data.
20 It is not released to the public and it
21 would take me a long time to fiddle with
22 the website and count the number of hogs.

23 If you have that information, that
24 would be great. Present it to the County.

1 Are we a cluster of hog farms or are
2 we not?

3 Is this normal or not normal?

4 You work for PSM, you tell me.

5 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
6 questions?

7 MR. DEARWESTOR: Matt
8 Dearwester.

9 Could you tell me, sir, are you
10 employed by someone or self-employed?

11 MR. MOOREHOUSE: I am
12 self-employed. I am a stay at home dad
13 right now. I have my biology degree from
14 Western. I do a little consulting work.

15 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: There
16 was another question. I saw a hand in
17 the back. I guess not.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. MOOREHOUSE: Thank you so
20 much.

21 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Next up
22 we have Tim Maiers.

23 MR. MAIERS: Tim Maiers,
24 M-A-I-E-R-S.

1 (Witness sworn.)

2 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

3 MR. MAIERS: My name is Tim
4 Maiers. I live near Payson, Illinois, in
5 Adams County. I work for the Illinois
6 Pork Producers Association. I also have
7 a small farm that's been in my family
8 three generations. I raised pigs for my
9 4H and FFA projects and I have worked at
10 large hog farms as well.

11 I would like to offer these brief
12 comments on behalf of the pork industry.
13 The pork industry has undergone an
14 enormous amount of change over the last
15 several years. We as consumers have been
16 able to enjoy a high quality of safe and
17 inspected food product. This combined
18 with the consolidation of retail outlets
19 and processors have forced producers to
20 change the way they do business to feed a
21 growing population and continue to make a
22 living.

23 Today's farms look different than a
24 few decades ago, but so do many of our

1 homes and businesses.

2 Today's farms employ modern
3 technology and innovations that allow us
4 to better capture and recycle our valuable
5 nutrients than we did for generations.

6 Pork producers are held to a zero
7 discharge standard in their management of
8 manure. All manure is required to be
9 completely contained in the manure
10 handling structures such as concrete pits
11 and then applied to fields according to
12 crop needs.

13 It is interesting that Illinois EPA
14 recognizes this too.

15 We talked about the tax abatement or
16 tax program. It is called tax
17 certification program for livestock waste
18 management. I have an Illinois EPA
19 document and I wanted to read this
20 briefly.

21 Again, this is from the Illinois EPA.

22 As an incentive for livestock
23 producers to construct waste storage
24 structures and other structures which

1 prevent water pollution, the Illinois EPA
2 administers a tax certification program
3 which reduces the property tax value for
4 many pollution control improvements.

5 In order to recognize this tax
6 deduction the producer must have
7 improvements certified by the Illinois
8 Environmental Protection Agency as a
9 pollution control facility.

10 Various facilities have been
11 determined to meet the definition of a
12 pollution controlled facility for
13 livestock waste management.

14 The following are examples of
15 pollution controlled facilities for
16 livestock waste management.

17 Number one on the list, manure pits
18 under confined animal feeding structures.

19 Illinois EPA recognizes that manure
20 contained in concrete pits is a pollution
21 control measure. That is why they offer
22 the tax incentive.

23 I wanted to point that out. We
24 talked a lot about that but never talked

1 many hogs are produced in the United
2 States in a year's time.

3 MR. MAIERS: I should know that
4 answer and I am drawing a blank.

5 MR. KING: Of that number, how
6 much of it stays within the United
7 States?

8 MR. MAIERS: Okay, I can tell
9 you this. About 25 percent of our
10 production is exported right now. We are
11 exporting.

12 MR. KING: So we could do
13 without 25 percent less of these CAFOs?

14 MR. MAIERS: We could -- well,
15 the people around the world would
16 disagree with you.

17 MR. KING: They might.

18 MR. MAIERS: Yes.

19 MR. KING: But they don't live
20 next to one either maybe.

21 MR. MAIERS: No, but they want
22 good quality protein and they want it
23 raised the right way.

24 MR. KING: I understand that.

1 I don't have a bit of problem. I eat
2 pork too.

3 MR. MAIERS: We live in a
4 capitalist society where if rules are
5 followed -- we are not saying --

6 MR. KING: I didn't say
7 anything about breaking the rules.

8 MR. MAIERS: 25 percent of our
9 production is exported.

10 MR. KING: The people that made
11 the rules aren't living next door to one
12 either.

13 MR. MAIERS: 25 percent of
14 production is exported.

15 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: In the
16 back.

17 MS. SPIEKERMEIER: Related to
18 his question, do you know what country we
19 export those products to?

20 MR. MAIERS: What countries we
21 export to?

22 MS. SPIEKERMEIER: Yes.

23 MR. MAIERS: Japan and Mexico
24 are our top two export markets based on

1 value and volume. China is also starting
2 to buy a lot of pork as well, but Japan
3 and Mexico are the two top export
4 markets.

5 MS. SPIEKERMEIER: Why do those
6 countries buy so much?

7 MR. MAIERS: Because the
8 quality that they can get. The quality,
9 and the cost -- it is a very good quality
10 product at a quality price.

11 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Yes.

12 MR. WILSON: Andrew Wilson.
13 Does the U.S. import pork?

14 MR. MAIERS: We do import some,
15 but we are a net exporter so we export
16 more than we import.

17 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
18 questions?

19 Thank you very much.

20 Next we have Matt Dearwester.

21 MR. DEARWESTER: Matt
22 Dearwester, D-E-A-R-W-E-S-T-E-R.

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

1 MR. DEARWESTER: I am Matt
2 Dearwester. Me and my wife Andrea live
3 outside of Camp Point, Illinois, and we
4 are 100 percent owners of Nutrition
5 Services, Incorporated, the feed plant
6 out here on the west side of town.

7 We have been providing PSM with their
8 feed needs since April of 2003.

9 In 2003 we purchased the feed plant
10 out here from Cargill. Cargill had chosen
11 to move their production to another
12 facility and was going to close that
13 facility and lay off its five existing
14 workers. With our agreement with PSM we
15 was able to buy the mill and keep those
16 five workers going without a lapse in pay.
17 They showed up on Friday as a Cargill
18 worker, showed up on Monday, the following
19 Monday as an NSI worker. We are pretty
20 proud of that fact.

21 Nine years later we employ 21 people
22 out here.

23 We have roughly 12 semis that are in
24 and out of there every day providing --

1 bringing us products in and hauling feed
2 out to the farms.

3 PSM represents 75 percent of our
4 business at that location and other family
5 farms make up the other 25 percent.

6 That feed mill right now is
7 purchasing about 3.25 million-bushel of
8 corn from the area. And the vast majority
9 of that comes from the local area here in
10 Carthage.

11 We also spend thousands of dollars on
12 the local suppliers here, the businesses,
13 the tire shops, the parts stores, the
14 mechanics, and we also are purchasing
15 roughly 80,000 gallons of fuel from our
16 local fuel provider out here on the west
17 side of town.

18 We are very pleased with our
19 relationship we have with PSM.

20 We look forward to continuing it for
21 a long time in the future.

22 With their growth we have been able
23 to or we are working on the plans to build
24 a new feed mill that will retain those

1 jobs in this area, add to the tax base and
2 be able to provide PSM and all of our
3 other customers with our future needs.
4 Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Are
6 there questions for this witness?

7 MS. BUNDY: Pam Bundy.

8 You stated that you were the sole
9 owner of the elevator out there?

10 MR. DEARWESTER: Me and my
11 wife.

12 MS. BUNDY: Sole owners?

13 MR. DEARWESTER: Yes.

14 MS. BUNDY: Like a spousal
15 partnership? Do you have any other type
16 of investors?

17 MR. DEARWESTER: No, ma'am. I
18 own a grain elevator down in Adams
19 County. Me and my wife are the sole
20 owners of that corporation. We are the
21 sole owners of this corporation. We also
22 have an LLC that owns the real estate and
23 me and, and my wife are 100 percent
24 owners of everything.

1 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
2 questions?

3 Thank you very much.

4 Next we have Doug Groth.

5 MR. GROTH: Doug Groth,
6 G-R-O-T-H.

7 (Witness sworn.)

8 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

9 MR. GROTH: I want to address
10 to the Hancock County Board.

11 I am Doug Groth. I am a partner in
12 Professional Swine Management. I am a
13 proud partner of Bill Hollis and Joe
14 Connor in that group, and we are striving
15 every day to be the best we can be in a
16 world class management company.

17 You have got to see and hear several
18 employees that were employees from the
19 farms we manage. We are very proud of the
20 team we have accumulated and brought to
21 western Illinois and are proud to keep
22 growing the industry in this area.

23 I have a young family. I have two
24 young daughters. And yes, I do live a

1 mile and a quarter from a CAFO. I built a
2 brand new house some years -- six years
3 ago about. I have no problems living out
4 there. Very comfortable being out there
5 and have no odor issues whatsoever.

6 I am pleased to be working in an
7 industry that we can grow.

8 I want my daughters to learn the
9 appreciation for livestock, whether it is
10 pigs, cattle, horses. I want them to grow
11 up with that type of background and work
12 ethic that goes along with having
13 livestock.

14 So I encourage and ask the Board to
15 vote in favor of this site. We work very
16 hard to try to site these in an area that
17 we think is suitable and meets all of the
18 criteria of the LMFA and we wish to be
19 good neighbors. We do meet and go out
20 there and try to address problems.

21 In fact, I did -- I am the one that
22 did go out and meet with Mr. Markey. I
23 met him at his kitchen table and tried to
24 discuss the issues, what is going to

1 happen, what we are doing, and all of that
2 before this meeting. I believe Mr. Evans
3 was at your house too. So we are very
4 willing to come talk, be good neighbors,
5 and that is what we want to do.

6 So we are going to be good partners
7 and good business for the area.

8 Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Are
10 there questions for this witness?

11 MR. MARKEY: Did you come into
12 our house before the fact or after the
13 fact?

14 MR. GROTH: I came in response
15 to understanding that you are concerned
16 about the facility being proposed at the
17 Junction Acres location.

18 MR. MARKEY: Before the fact or
19 after the fact?

20 MR. GROTH: What fact?

21 MR. MARKEY: You know what
22 fact. The proposed site. After we
23 received the letter. Before or after?
24 Just answer the question, please.

1 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

2 MS. HUTTEN: I have a statement
3 from Matt Star who couldn't be here
4 tonight that I wanted to read, and I have
5 two other statements to add to the
6 written record.

7 My name is Matt Star and I would like
8 to tell you how pork production can
9 positively affect a young person in
10 Hancock County.

11 After spending several years in other
12 areas of the state I moved home with my
13 wife to farm full time at the age of 27.
14 I currently farm with my dad and own a
15 grain and pig farm.

16 From a group of farmers that created
17 the first sow farm in corporation with the
18 Carthage group in '96 through the last 15
19 years our business has sometimes thrived,
20 sometimes struggled if always persevered
21 due in part to the business model used to
22 raise our pigs. Notice I said our pigs.
23 This group of families that started the
24 farm in '96 are the owners of the sows,

1 the farms and the pigs that we receive
2 from it. The pooling of resources by
3 several farmers allows us greater, skilled
4 employees, and most importantly for my
5 situation, a way to keep my family
6 involved in animal agriculture and
7 ultimately provide resources for me to
8 return to the family farm full time.

9 Three years ago I was chosen as the
10 President of the Western Illinois Pork
11 Producers. Resources of the county groups
12 from Hancock County, Adams and Pike
13 County -- our goal with this move was to
14 continue promoting our farms and products
15 as a safe and reliable source of
16 produce -- (inaudible) -- criteria as to
17 why family farmers are combining resources
18 in order to keep their farms diversified
19 and continuing to the next generation.
20 Some people seem to think that pig farms
21 are not farms anymore. At least cannot be
22 family farms. My family who strives to
23 grow our business and integrate the fifth
24 generation on the farm would respectfully

1 disagree.

2 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
3 you.

4 Questions for this witness?

5 I see none. Thank you.

6 Next we have Charlie Bair.

7 MR. BAIR: Charlie Bair,
8 B-A-I-R.

9 (Witness sworn.)

10 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

11 MR. BAIR: I am here tonight to
12 represent economic development. I
13 retired at the end of the year so you can
14 legitimize or illegitimize my testimony
15 as you see fit.

16 As I listen to the arguments on
17 either side this evening -- I address this
18 to the County Board -- I am persuaded that
19 there are two possibilities here, and it
20 frightens me a bit. On one side we have
21 the demands of economic development, of
22 which I have actively worked in the county
23 for about seven years now, which says we
24 have a sinking population. We have 1,000

1 jobs that have been lost in the last ten
2 years. And we essentially are facing
3 issues with our infrastructure, schools
4 and taxation which are serious. And we
5 could allow that to drive us to accept
6 perhaps anything. We have gone through
7 wind farms, we have gone through barge
8 building, we have gone through
9 hydroelectric power, we have gone through
10 the extraction of soybean oil with not
11 much success. And there are some of us
12 that believe that we need to remedy this
13 problem.

14 But in saying that, that should not
15 be a mandate to remedy it at any cost
16 either.

17 As I hear the testimony against the
18 hog confinement unit I am persuaded there
19 are two arguments at play. Some are
20 technical, things that have not been
21 explored and could be explored and could
22 be explained or fixed. And to that degree
23 I believe the County Board has a right to
24 ask those questions and to have those

1 things fixed that could be fixed.

2 The balance of the issue, such as
3 quality of life, housing location and
4 others perhaps are subjective and they are
5 very personal. And for anybody to say
6 that they are not important in the field
7 of economic development would be crazy.
8 They are, because the future of how we
9 develop this county, how we bring commerce
10 and other economic energy here does depend
11 on a decision like this.

12 So my request would be to the County
13 Board that they very carefully consider
14 the objections that have been raised, sort
15 from those objections those that can be
16 remedied, look at the pile that are
17 subjectively left and see if there are
18 answers. And if there are no answers, if
19 it is a tradeoff as it was when we put in
20 the super highway and we cut people's
21 farms in half and some people's
22 livelihoods were enhanced, some people's
23 pocketbooks were enhanced, others not --
24 always a tradeoff with economic

1 development -- then that question be
2 balanced against the economic benefits of
3 an \$11 million investment, a \$700,000
4 payroll and 18 to 20 new jobs. If in
5 their wisdom that balance is affirmative,
6 fine. If not, then the project should be
7 put down.

8 Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank
10 you.

11 Are there questions for this witness?

12 I see none.

13 Thank you.

14 Next we have Dana Walker.

15 MR. WALKER: Dana Walker,

16 W-A-L-K-E-R.

17 (Witness sworn.)

18 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay.

19 MR. WALKER: It's been over 40
20 years since I attend 4H meetings in this
21 building.

22 I have a two page statement.

23 I am President of Environmental
24 Concerned Citizens. I will be submitting

1 that statement on their behalf.

2 Some brief oral comments. Our group
3 is concerned about the protection of our
4 air, water and land. That's our major
5 objective as environmentally concerned
6 people.

7 I was a soil conservationist with
8 the USDA in the 1980s, and during that
9 time I wrote waste management plans. We
10 did -- the ones we did for swine manure we
11 figured 2 acres per animal unit. Now, we
12 had a small safety factor built in there.
13 Maybe 10 percent. I know that 2 acres is
14 not needed anymore because the diet, the
15 phosphorous production is lower and crop
16 yields have gone up. The number of acres
17 needed can vary on the crop yields. I am
18 going to say though that you still need
19 one to one and a half acres per animal
20 unit to avoid overloading the land with
21 manure both phosphorous and nitrogen.

22 I have been told there are almost
23 five large facilities within 4 miles of
24 this site. If they average 3,500 animal

1 units like this one is, that means a
2 minimum of 17,500 cropland acres needed.

3 So I am going to say virtually all of
4 the available cropland is almost loaded up
5 with manure.

6 A lot of this cropland is highly
7 eroded. The Lamoine River is seriously
8 threatened by too much nitrogen and
9 phosphorous. This proposed site is way
10 too close to the Lamoine and way short of
11 the acres needed for manure application.

12

13 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Are
14 there questions for this witness?

15 I see none. Thank you.

16 Well, that concludes the oral
17 testimony phase.

18 Is there anyone else who would like
19 to provide any oral testimony? Okay.

20 Now, is there any written testimony
21 that anyone would like to present?

22 Entered into the record as Exhibit
23 Number 3 is statement from the
24 Environmentally Concerned Citizens.

1 Entered into the record as Exhibit
2 Number 4 is a statement from Laura
3 Greiner.

4 And entered into the record as
5 Exhibit Number 5 is the statement from
6 Ryan Barrett.

7 And entered into the record as
8 Exhibit Number 6 is a statement from
9 Stacie James.

10 Entered into the record as Exhibit
11 Number 7 is a statement from Joseph
12 Zumwalt.

13 Any other written testimony?

14 All right.

15 Entered into the record as Exhibit
16 Number 8 -- entered into the record as
17 Exhibit Number 8 is a folder of
18 information from Ken Hunerdosse.

19 Entered into the record as Exhibit
20 Number 9 is the oral testimony sign-in
21 sheet.

22 Entered into the record as Exhibit
23 Number 10 are the attendance sign-in
24 sheets.

1 Any other written testimony to be
2 presented?

3 Are there any closing comments from
4 the facility? Dr. Hollis? Mr. West? No
5 comments?

6 Comments from the Department?

7

8 MR. GOETSCH: I would just like
9 to thank everyone for coming this
10 evening. And for those of you that
11 aren't in a hurry to go home, once the
12 hearing officer closes the meeting we
13 have to pick up all of these chairs and
14 put them away, so any help would be
15 greatly appreciated.

16 Thank you again for coming and have a
17 safe trip home.

18

19 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: As I
20 mentioned earlier, a copy of the
21 transcript will be provided to the County
22 Board. For others desiring a copy, a
23 transcript will be available by
24 contacting the court reporter.

1 Thank you for your attendance
2 tonight.

3 This public informational meeting is
4 hereby closed.

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21 (Public Informational Meeting concluded

22 at 11:40 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, LORRAINE McCREIGHT, an Illinois
Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify
that the testimony in the foregoing transcript
was duly reported by me; that the testimony of
said witnesses was taken by me to the best of
my ability, and thereafter reduced to
typewriting under my direction; that I am
neither counsel for, nor related to, nor
employed by any of the parties to the action in
which this hearing was taken; and further, that
I am not a relative or employee of any attorney
or counsel employed by the parties hereto; nor
financially or otherwise interested in the
outcome of this action.

_____ C.S.R.

LORRAINE K. McCREIGHT

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