

CITY OF HENRY

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF
BUFFALO RUN
LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT FACILITY

PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 4, 2019

ISAIAH ROBERTS, CSR, RPR

Public Hearing held in the matter of the proposed construction of Livestock Management Facility on June 4, 2019, between the hours of 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. at the Henry-Senachwine High School Auditorium at 1023 College Avenue, Henry, Illinois, 61357 before Isaiah Roberts, Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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I N D E X

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1 (6:03 p.m., proceedings commenced.)

2 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Before we begin
3 tonight, I'd ask that everyone turn their cellphones to
4 silent. Thank you so very much.

5 Good evening. On behalf of John Sullivan,
6 Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, we
7 thank you very much for the invitation to come to
8 Marshall County today.

9 My name is John Teefey. I am with the Illinois
10 Department of Agriculture, and I will be serving as the
11 hearing officer for tonight's public informational
12 meeting. Also with me on behalf of the Department are
13 Warren Goetsch, Deputy Director of the Illinois
14 Department of Agriculture; Doug Owens, Chief of the
15 Department's Bureau of Environmental Programs; and
16 Rosario Johnstone, Manager of the Bureau's Technical
17 Services and Pesticide Laboratory section.

18 This meeting is being conducted pursuant to
19 Section 12 of the Livestock Management Facilities Act.
20 The informational meeting is being held at the request
21 of the Marshall County board and is to afford members
22 of the public an opportunity to ask questions and
23 present oral and written testimony regarding the
24 proposed construction of a new 3,966 animal unit swine

1 facility by VMC management.

2 My task this evening is to ensure that this
3 meeting is conducted in an orderly fashion and to
4 ensure that all comments and testimony received are
5 entered into the record. Tonight's meeting is being
6 transcribed. The transcript of the meeting will be
7 sent to the Marshall County board, as well as used by
8 the Department of Agriculture, in making its
9 determination regarding the proposed construction of
10 this facility.

11 In order to ensure that we have an orderly
12 process, I will quickly explain how this meeting will
13 proceed this evening.

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

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

1 After their presentation, I will open the
2 meetings to questions. Anyone wishing to ask questions
3 of the facility representatives or the Department will
4 be given an opportunity to do so. During the question
5 and answer session, I will ask that you state your name
6 and spell your last name for the court reporter. You
7 then may ask your question.

8 Depending on the number of people that wish to
9 testify in the oral testimony phase of the meeting,
10 which is after the questions phase, there may be a time
11 limit placed on the questioning phase.

12 Following the question and answer phase, I will
13 ask for written testimony. If anyone has written
14 testimony that is not part of your oral testimony, I
15 will accept it and enter it into the record for this
16 proceeding. If you have written material that you will
17 be using as part of the oral testimony, it can be
18 entered into the record following your oral testimony.

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

22 Following the written testimony, I will ask for
23 oral testimony from the public. Sign-in sheets were
24 placed at the front door as you came in, one sheet for

1 attendances and the second sheet for oral testimony.

2 People who wish to provide comments during this
3 oral testimony phase are asked to please sign the oral
4 testimony sheet. People providing oral comments will
5 be sworn in. Each person will be given three minutes
6 to provide his or her comments. Legal counsel speaking
7 on behalf of multiple clients will be given a total of
8 15 minutes for all clients and will be asked to state
9 the names of all of the persons on whose behalf he or
10 she is speaking.

11 Deferring time to other speakers will not be
12 allowed. If you signed the oral testimony sheet, you
13 may either speak or if you have changed your mind you
14 may pass.

15 This meeting will then conclude with closing
16 comments from the facility and the Department of
17 Agriculture.

18 So to summarize the procedure tonight, we will
19 first have comments from the Department, then comments
20 from the facility, questions directed to the Department
21 and the facility. Please remember to state your name
22 and spell your last name. Written testimony will be
23 accepted. Oral testimony will be accepted from the
24 public. Each speaker will be sworn in. Then there

1 will be closing comments.

2 Please keep in mind that we are not here this
3 evening to discuss or debate the merits or perceived
4 inadequacies of the existing regulations or laws. We
5 are here tonight to receive information on this
6 particular proposed livestock facility to assist with
7 determining compliance with the existing regulations.
8 This is a public informational meeting, not a court
9 proceeding. The purpose is to share information and
10 provide an opportunity for the Department, members of
11 the County Board, and you, the public, to learn about
12 this proposed facility.

13 Again, we very much appreciate your hospitality
14 for inviting us here tonight to consider this proposed
15 construction of the Buffalo Run swine facility. Please
16 remember to confine your comments and questions to that
17 subject as we continue.

18 Before we turn to the Department's remarks, are
19 there any County Board members that would like to be
20 recognized at this time? Do you have any remarks you
21 would like to make. Thank you.

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

1 MR. GOETSCH: Good evening. My name is Warren
2 Goetsch. I currently serve as the Deputy Director of
3 the Illinois Department of Agriculture. One of our
4 responsibilities at the Department is the
5 administration of the various provisions of the
6 Livestock Management Facilities Act.

7 On behalf of the department, let me welcome you
8 to this public informational meeting.

9 Before we hear from the proposed facility's
10 representatives, I'd like to say a few words regarding
11 the applicable provisions of the Livestock Management
12 Facilities Act and the current status of this proposed
13 project.

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

18 The Act can be generally described as covering
19 five major areas, those being: Facility design
20 standards, waste management planning requirements,
21 facility operator training and testing, anaerobic
22 lagoon financial responsibility demonstration, and
23 facility setback requirements.

24 Each of these provisions impacts various types

1 of facilities in different ways depending upon their
2 size, expressed in animal units, and whether the
3 proposed facility is considered as a new facility, a
4 modified facility, or the expansion of an existing
5 site.

6 The Livestock Management Facilities Act
7 provisions are quite complicated and specific facility
8 designs and situations certainly can differ. It is,
9 however, the Department's intention to always fairly
10 and equitably apply these requirements to the livestock
11 industry in this state.

12 Now, regarding the current status of this
13 proposal. The Department received a formal notice of
14 intent to construct application for the proposed
15 construction of a swine facility on April 24th of 2019.
16 The proposed project is to consist of the construction
17 of five structures.

18 The first being a gilt development building
19 measuring 259 feet, 10 inches by 111 feet, 10 inches,
20 with a 10-foot deep under building livestock waste
21 handling facility.

22 The second structure is to be a gilt gestation
23 building measuring 341 feet, 4 inches by 111 feet, 10
24 inches, also with a 10-foot deep under building

1 livestock waste handling facility.

2 The third structure, a gestation building,
3 measuring 152, 1 inches by 501 feet, 4 inches, also
4 with a ten-foot deep under building livestock waste
5 handling facility.

6 The fourth structure, a gestation building
7 measuring 152 feet, 1 inch by 47 -- excuse me, 477
8 feet, 4 inches, with a 10-foot deep under building
9 livestock waste management facility.

10 And the fifth structure, a farrowing building,
11 measuring 229 feet, 10 inches by 510 feet, 3 inches,
12 with a two-foot deep under building livestock waste
13 management structure.

14 The project is proposed to be located
15 approximately 4.3 miles northeast of Camp Grove,
16 Illinois in western Marshall County.

17 The application was submitted by VMC
18 Management. The maximum design capacity of the
19 proposed facility is 3,966 animal units or 8,890 head
20 of swine greater than 55 pounds and 13,653 head of
21 swine less than 55 pounds.

22 As I mentioned earlier, the Department received
23 the notice of intent to construct application on April
24 24, and we reviewed it for compliance with the

1 applicable provisions of the Act.

2 On May 6th, the Department determined that the
3 notice was complete and forwarded a copy of the
4 completed application to the Marshall County board.
5 Notice of that application was also published in the
6 appropriate newspaper.

7 The design capacity of the proposed facility
8 requires compliance with a residential setback distance
9 of not less than 1,760 feet and a populated area
10 setback distance of not less than 3,520 feet.

11 On May 15th, the Department received official
12 notice from the Marshall County board requesting that a
13 public informational meeting be scheduled regarding
14 that proposal. After further consultation with the
15 County Board, the Department scheduled this meeting and
16 caused notice of the meeting to be published in the
17 appropriate newspapers.

18 An additional requirement of the Livestock
19 Management Facilities Act deals with the design and
20 construction plans and specifications associated with a
21 livestock waste management facility. The Department
22 has not received a formal submittal of detailed
23 engineering design plans and specifications for the
24 proposed projects under building livestock waste

1 management facilities at this time.

2 As such, the Department is unable to comment as
3 to their compliance with the statutory requirements of
4 the act at this time.

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

10 In general, information regarding the following
11 would be appropriate for this evening's meeting:

12 Manure management planning, potential impact of the
13 proposed facility on the surrounding area's character,
14 whether the proposed facility is located within any
15 flood planes or other sensitive areas, odor control
16 plans, possible impact of the proposed facility on
17 existing area traffic patterns, and possible impact of
18 the proposed facility on community growth, tourism,
19 recreation or economic development of the area.

20 Copies of the specific criteria were available
21 on the table with the sign-in sheets. If anyone would
22 like to have a copy of the criteria but didn't happen
23 to pick one up, if you'll identify yourself, we'll
24 certainly see that you receive a copy. Does anyone

1 need a copy of the criteria? Okay.

2 Finally, the process that will be followed
3 after this evening's meeting is as follows: The county
4 board will have up to 30 business days from today's
5 meeting to submit to the department a nonbinding
6 recommendation relative to the proposed siting of this
7 facility. Thus, a recommendation from the Marshall
8 County Board is due at the Department on or before July
9 17th of the year 2019.

10 After the close of the County's 30 business day
11 comment period, the Department will have 15 calendar
12 days or until August 1st to review all of the
13 information submitted to date, including the notice of
14 intent to construct, the construction plans and
15 specifications, transcripts from tonight's meeting, the
16 County Board's recommendation, and any other additional
17 information submitted by the owners at the request of
18 the Department.

19 Based on that review, the Department will
20 determine whether the eight sited criteria have been
21 met. Once that determination has been made, the
22 Department will notify both the county board and the
23 applicant of the Department's decision.

24 Mr. Hearing Officer, at this time I'd like to

1 submit the completed notice of intent to construct
2 application and its associated correspondence file for
3 formal entry into the record as an exhibit. I'd also
4 like to present a copy of the PowerPoint presentation
5 that accompanied my remarks as an exhibit as well.

6 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you,
7 Mr. Goetsch.

8 Entered into the record as Exhibit No. 1 is the
9 completed notice of intent to construct, including
10 correspondence between the Department and the
11 applicant, notices of the public informational hearing,
12 and correspondence with the Marshall County officials.

13 Entered into the record as Exhibit No. 2 is the
14 Department's PowerPoint presentation.

15 At this time we will hear comments from the
16 facility. Before you begin, for those who will be
17 presenting information, please state your name and
18 spell your last name for the court reporter, and then I
19 will swear you all in together.

20 Will the representatives who will be providing
21 testimony please raise your right hand.

22 (Witnesses were sworn.)

23 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you. You may
24 proceed with your testimony.

1 MR. RIPPEL: Good evening. My name is Nicolas
2 Rippel. First name N-i-c-o-l-a-s, last name
3 R-i-p-p-e-l. I'm a veterinarian with VMC Management.

4 But before we start tonight, I'd like to take
5 the opportunity to thank the Illinois Department of
6 Agriculture for coordinating this meeting and giving us
7 an opportunity to discuss our plans for Buffalo Run.

8 After I -- after my presentation tonight, Gayle
9 Baker will address how Buffalo Run will meet the eight
10 siting criteria of the Livestock Facilities Management
11 Act, so I will not belabor those points.

12 My goals for you tonight are to show you -- to
13 illustrate to you how Buffalo Run will be a great
14 success for Marshall County, much like Sandy Creek Lane
15 has been a great success for Marshall County.

16 It's hard to believe that it's been two years
17 since the first pigs came to Sandy Creek Lane. We
18 started off with a tremendous open house with over 500
19 people attending. We ran out of pork chops within the
20 first hour, and we've enjoyed tremendous community
21 support ever since.

22 The second thing I want to illustrate is how we
23 will raise pigs today, how we will raise pigs at
24 Buffalo Run.

1 First, a brief background on myself. I was
2 born and raised in Toluca, Illinois, and raised on a
3 pig farm two miles outside of Toluca. I graduated from
4 Fieldcrest High School in '95. I went on and earned my
5 biochemistry and microbiology degree from Cornell
6 College in '99, and then I received my DVM from the
7 University of Illinois in 2003.

8 Then in 2003, I landed in West Branch, Iowa, in
9 a mixed animal practice. Here, I cut my teeth on
10 veterinary medicine. I practiced on dogs, cats, pigs,
11 cattle, horses, sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, and the
12 occasional ferret. While in West Branch, I started a
13 family -- got married and started a family, and today I
14 have five rowdy kids, ages 13 down to 2, four girls and
15 one boy.

16 Then in 2007 I had the opportunity to move over
17 to the Veterinary Medical Center in Williamsburg, Iowa.
18 Here, I was able to concentrate on one of my passions.
19 One of my passions are pigs.

20 The Veterinary Medical Center was started in
21 1978 as a three-doctor mixed animal practice. Over the
22 years it has developed and grown into the current nine
23 doctor practice it is today. We have three swine vets,
24 including myself; we have four cattle vets; and then we

1 have two small animal vets.

2 In 1997, VMC Management was established in
3 order to provide better service for pig farmers. But
4 before I get into VMC Management and what we do, I want
5 to make sure we're all speaking the same terminology.
6 We've got various degrees of exposure to pigs in this
7 room, so we're going to do a little vocabulary lesson.

8 First, a boar is a male breeding pig.

9 Second, a gilt is a female pig that has not yet
10 delivered her first litter.

11 A sow is a mother pig that has developed at
12 least one litter.

13 A barrow is simply a male that has been
14 castrated.

15 A piglet is simply a baby pig.

16 And then we have this concept of farrowing.
17 Farrowing is the act of giving birth. This is the
18 delivery of piglets.

19 The other thing I want you to understand is
20 that pig farming has become very specialized over the
21 last 60 years. I grew up on what is called a
22 farrow-to-finish pig farm two miles outside of Toluca.
23 So on a single site, we bred adult female pigs, so
24 sows. We cared for them during their pregnancy; we

1 delivered those pigs; cared for those pigs during the
2 nursing period or the lactation period; and then at
3 three weeks of age, we weaned those pigs or removed
4 those pigs from their mother and took them to a barn
5 called the nursery.

6 Here in the nursery, we started those pigs on
7 feed and water, and they started to grow. After they
8 got to a certain size, we moved them to a finisher
9 where they continued to grow, where when they reached
10 300 pounds, they would go to market and become a pork
11 chop on your dinner plate.

12 Today, we've separated out those phases of life
13 of a pig to what we call a breed to wean or sow farm
14 where -- and to a wean finish or nursing finisher
15 sites. We've done this so we can provide more
16 specialized care for those animals at each phase of
17 their life and also to provide better, healthy pigs
18 because we can separate those life cycles and get them
19 separated out of the same farm.

20 So on breed to wean, we breed sows -- breed
21 adult female pigs. We care for them during their
22 pregnancy. We help them deliver their pigs, care for
23 their pigs. Then when those pigs are three weeks of
24 age and 15 pounds, they leave the sow farm and they go

1 to the wean, finish sites, which is a separate site.
2 Here, they are raised from 15 pounds up to 300 pounds,
3 at which time they go to market.

4 Now, it's important to note that Buffalo Run is
5 a sow farm. So that is what -- so we specialize on
6 breeding and producing a three-week old pig.

7 So VMC Management is a veterinarian-owned pig
8 farm management business. We work with independent pig
9 farmers, and they pool their resources to own a sow
10 farm cooperatively, rather than each having their own
11 sow farm independently. VMC Management provides the
12 employees or the caretakers. We manage the employees.
13 We manage the health and production of that sow farm
14 for the independent pig farm owners.

15 Now, at the farm, all caretakers are Pork
16 Quality Assurance certified. What they do is they
17 specialize in breeding and caring for those sows during
18 their pregnancy, assisting in the birth of the baby
19 pigs, caring for them during the nursing period until
20 they're three to four weeks of age and 15 pounds, at
21 which time they will leave Buffalo Run and they'll go
22 to one of the independent pig farmers' own finishing
23 barns. Here, they'll be raised up from 15 pounds to
24 300 pounds in just a short six months.

1 So to bring us all together on what VMC
2 management is, VMC Management pools their resources of
3 independent pig farmers who give us the charge of
4 producing a three week, 15-pound pig. We manage the
5 caretakers. The weaned pigs get on a truck, and they
6 leave Buffalo Run and go to the independent pig farmers
7 own sites across the county side.

8 Now, at Buffalo Run we will employ 25 animal
9 caretakers, and with an average salary of \$40,000. We
10 provide health insurance, 401(k), paid time off, and,
11 of course, the local residents are encouraged to apply.

12 Now, with Sandy Creek Lane in northeast
13 Marshall County and Buffalo Run being 24 miles away in
14 northwest Marshall County, we will have provided 50 new
15 jobs and a 2 million dollar annual payroll to Marshall
16 County. Another way to look at this is that last year
17 Sandy Creek Lane paid property taxes, and of that,
18 \$97,000 went to the Fieldcrest School District.

19 With Buffalo Run, \$90,000 will go to the Henry
20 School District, the building we're standing in right
21 now. So when Buffalo Run is in operation, we will have
22 contributed \$187,000 to Marshall County school
23 districts per year.

24 Yet another way, last year Sandy Creek Lane

1 paid \$9,000 to Evans Township roads and bridges.
2 Buffalo Run will pay \$10,000 to Saratoga road and
3 bridges. A total of \$19,000 will be paid to the
4 township roads and bridges in Marshall County.

5 So my question for you today is: Why are we
6 here? I know. We're supposed to be talking about
7 Buffalo Run; right? But what is the real reason we're
8 here tonight? When -- because 60 years ago, if I
9 wanted to raise pigs in Marshall County, we didn't all
10 gather in this auditorium to talk about it.

11 So as a veterinarian, when we're presented with
12 a problem, we always look for the root cause. What's
13 the root cause of the problem? Because if we don't
14 understand what that is, we can only manage around the
15 problem. We cannot eliminate the problem. And so in
16 my analysis tonight of why we're here tonight, there's
17 two root causes.

18 The first root cause is most people are very
19 far removed from pig farming. They live in cities or
20 for most of you in here tonight, we may live in a rural
21 area, but we may not have direct access to pig farming
22 or specific pig farming in this instance.

23 The other reason we're here tonight is that
24 never before in history have we had such instantaneous

1 access to so much information right at our fingertips,
2 right on our phones. Probably the fewest -- probably
3 the least thing we use our phones for anymore is making
4 a phone call.

5 The problem with that is that we all have busy
6 lives. So we look something up; we take it for fact;
7 but we need to be able to discern what we learned. Is
8 it fact, fiction, or opinion? I fall in that group
9 sometimes where I'm so busy, I don't take the time to
10 figure out which three of those is that information I
11 just got off my phone.

12 So here are some facts I want to share with
13 you. This is a map of the U.S. pig inventory in 1959.
14 You can see that in 1959 there are 68 million pigs in
15 the United States in 1959. You can see the
16 distribution. Here's Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio,
17 southern Minnesota, up into Wisconsin and down into
18 Missouri.

19 This is the U.S. pig inventory today, the
20 number of pigs in the United States. 72 million.
21 That's just a 6 percent increase in 60 years. Same
22 distribution: Illinois, Illinois, Minnesota. So we're
23 not here tonight because we have so many more pigs than
24 we did 60 years ago. That's not the reason.

1 Let's look at some other facts. In 1959, there
2 were 13 million farmers in the United States. Today,
3 there's 3 million. That's a 77 percent decrease in
4 farmers. In 1959, the U.S. population was 179 million.
5 Today, we have 326 million people in the United States.
6 That's an 82 percent increase. That calculates out
7 that in 1959, 7.5 percent of the population were
8 farmers. Today, we have one percent or less that are
9 farmers.

10 So in 1959, if you weren't a farmer yourself,
11 chances are you knew a farmer. If you had a question
12 about farming or about pig farming, you asked a pig
13 farmer. Today, if you've got a question about farming,
14 we're 96 people removed from a farmer. So what do we
15 do now? We go to Google. We go get on a Facebook page
16 to ask the question. But you know what? The person on
17 the other side of that account, chances are they're not
18 a farmer either.

19 So my goal for the duration of my presentation
20 tonight is to take your number from 96 people removed
21 from a farmer to one. I'm going to show you how pig
22 farmers and pig veterinarians like myself have worked
23 together using science and technology to raise
24 healthier pigs and better cared for pigs than we've

1 ever known in history.

2 Let's start with a proper diet and nutrition.
3 This is how we fed pigs in 1960. We cracked some corn,
4 threw some protein on the ground or in a trough, and
5 that's how we fed our pigs.

6 This is how we'll feed pigs at Buffalo Run.
7 This is a type of feeder that will be used to feed our
8 developing replacement gilts, our gilts that will be
9 bread for the first time. An auger, or what we call
10 the feed line, keeps this hopper full of fresh feed --
11 full of fresh feed 24/7. So whether it's 2:00 in the
12 morning or 2:00 in the afternoon, that gilt -- that
13 girl can come up and get a fresh meal.

14 Our pregnant females, our pregnant sows at
15 Buffalo Run, they'll receive feed through what we call
16 an electronic sow feeding station.

17 How does this work? It all starts with an ear
18 tag, an electronic button ear tag. That sow will enter
19 this gate, and behind her this gate will lock. When
20 that female puts her head into the feed bowl, the
21 system will scan her ear tag and it will drop a
22 programmed amount of feed to her. Once she is done
23 eating that feed, she exits, the door unlocks, and
24 another sow is allowed to enter and get her meal for

1 the day.

2 Using electronic sow feeding stations, we are
3 able to monitor what sows eat, what sows are currently
4 eating, and what sows have not fed for the day. Each
5 and every day we look at that. In fact, every day we
6 send our caretakers out to the barn and we look for the
7 sows who haven't eaten, because we want to know if
8 they're sick, if they're injured, and occasionally they
9 do loose a tag. So every day we look for those sows.

10 And so to understand how we're supposed to feed
11 these sows, we look at these sows multiple times
12 throughout their pregnancy because we want them to be
13 in a good state of well being to have an ideal body
14 condition. So that's how we program the feeding
15 station to deliver the correct amount of feed.

16 Keeping -- can you hit that on the video? This
17 is a video that will demonstrate how electronic sow
18 feeding works. So you can see that these are pregnant
19 females, pregnant sows in a gestation barn that's going
20 to look very similar to Buffalo Run. You can see how
21 they're all in close, mutual contact, like hot dogs in
22 a package. Pigs like to lie in close distal contact.
23 They're social creatures.

24 So here you'll see the GoPro cam on the back of

1 a sow going towards -- these are all individual
2 electronic sow feeding stations. Everybody is waiting
3 their turn. This sow has an opportunity to enter. The
4 door locks behind her. That protects her from another
5 sow from barging in.

6 Here's another illustration. The sow goes in,
7 the door locks, and she has to wait her turn. I need
8 this for my kids.

9 Here is the full sequence. The sow enters; the
10 door locks behind her; she sticks her head in the feed
11 bowl; the system reads her electronic tag and says this
12 sow needs five pounds of feed. It dispenses a quarter
13 pound of feed every 30 seconds until she has consumed
14 all of her feed allowed for the day. The sow is
15 waiting patiently or impatiently; she has eaten all of
16 her feed; the system times out in the case; and the
17 next sow is able to come in. This sow will exit
18 through the alley and return to the pen and return to
19 have a little fun with her buddies.

20 So just before our sows deliver their pigs, we
21 take them to a barn called a farrowing barn, the
22 delivery barn or maternity ward. Here, we do house
23 them in individual stalls to manage sow aggression,
24 protect the new born pigs, and ensure proper nutrition

1 to both the piglet and the sow during lactation.

2 Let's start with piglet nutrition. The most
3 critical point in a pig's life is those first few hours
4 after birth. So that's why our caretakers will make
5 rounds through the barn and assist those sows, those
6 mother pigs, every 20 minutes assist them and feed
7 them. If they don't need assisted, they're drying
8 newborn pigs. We want dry newborn pigs because we want
9 them to be warm and go attack that underline and get
10 their first meal of milk and colostrum as quickly as
11 possible.

12 Then we take steps after that litter has been
13 completely delivered to ensure that everybody does
14 receive colostrum. Colostrum is the first milk that a
15 sow produces. It's full of energy rich -- it's energy
16 rich and it's full of antibodies, immunity. Unlike
17 human babies who receive immunity from moms during
18 pregnancy, that does not happen -- that does not happen
19 to pigs. All of the immunity to a pig comes through
20 mom's first milk, and we have to get that in in the
21 first 12 hours of birth.

22 The next thing we want to ensure is that we got
23 proper nutrition for the mama's sows. So we've
24 designed feed systems that provide a constant source of

1 feed 24-7. It takes a lot of energy to deliver a
2 litter and produce milk to support that litter.

3 So unlike the 1960s where we threw cracked corn
4 and some protein on the ground, we won't just have one
5 feed ration at Buffalo Run. We'll have up to ten
6 different rations based on the age or the phase of that
7 pig.

8 For example, our developing guilds will go
9 through at least six different rations depending on
10 what age they are, which would be different than the
11 ration of feed that we feed our pregnant guilds, which
12 is yet different than the feed that we feed our
13 pregnant sows, which is different than all of the
14 energy that we need to make sure that feed mom has when
15 she's nursing that litter. And then, finally, we'll
16 have yet another ration for that female before we
17 rebreed her.

18 Now, what's the number one ingredient in pig
19 feed? Corn. Buffalo Run will use 300,000 bushel of
20 corn a year, which equates to over a million dollars
21 worth of locally grown corn.

22 What is the number two ingredient in pig feed?
23 Soybeans in the form of soybean meal. Buffalo Run will
24 use 1,700 ton of soybean meal or \$500,000 worth of

1 soybean meal.

2 Now, I just spent the last couple of minutes
3 talking about everything that goes into a pig. We all
4 know what goes into the pig that is not used for
5 growth, maintenance, and the reproduction eventually
6 comes out of the pig.

7 Underneath our barns at Buffalo Run we have
8 these structures that we call pits, and these are
9 designed by smart people like Gayle Baker here. In
10 these pits we collect the urine and feces that the pigs
11 produce. This becomes natural fertilizer because we
12 test this natural fertilizer for its fertilizer value
13 in the spring and fall, and then we test the
14 surrounding fields, the crop land for its fertilizer
15 needs, and then we apply it based on those needs.

16 So corn goes to feed pigs; pigs produce natural
17 fertilizer; natural fertilizer fertilizes next year's
18 corn crop, which feeds next year's pigs. So pig
19 farmers participate in one of the oldest forms of
20 recycling known to man.

21 This is that map again of the U.S. pig
22 inventory in 1959 with the 68 million pigs. Back in
23 1959, 99.999 percent of those pigs were raised
24 outdoors. Buffalo Run will have a system called a

1 manure management plan, which is documentation of how
2 we apply that natural fertilizer to the fields.

3 Does anyone know what the manure management
4 plan was in 1959? The weather. So when it rained,
5 that decided when the manure got into the environment.
6 If that didn't work, they loaded up the old John Deere
7 with a spreader and flung it out on the fields.

8 Today, Buffalo Run will use a method similar
9 to -- incorporated with putting anhydrous ammonia into
10 the ground. Can you press play on that please?

11 This is a video of a tractor in a field with
12 what we call a toolbar. It's kind of hard to see in
13 this room, but behind this toolbar is a hose. We call
14 that a dragline. That dragline goes one to two miles
15 back to the pig barn, where the pump is inside the pit
16 pumping that natural fertilizer all the way back out to
17 the tractor. It makes a furrow with its first set of
18 discs, injects its into the ground with that hose, and
19 covers it up with the second set of disks. This is how
20 we manage the fertilizer from pig farms today.

21 The other thing we do for our pigs to keep them
22 healthy is we provide them a fresh source, a constant
23 source of fresh water. Water is essential for all life
24 functions, for us, for pigs, for our pets.

1 Unfortunately, this picture does not show up
2 very well, but this is a picture of what we call a
3 water bar. On this water bar there's multiple water
4 nipples. You can see all the pigs crowded up against
5 that. These pigs were just weaned that day, and so
6 we're using the social behavior of pigs, who, for the
7 first three weeks of their life, all they know is that
8 when it's time to eat, I got brother and sister on the
9 side of me, on top of me, underneath me, trying to get
10 a drink of milk.

11 We're doing this to attract them to water.
12 When they discover the water, they'll find feed. The
13 faster pigs start on feed and water, the less stress
14 they'll be in. The less stress they'll be in, the
15 healthier our pigs will be.

16 The same goes for our pregnant and our
17 lactating sows. It takes -- I already said it took a
18 lot -- it takes a lot of energy to deliver pigs and to
19 maintain those pigs by producing that milk. It also
20 takes a lot of water to produce that milk to support
21 that litter.

22 Using the technology today, we know how much
23 water we're using on our farms. In fact, I can tell
24 you precisely we will use five gallons per sow, per day

1 at Buffalo Run. Do you know what the average person
2 uses in the United States per day? 100 gallons per
3 day.

4 The other thing we do for our pigs is we
5 vaccinate them, very similar to how we vaccinate our
6 children. Being a veterinarian, I'm lucky enough to
7 get vaccinated for rabies. We use the same technology.
8 Except for pigs, we're obviously going to use the
9 viruses and bacteria that they're going to commonly be
10 exposed to during their life to protect them. We'd
11 rather prevent disease rather than treat disease.

12 The next thing that helps keep our pigs healthy
13 is barn sanitation. And I tell you what, I have five
14 kids at home. I need help with this area. We
15 typically run pig barns on a group basis, whether it's
16 a barn, a room, or a pen. We bring pigs in. We bring
17 pigs out. We wash. We disinfect. We bring the next
18 pigs in. This breaks the transmission of any viruses
19 or bacteria that may be running around with those pigs.
20 It keeps our pigs healthy.

21 Then we have this concept of biosecurity. This
22 is -- this term describes how we -- the protocols we
23 put in place to prevent the viruses and bacteria that
24 are outside our farm from getting into our farm and

1 causing disease and animal suffering.

2 So when you see a sign like this -- when you
3 pull up to a pig farm and you see a sign that says,
4 "Stop. Do not enter without permission," this doesn't
5 mean "Stop. Don't enter. We're doing some shady
6 things in here." No. It means stop. We're more than
7 happy to tell you how we raise pigs, but there's some
8 steps you have to go through before you enter our barns
9 because we're trying to protect the health of our pigs.

10 There's certain steps you need to do, such as:
11 When you come in our front door, you're going to see a
12 little wall there, and I'm going to ask you to sit on
13 it. You're going to sit on that wall, and you're going
14 to take your shoes and socks off. Without touching the
15 floor on this side of the wall, you're going to flip
16 your feet over to the other side, and you're going to
17 enter one of these doors here.

18 On the other side of those doors, you're going
19 to find a locker. I'm going to ask you to take your
20 street clothes off and put into that locker; you're
21 going to step into the shower; you're going to
22 scrub-a-dub up; you're going to step through to the
23 other side, to the farm side; we're going to provide
24 you with some clean farm clothes to wear; and then you

1 can enter our barns.

2 We do this to prevent the transmission of
3 viruses and bacteria that can be trapped in our shoes,
4 on our clothes, on our person. And we don't only
5 handle people that way, we handle everything that comes
6 into the farm that way. All of the supplies to run the
7 farm get disinfected.

8 At Buffalo Run, we're going to use UV light,
9 ultraviolet technology to disinfect the materials
10 coming into the farm. So we'll either -- we'll have a
11 room. Some farms will have a box. We'll use UV light,
12 the same technology that hospitals use to disinfect.

13 Then we have veterinarian oversight. This
14 keeps our pigs healthy as well. This is no different
15 than if you get sick, if your kid gets sick, if your
16 dog gets sick, you take them to the doctor or to the
17 vet. Sometimes you just go for an annual check up or a
18 sports physical. It's no different for pigs, except
19 for that in veterinary medicine, we call it the
20 veterinary-client patient relationship.

21 You got the veterinarian right here. You've
22 got the client, which could be the owner or the
23 caretaker, and you got the patient, the pig. And the
24 reason we used this scenario is because I've never seen

1 an animal seek out veterinary services without a person
2 attached to it.

3 Now, most of my health -- most of my work is
4 done with healthy pigs; but pigs do -- can and do
5 become sick. When they become sick, we collect the
6 appropriate diagnostic samples, clinical examination,
7 and we do prescribe antibiotics when necessary.

8 Now, it's important to note that all antibiotic
9 use in pigs is approved and regulated by the Food and
10 Drug Administration. There is also safeguards in place
11 by the USDA that test meat for any antibiotic residues
12 before it enters the food supply. So that's why we
13 keep medication records on farms.

14 If we treat an animal, we record the date, all
15 of the pertinent information, and a thing called a
16 withdraw time. The withdraw time is a time that
17 is -- a time that is set by the FDA that says -- that
18 is the time that is required for that animal to
19 metabolize that medication to a point where it's safe
20 for the animal to enter the food chain -- the food
21 supply.

22 So there are certain political organizations
23 out there that want to take not only antibiotic use
24 away from pig farmers, but from all livestock farmers.

1 But you got to ask yourself: Is a sick pig in a good
2 state of well-being? A sick pig is suffering, so it's
3 not. So withholding a necessary tool to relieve that
4 suffering is not good welfare. But through judicious
5 use of antibiotics, using the antibiotic correctly, we
6 can preserve -- reserve the use of antibiotics -- the
7 effectiveness of antibiotics -- for pigs, people, and
8 your pets at home.

9 So to try to round this out tonight, pig
10 farmers are producing more pork with less, and they're
11 doing this by embracing science and technology. We're
12 doing it using enhanced genetics, you know, traditional
13 cross breeding programs. With science and technology,
14 we're able to go into a line or a breed of pigs and
15 find that gene that makes that pig grow faster on less
16 feed, and then take that pig and cross them with
17 another pig to make more pigs.

18 There's people out that there will use CT scans
19 of pigs, do whole body pig CT scans to look at all of
20 the internal organs and all of the structural, skeletal
21 features of that pig to try and understand what makes
22 that pig healthy -- what makes that pig healthy and do
23 better in life.

24 We've already talked about nutrition, the right

1 nutrients at the right time.

2 Improved barns, we've brought pigs inside to
3 protect them from the weather extremes, protect them
4 from predators, eliminates virtually all parasites in
5 pigs.

6 With technology, we have a higher -- the
7 highest level of care, constant care that we've ever
8 seen for our pigs.

9 We've talked about biosecurity. How can we
10 prevent disease through the protocols we go through and
11 the vaccinations we've used, rather than treat disease?

12 So in 1959, eight pigs is what it took us to
13 make 1,000 pounds of pork. Today, it takes five pigs.
14 So when I say less, we got less farmers doing more with
15 76 percent less land, 25 percent less water, and 8
16 percent smaller carbon footprint and 7 percent less
17 energy use than we did 60 years ago.

18 So, again, bringing this back to my root cause;
19 right? I'm going to jump on my consumer awareness
20 soapbox. I'm pushing a cart through Costco one day.
21 I got my pallet full of toilet paper and my 55-gallon
22 drum of milk. And I come across this package of bacon,
23 and on this bacon it says, "No antibiotics. No added
24 hormones...EVER! No preservatives." I'm reading that

1 label, and looking at the antibiotics. All right. I'm
2 okay with that. That just means that regardless if
3 that pig was healthy or sick, it never received
4 antibiotics. At that point -- it's a consumer decision
5 at that point. All right.

6 But this one is the one that catches my eye:
7 "No added hormones..." -- capital letters -- "EVER!"
8 Why does this one catch my eye? When you're looking at
9 food packages, if there's more information about a
10 claim, they'll have a little superscript. You can
11 hardly see that on this package, so let's zoom in.
12 They got a superscript number one. Down here in
13 itty-bitty, teeny-weeny print, let's find that
14 superscript number one.

15 It says: "Federal regulations do not permit
16 the use or hormones in pork." Now -- what the? What's
17 up with that? If it's against the law to use hormones
18 in pork, why put on the label, "No added
19 hormones...EVER!" Why is it on the label?

20 And to add insult to injury, let's look at
21 superscript number 2 for no preservatives. "Federal
22 Regulations do not permit the use of preservatives in
23 pork." That's a double whammy.

24 So why are they doing this? They're trying to

1 differentiate their product from the dozens of other
2 packages of bacon on the shelf, when there's no
3 difference to be found. This is false advertising.
4 This is totally just misleading advertising.

5 So, again, whether you're looking at a food
6 package or you're on Mr. Google looking for
7 information, we got to take the time -- we got to pause
8 every once in awhile -- I'm included -- we got to pause
9 every once in awhile and say, "All right. What does
10 this mean? Is this fact? Is this fiction? Is it
11 opinion?"

12 Now, we get to number one. I hope I brought
13 your number from 96 people removed to a farmer to one.
14 So the next time you have a question about pig farming,
15 you can ask a pig farmer. Or in my case, a pig vet.
16 Thank you very much.

17 MS. BAKER: My name for the record is Gayle
18 Baker, G-a-y-l-e B-a-k-e-r.

19 As Dr. Rippel stated, I am the engineer that
20 will be working with Dr. Rippel to provide construction
21 plans and present on the eight siting criteria of the
22 Buffalo Run farm this evening.

23 I'm a professional engineer. I work for
24 Maurer-Stutz in Peoria, Illinois. I've been an

1 engineer for near nine years in July, and a
2 professional engineer for five.

3 Tonight's presentation regarding Buffalo Run
4 farm deals with the waste storage facilities listed on
5 the notice of intent to construct, which includes the
6 gilt development deep pit building, the gilt gestation
7 deep pit building, the farrowing shallow pit building,
8 the gestation deep pit building, which there are two of
9 those.

10 Tonight, my presentation will follow directly
11 the siting criteria listed in the Livestock Management
12 Facilities Act. We'll cover the registration and
13 certification requirements; the design, location, and
14 operation standards of the farm; the location,
15 compatibility with the area; the flood plain and
16 aquifer protection; how the farm will minimize its
17 environmental impact; its odor control and reduction
18 practices; how the traffic patterns will minimize
19 impact on the local area; and if the farm is consistent
20 with the area development.

21 Under criteria no. 1, registration
22 requirements. We submitted the initial notice of
23 intent to construct to the Illinois Department of
24 Agriculture on April 24th of 2019.

1 On May 6th of 2019, NOITC was deemed completed
2 by the Illinois Department of Ag, and we then submitted
3 the complete NOITC copy in certified mail to property
4 owners located within the populated area setback.

5 The residential setback is 1,760 for the number
6 of animals that will be at this farm. No residences
7 were located within this setback, and it was exceeded
8 by 1,140 feet to the northeast.

9 The populated area setback was 3,520 for this
10 size farm. No populated areas or nonfarm businesses or
11 common places of assembly were located within this
12 setback. In fact, the setback was exceeded by 19,000
13 feet.

14 Also, under criteria one, is the nutrient
15 management plan. The nutrient management -- the farm
16 is currently still developing its nutrient management
17 plan. This plan will meet the requirements of the
18 Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Illinois
19 Environmental Protection Agency. The nutrient
20 management plan will be kept on site with all
21 applicable records.

22 This plan will include the total annual manure
23 volume calculations, the targeted crop yields in the
24 application areas, manure analysis to provide the

1 nutrient content of the manure for our calculations,
2 which will provide the agronomic loading and
3 application rates that will be applied to the nearby
4 fields.

5 This plan will also include land application
6 provisions that include the setbacks and also areas
7 that will require injections or incorporation. This
8 plan also will include documentation records, which
9 includes records of livestock nutrient application.

10 Specifically, this plan will have more than
11 1,800 acres, and this amount of acreage has been lined
12 up with nearby land owners in preparation of preparing
13 this plan. These acres required are based on the
14 amount of manure produced, the nutrient value of the
15 crop fertility need, and the nutrient value of manure.

16 This is a constantly changing calculation based
17 on yearly production, the crops the manure will be
18 applied to, and the manure nutrient content. This plan
19 will be in place at the farm 60 days after the
20 beginning of the operation per the Livestock Management
21 Facilities Act, and this plan and associated records
22 will be available for farm inspections.

23 Under criteria no. 2, environmental protection,
24 we'll start with a structure designed for farming.

1 These plans are currently under development and will be
2 submitted to the Illinois Department of Agriculture for
3 review. The design will be completed by a licensed
4 professional engineering and a licensed structural
5 engineer.

6 The design is based on the Livestock Management
7 Facilities Act. ASABE standards, which stands for the
8 American Society of Agricultural and Biological
9 Engineers and Midwest society, and Midwest Plan Service
10 36.

11 In preparation for developing these plans, a
12 site investigation, under the direction of a licensed,
13 professional engineer pursuant to the LMFA regulations,
14 was completed. Our design plans will include details
15 for a reinforced concrete pit, which will include steel
16 according to the Midwest Plan Service 36 and ACI-318,
17 which is the building code requirements for reinforced
18 concrete.

19 Per the Livestock Management Facilities Act, a
20 liquid storage structure is required to have 150 days
21 or five months of storage. This farm will provide more
22 than 12 months of storage for the manure. Our design
23 will detail out how joints and penetrations in this pit
24 will have waterstops to prevent leaks or seepage of the

1 liquid. These structures will be watertight
2 containments. The pit walls will be designed with
3 appropriate concrete footings based on the site's soil
4 investigation.

5 On this sheet, I have shown a couple of example
6 details for what our plans will look like. The big
7 thing that we do on these plans is detail out how we
8 want our concrete to crack. Concrete will crack, but
9 we provide a place for that concrete to crack over top
10 of where we have a vinyl waterstop. This waterstop
11 creates a watertight pit. It is a containment
12 structure at that point.

13 Additionally, on the left you can see our
14 reinforcement detail. The walls are designed to
15 withstand soil pressure, pressure from the manure in
16 the pit, as well as temperature and shrinkage and other
17 requirements from the ACI code.

18 On the screen now you can see some examples of
19 the PVC waterstop placed for the waterstop control and
20 construction joint in the slab. The PVC base seal, as
21 we call it, is placed on the subgrade. Reinforcement
22 that crosses over the base seal is interrupted. This
23 base seal causes the place in that concrete where the
24 concrete is thinner, and will crack along that seal.

1 Interrupting that reinforcement further allows that
2 concrete to crack along the seal, and will have joints
3 that allow that concrete to sink and swell as
4 temperatures occur. These waterstop seals are designed
5 for containment structures to be a watertight
6 structure.

7 Additionally, you can see here the grid that
8 will be laid out in the subgrade and the placement of
9 the concrete over the seals. We want those cracks to
10 continue up our walls, so we placed waterstops
11 connected to the base heel up the wall, and this allows
12 that crack from the slab to follow the joint up the
13 wall. Again, we interrupt this rebar, so that way the
14 walls can slide back and forth. These PVC water stops
15 have an amount that they're able to move. This
16 maintains a watertight structure.

17 Do to these design requirements provide a
18 manure storage structure that does not leak? Yes.

19 Also under the criteria two of the
20 environmental protection, this farm will not be located
21 in a 100 year floodplain, and it will not be located in
22 a Karst Region as identified by IMAP 8 by ISGS.
23 Additionally, this farm is not located in a sink hole
24 area, also indicated on IMAP 8.

1 Duration our site soils investigation, we did
2 identify sand material more than two feet thick found
3 in limited borings to a depth of five feet below the
4 lowest point of the planned bottom of some of our 10
5 foot waste storage structures.

6 Because of this, our design will need to meet
7 Section 506.310 of the LMFA, which states that waste
8 storage structures constructed of concrete will extend
9 below the maximum frost depth, which will occur on our
10 10 feet deep structures, and we will meet that
11 requirement.

12 Additionally in our site soils investigation,
13 we identified a Seasonal High Water Table, or an SWHT.
14 This was found based on soil mottling and delayed water
15 readings taken at the site. A perimeter drainage
16 system will be utilized -- or basement drain -- around
17 the base of the structure to control the Seasonal High
18 Water Table, as the pits are not designed to resist
19 buoyancy.

20 We will have a monitoring port for each waste
21 storage structure, which will be sampled quarterly per
22 the Illinois Administrative Code 900.511. These
23 results will be run through a lab and sent to the
24 Illinois Department of Agriculture.

1 On the left, you'll see an example of this
2 perimeter drain running around the footing of our
3 storage structure; and on the left, an example of a
4 monitoring port, which also includes a shut off valve.
5 If there were ever high readings from the lab, this
6 could be turned off, the pit emptied, and an
7 investigation completed to determine what the cause
8 was.

9 Will the design, location, and proposed
10 operation be consistent with the guidelines outlined in
11 the LMFA? Yes.

12 Under criteria no. 3, location compatibility,
13 this farm will be located on land zoned as
14 agricultural. The farm is compatible with the
15 surrounding area's character. There's history of swine
16 production near the location, with farms -- swine farms
17 located within five miles of the farm. The site is
18 surrounded by corn and soybean fields. We've exceeded
19 the LMFA setback requirements for residences, populated
20 areas, and wells, and the NOITC was deemed complete by
21 the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

22 If we take a step back outside of the
23 LMFA setbacks to a mile radius around the facility,
24 there are five residences located within one mile of

1 the farm. This is not a populated area where this farm
2 will be constructed.

3 Under criteria no. 4, environmental
4 sensitivity, this farm is not located within an 100
5 year floodplain, and the farm is not located in a Karst
6 area.

7 To further meet this criteria no. 4 for
8 environmental sensitivity, I will refer back to our
9 soil investigation to do a subsurface investigation of
10 the site. 20 soil borings were done throughout the
11 site, and we extended these borings more than five feet
12 below the planned bottom of each structure.

13 From this information, additional design
14 criteria will be followed due to the sand/aquifer layer
15 that was identified. Meaning, that the footings of the
16 concrete storage structures will extend below the
17 maximum frost depth per the Livestock Management
18 Facilities Act.

19 Additionally, under criteria No. 4, service
20 water will be diverted away from and around these
21 structures to help prevent water from stacking up
22 around these structures and causing undo pressure
23 around the structures. This will be done using pipes
24 and swales, and water will be held in detention basins

1 and slowly released to not increase the flow from this
2 site that is currently present.

3 This is a zero discharge farm. Manure will not
4 leave this farm from the pits, because construction
5 standards are consistent with the goals of protecting
6 the safety of the area and waterstops and design
7 standards are utilized. In addition, the farm has
8 followed setbacks from wells and surface water.

9 Under criteria No. 5, operation plan for the
10 farm, farm management -- and this was discussed a
11 little bit -- that animals are housed on top of
12 concrete precast slabs. Manure is stored below the
13 concrete slatted floor. Concrete pit structures are
14 manure containments. Manure is removed from the
15 structure yearly for land application.

16 The structures will have 365 days of storage
17 versus the LMFA required 150 days of storage. This
18 provides the farm the opportunity to wait to apply --
19 land apply during optimum conditions, which also
20 provides reduction in leeching and runoff potential.

21 This farm will also be operated by a Certified
22 Livestock Manager, or a CLM, which is administered by
23 the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

24 Under operation plan for land application,

1 subsurface injection or incorporation of all manure
2 will be employed, which reduces the likelihood of
3 spills and runoff potential. Manure will be applied at
4 agronomic rates, according to the nutrient management
5 plan and regulations. Manure will be applied only when
6 appropriate soil conditions exist, nutrient levels
7 dictate that application is appropriate, and in a way
8 to reduce runoff potential and nutrient leaching.

9 Under criteria 5, the farm's plans for
10 operation with best management practices will minimize
11 the likelihood of environmental damage to the area from
12 spills, leaching, and runoff.

13 Under criteria no. 6, odor control, animals are
14 housed on slotted floors and slats to stay cleaner,
15 thus reducing odor. These precast concrete slabs and
16 easily cleaned, and as Dr. Rippel talked about, they're
17 cleaned between each production cycle with pressure
18 washing.

19 Additionally, under odor control, all manure
20 from this farm will be injected or incorporated to
21 control the odor during this time period.

22 Finally, the location complies with and exceeds
23 setback distances as established in the LMFA. These
24 distances have been exceeded with the residential

1 exceeded by 1,140 feet, and the populated area exceeded
2 by over 19,00 feet, which is a little over four miles.

3 This farm will be utilizing a tree buffer
4 around the farm to also help dissipate and control
5 odor.

6 Finally, best management practices will be used
7 at the farm by performing regular ventilation and
8 regular maintenance on the ventilation system, which
9 will keep the fans operating efficiently and reduce the
10 amount of dust build up on these fans.

11 Under criteria no. 7, traffic patterns, the
12 existing traffic use on area roads, as summarized up
13 here, was gathered from the Illinois Department of
14 Transportation from a 2008 survey. 1400 North will be
15 the main road used to get to the farm, which currently
16 sees around 25 vehicles a day, which goes to 250 East
17 or LaPrairie Road, which sees around 400 vehicles per
18 day.

19 The planned traffic route to the farm will
20 evolve taking 1400 North about three quarters of a mile
21 to LaPrairie Road, which north goes to Illinois Route
22 34 and south goes to Illinois Route 17.

23 The farm will add about 35 vehicles per day for
24 passengers vehicles, which would be farm workers coming

1 to work and going from work, and will see an additional
2 10 trucks per week, which will include livestock and
3 feed trucks. Buffalo Run traffic will comply with the
4 same seasonal posted road limits as all other traffic
5 in the area.

6 Under criteria no. 8, last but not least, is
7 community benefits. The farm will provide economic
8 benefit to local businesses. It will be purchasing
9 feed from a local source. The concrete and building
10 supplies will be purchased locally. The farm will
11 employ 25 people and local residents are very much
12 encouraged to apply. Neighboring farms will benefit
13 from manure as a natural source of fertilizer.

14 Also, as Dr. Rippel touched on, is the tax
15 benefits for the community. We've summarized these
16 from the Marshall County parcel district property tax
17 information, and we estimated about 190,000 in property
18 taxes annually will be generated from the Buffalo Run
19 farm.

20 To summarize criteria no. 8, Buffalo Run will
21 be located in a rural area and will benefit the
22 community by adding jobs, tax income, and value to corn
23 and soybeans produced in the area.

24 This summarizes the facility's testimony on the

1 sitting criteria, and I will enter my written testimony
2 and presentation into the record.

3 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you very much.

4 Entered into the record as Exhibit No. 3 is the
5 presentation from the facility's representatives.

6 We will now open the meeting for any questions
7 that you may have for the facility or the Department.
8 If you have a question you would like to ask, please
9 raise your hand, and when called upon please state your
10 name and spell your last name for the reporter. Please
11 indicate to whom you're directing your question.

12 I will remind you that this portion of the
13 meeting will be limited to questions only. After this
14 question and answer session, there will be a session
15 dedicated to public testimony where you at that time
16 can provide your oral comments. So please limit this
17 session to questions only for the Department or the
18 facility's representatives.

19 Also, please keep in mind that questions need
20 to pertain specifically to this particular facility.
21 At this time are there any questions?

22 Yes. There's a hand in the back.

23 MS. BLUMENSHINE: Thank you very much.

24 My name is Joyce, J-o-y-c-e, Blumenshine,

1 B-l-u-m-e-n-s-h-i-n-e. I have a question for Ms. Baker
2 please.

3 You indicated the borings have found sand areas
4 below the facility. Sometimes by common name means
5 sand lenses, for those of us who are not scientific,
6 and I am not. Sand lenses are known to transmit
7 pollution much more rapidly and in many undetected or
8 unexpected ways because, of course, it's sand.
9 Polluted water travels through sand maybe in a range of
10 ways.

11 So what extra assessments will you be doing
12 regarding underground groundwater flow? If there were
13 contamination reaching these sand lenses, you talked
14 about the safety of the facility, but what remediation
15 can be done if there is any leakage into the sand
16 lenses? Thank you.

17 MS. BAKER: As discussed in our subsurface soil
18 investigation, we also determined that there was a
19 Seasonal High Water Table, which will require a
20 perimeter drainage system. This is going to be our
21 first line of defense if there was ever a issue with
22 the structure. We'll be monitoring that regularly, so
23 we will be able to tell if there was an issue with the
24 structure. That structure would be emptied, and an

1 investigation completed.

2 MR. GENTERT: I've got a question pertaining to
3 that. My name is Charles Gentert, G-e-n-t-e-r-t. Same
4 question as far as the soil. Who -- how many of these
5 companies -- seems like there's only one geologist that
6 does the soil samples. Seems like they always get the
7 same one. That seems to me to throw up a red flag, you
8 know.

9 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Do you have a
10 question, sir, for the facility?

11 MR. GENTERT: yeah. Why is it always the same
12 geologist company out of Bloomington that gets the same
13 one? And I want to say -- I want it on the record --
14 as long as Dr. Rippel referred to Sandy Creek that so
15 -- how good it is, we work bring up the bad points of
16 living next to one. I better not be cut off because I
17 want that on the record, because then you guys -- the
18 Department of Ag is supposed to be very neutral, not
19 one sided.

20 I'd like to know who they got for the soil
21 borings and -- the Department of Ag -- and how many
22 companies in the state of Illinois do these soil
23 borings or if it's always out of Bloomington.

24 MS. BAKER: Well, I can't speak to what all

1 farms use in Illinois. Our farms particularly use an
2 entity out of Champaign, and it was the done under my
3 direction as a professional engineer. So if that
4 answers your question, and if that pertains to the
5 siting criteria under environmental protection, it was
6 performed under my direction as a professional
7 engineer.

8 MR. GENTERT: Because the same issue -- seems
9 like every table here that goes out is flood out. And
10 the issues never address, you know, because that one
11 there next to Big Sandy Creek and that feeds into the
12 Illinois River for all of these communities --

13 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Okay. I'm going to
14 give the Department the opportunity to answer your --
15 the other question you had.

16 MR. GOETSCH: I think that there are probably
17 four or five engineering firms that do the majority of
18 the livestock projects that we see, and it's probably
19 because they are very well versed. I think if you
20 would probably look at the number of architects that do
21 schools in down state Illinois, there's probably a
22 dozen or less of those because they specialize.

23 In terms of borings, I would suggest that
24 there's a number of companies that are utilized by

1 engineering firms to conduct those soil borings, and
2 there are a number of geologists that are utilized.

3 So I don't agree with you when you say it's the
4 same one. There's numerous specialists or numerous
5 consultants that work on these proposals.

6 MR. GENTERT: Weren't these issues brought
7 out --

8 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: If you have another
9 question, could you please stand up just so that the
10 court reporter can hear you.

11 MR. GENTERT: Charlie Gentert, G-e-n-t-e-r-t.
12 Aren't these the same issues that were brought out at
13 the one in Evans Township, and were they addressed by a
14 geologist. They were brought out in Marshall County
15 about issues the way these soil borings were done.
16 Were they addressed?

17 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Is this question for
18 the Department?

19 MR. GENTERT: Department of Ag.

20 MR. GOETSCH: I'm sorry. I have no idea what
21 you just asked. I'm sorry. I just didn't understand
22 your question. Could you rephrase it?

23 MR. GENTERT: I mean, yeah. These issues were
24 brought out in Wenona, Illinois, the way the Department

1 of Ag does these soil boring by geologists --

2 MS. BAKER: I can step in here for a second. I
3 believe I understand what you're asking.

4 These borings were completed to all of the
5 requirements in the Livestock Management Facilities
6 Act. Our site soil investigation will be submitted to
7 the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and they will
8 make sure that it has followed the LMFA.

9 MR. LAPE: My name is Jeffrey Lape. Last name
10 is spelled L-a-p-e. I live one mile north of your
11 proposed facility.

12 I want to know how deep your soil borings were,
13 and if you hit water in any of those soil borings. The
14 reason I say this, I have two wells. My drilled well
15 has water at 12 feet always. I have a dug well next to
16 my house with water at 6 feet always.

17 MS. BAKER: As I outlined in my presentation,
18 our borings were all extended more than five feet below
19 the structures, which is the requirement of the
20 Livestock Management Facilities Act.

21 As I also identified in my presentation, we did
22 find a Seasonal High Water Table, or a SHWT, which
23 we'll be controlling with a perimeter drainage system.

24 MR. LAPE: You deflected. My question was:

1 How deep were your soil samples? Did you hit water in
2 any of those?

3 MS. BAKER: Yes. We hit water. We hit a
4 Seasonal High Water Table. We had more than 20
5 borings, and that will be summarized in our site soils
6 investigation to the Department.

7 MR. LAPE: So you don't know what depth?

8 MS. BAKER: We had varying depths for all of
9 them, and they all exceeded the five foot requirement
10 of the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

11 MR. LAPE: Pick one whole. What was the depth?

12 MS. BAKER: I'll summarize that in my site
13 soils investigation. I'm not able to tell you that off
14 the top of my head.

15 MR. LAPE: Okay.

16 MR. TEEFEY: Question in the Isle.

17 MS. SALISBURY: My name is Cindy Salisbury, and
18 I live at --

19 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Excuse me. Could you
20 speak a little louder and just spell your last name
21 please.

22 MS. SALISBURY: Sorry. Cindy Salisbury,
23 S-a-l-i-s-b-u-r-y.

24 Mr. TEEFEY: Thank you.

1 MS. SALISBURY: And I live in Saratoga
2 Township.

3 What I'd like to know is: You said that you
4 hold -- you need 1800 acres to spread the manure on,
5 and you have 12 months of storage. How many times a
6 year is that going to be removed from the pits for the
7 farmers that you are going to, I assume, sell the
8 manure to to put into their fields, and how close to
9 the residents and the community of Camp Grove and
10 others is this going to be done? We will be affected
11 by the smell. The smell that you're talking about from
12 your facility is totally different from the smell when
13 my husband and I raised livestock, hogs, swine, in our
14 lifetime.

15 So I would just like to know how often and how
16 close to people and whose fields is this going to be
17 put into?

18 THE DEFENDANT: I'll start with speaking to the
19 frequency that the manure will be removed from the
20 pits, as summarized in my slides. This site will have
21 365 -- more than 365 days of storage in yearly
22 application.

23 MS. SALISBURY: How often in that year? Once a
24 year?

1 MS. BAKER: Once a year.

2 MS. SALISBURY: So you're talking about 12
3 months of storage of 1,800 acres of ground; is that
4 what you're saying? So you have 1,800 acres of ground
5 to spread this manure off of 40,000 pigs plus --
6 through the year on 1,800 acres of ground. How is that
7 going to affect, smell wise, the community around you?

8 MR. RIPPEL: So we will incorporate manure into
9 the surrounding crop line actually twice a year, in the
10 spring and fall, and we'll use it similar to that video
11 I demonstrated in my presentation. We'll incorporate
12 it into the ground, so that reduces the odor and any
13 chances for a runoff.

14 As far as -- we will observe all the setbacks
15 from residences during manure application, and then
16 being as far as -- within two miles -- within a mile of
17 Camp Grove there's a similar type of swine facility
18 that would incorporate the same manure management plan.

19 MS. SALISBURY: Yes. I'm aware. They're my
20 neighbors. It's not near -- and it's not that often.
21 We know the smell, but it's not like the smell you're
22 talking about of a year's worth of 1,800 acres and all
23 in the time span that you said.

24 MR. RIPPEL: Have you been by Sandy Creek Lane

1 and experienced that?

2 MS. SALISBURY: No. But I'm not Sandy Creek;
3 I'm talking about my neighbor in Saratoga.

4 MR. RIPPEL: But this is a different facility.

5 MS. SALISBURY: This is our neighbor that lives
6 just around the corner from us.

7 The other question I have is: You said that in
8 taxes to road and bridges of Saratoga Township, that
9 your company will give \$10,000 in new taxes.

10 The 1400 North Road that runs in front of the
11 facility that you want to put up is not prepared and
12 not strong enough to support the tonnage of the trucks
13 that are going to be driving on that road, and it's
14 going to cost a lot of money to build that road up.

15 Who is going to pay for that? Is your company
16 going to pay for that, or are tax payers in Saratoga
17 Township, with it coming out of road and bridge fund to
18 pay for it? Who's going to cover that large expense at
19 the cost of our roads and our community and our area
20 that need work, that need a lot of assistance and need
21 bridges done and the cost it's going to take to build
22 up the road that you need access to your facility from?
23 Who's going to the cover that cost?

24 MR. RIPPEL: So as you pointed out, we will

1 contribute through our property taxes \$10,000 to the
2 Saratoga Township roads and bridges. We will run the
3 roads at posted legal limits year around.

4 MS. SALISBURY: But the road isn't road ready
5 for the amount of truck that's going to be going to
6 your facility --

7 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Again, we will have a
8 separate time if anyone wants to give testimony.

9 MS. SALISBURY: I do have a question. I'm just
10 trying to say the roads need to be built up to handle
11 the weight of the trucks that are going to be going
12 down --

13 MR. RIPPEL: We will not exceed the weigh
14 limits of the road, ma'am.

15 MS. SALISBURY: That didn't answer my question.

16 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Another question here.

17 MR. LAPE: My name is Jeffrey Lape, L-a-p-e.

18 My question is for the Illinois Department of
19 Agriculture.

20 Facilities of this nature, I assume, are
21 monitored by the Department of Agriculture. How many
22 feces spills have been reported in the last year or the
23 last five years?

24 MR. GOETSCH: The Livestock Management

1 Facilities Act requires the reporting of manure
2 releases. Those reports are to go to the Illinois
3 Environmental Protection Agency, and they are the
4 agency that are charged to investigate releases or
5 spills. We do, from time to time, conduct joint
6 inspections or joint site visits with IDEPA.

7 I would suggest that -- I don't have the number
8 I guess. To answer your question, I don't have the
9 number off the top of my head.

10 MR. LAPE: I'd be fine with just your
11 experience, what you think, or your perception.

12 MR. GOETSCH: Well, over the years the number
13 of releases have been greater with very, very small
14 facilities, as compared to a larger facility like this.
15 The reason being because they have more dedicated
16 people at the site whose only job is to manage the
17 site. Whereas a smaller facility, the producer is
18 probably involved in crop production and involved in
19 other activities. I will hasten to say though if there
20 is a release from a large facility, that release is
21 usually larger.

22 Off the top of my head, I don't believe that
23 there's more -- there's been more than a dozen releases
24 in the last few years, especially -- large facilities

1 don't tend to have releases.

2 MR. LAPE: Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Yes, sir.

4 MR. PYLES: My name is Dennis Pyles, P-y-l-e-s.
5 I'm the road commissioner of Saratoga Township. My
6 question is for Nicolas.

7 Would you care, Nicolas, to share with this
8 group of people the last offer that you made me on a
9 road agreement?

10 MR. RIPPEL: Yeah. Glad you could make it,
11 Dennis.

12 Me and Dennis met a couple different times to
13 discuss the road use, and my goal with Dennis was to
14 establish a road agreement similar to what I have with
15 John Lauf in Evans Township in northeast Marshall
16 County. If you ask John, that agreement has just been
17 fantastic for the township and for him. We've had zero
18 problems with the roads.

19 With that said, there has been no upgrades to
20 the road in Evans Township. So I offered the same road
21 agreement --

22 MR. PYLES: No, you haven't.

23 MR. RIPPEL: -- and before I could even finish
24 describing that road agreement, Dennis refused that

1 road agreement. That road agreement was primarily just
2 to navigate the 90 day posting period just to make it
3 more convenient for the farm.

4 As it's left right now, we are unable to reach
5 a road agreement like we did in Evans Township, and so,
6 like I stated before, we will run the roads at the
7 posted limits.

8 MR. PYLES: Okay. You called me on the
9 phone --

10 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Do you have a
11 question, sir?

12 MR. PYLES: I have to make a statement.

13 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Well, I apologize, but
14 this is not the time to make a statement. If you want
15 to give your oral testimony later regarding what you
16 want to say, that's fine; but right now it's just
17 strictly a question and answer session for the
18 Department and the facility.

19 MR. PYLES: Well, I'm only here for the road
20 district. That's all I'm here for. That's who I
21 represent.

22 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Okay. So if you want
23 to provide some sort of oral testimony on behalf of who
24 you represent at the -- at that portion of this

1 meeting, then you are more than allowed to.

2 MR. PYLES: Well, I would like for Mr. Rippel
3 to tell everyone here that he offered me \$2,000 a year
4 for 10 years for road care.

5 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Are there any other
6 questions at this time?

7 Yes, sir, in the back.

8 MR. STEIL: My name is Greg Steil, G-r-e-g
9 S-t-e-i-l. I live in Marshall County. My question is
10 for Mr. Rippel.

11 I notice whenever facilities like this start
12 getting described, you couch them in terms of "animal
13 units," which to me is all just smoke and mirrors --

14 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Again, if we could
15 just -- just as a reminder, you will have all the
16 opportunity in the world to give your oral testimony
17 later, but if we could just narrow this to questions
18 for the facility and the Department.

19 MR. STEIL: Mr. Rippel, many actual head of
20 pigs are going to be in those buildings at full
21 operation? Not animal units; how many head?

22 MR. RIPPEL: So just to be clear, I have
23 nothing to do with the animal units. That is governed
24 by the Illinois Department of Ag, but we will have

1 7,000 sows and then approximately 3,000 replacements
2 gilts to replace those sows as they leave the farm.

3 MR. STEIL: And the piglets?

4 MR. RIPPEL: And the baby piglets that leave
5 the farm every week.

6 MR. STEIL: Will come to what number please?

7 MR. RIPPEL: 13,000.

8 MR. STEIL: That's not what I heard.

9 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Are there any other
10 questions?

11 MR. LAPE: Jeffrey Lape again.

12 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Yes, sir.

13 MR. LAPE: General question. In the last five
14 years, has the Illinois Department of Agriculture
15 denied someone's permit for a hog facility?

16 MR. GOETSCH: I get this question at every one
17 of these hearings, and you're not going to like the
18 answer, but I'm going to give it to you anyways.

19 The way the Livestock Management Facilities Act
20 is written, we don't deny a facility -- or deny a
21 application. We just don't ever approve an application
22 if it doesn't meet the requirements.

23 If you go back over the years, the 23 years
24 that the LMFA has been in place, I believe that

1 approximately -- and I'd have to look up the numbers
2 here -- but I believe approximately around 72 to 75
3 percent of the applications have ultimately been
4 approved, and the remainder have not been approved.
5 So, you know, you can argue whether that's a denial or
6 not, but those other projects were not able to meet the
7 requirements of the statute, and therefore they were
8 not approved.

9 MR. LAPE: Thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Question for the --
11 I'm sorry. Question for the gentlemen in the middle.

12 MR. SALISBURY: My name is Charles Salisbury,
13 S-a-l-i-s-b-u-r-y. I'd like to have a straight answer
14 to anything that's been asked here tonight, but there
15 hasn't been one.

16 There's neighbors here -- and I don't care how
17 far away they are, but the one's not very far -- I want
18 to know how they're going to be compensated for the
19 devaluation of their houses and their property from
20 your factory.

21 MR. RIPPEL: So using Sandy Creek Lane in
22 example, there has been -- for the last two years there
23 has been tremendous success at Sandy Creek Lane, and
24 we've had zero property value loss in the area.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Come on. Don't give me that.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Oh, come on. Seriously?

3 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Are there any
4 questions?

5 MR. LAPE: Yeah. How do you base your answer
6 to that question that there's been zero loss of
7 property value.

8 MR. RIPPEL: You get on the county's site
9 website or assessment page.

10 MR. LAPE: That --

11 MR. RIPPEL: And then current sales of two
12 properties that are within a mile and three quarters of
13 a mile away from Sandy Creek, they went above and
14 beyond the average sale for a house in the area.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's not an average house.

16 MR. LAPE: I have another question for the
17 Department of Agriculture.

18 Is it the Department of Agriculture's concern
19 or whatever that our land is zoned agricultural.
20 Although you're raising pigs, you're not doing it
21 agriculturally. That's a factory. That's industrial.
22 Okay? That's huge. Does that -- does the zoning play
23 into your decision?

24 MR. GOETSCH: I would say to a certain agree,

1 yes. One of the siting criteria is whether the land
2 use that's being proposed is consistent with the land
3 use in the area and any zoning that's in the area.

4 I also believe that the Illinois Supreme Court
5 has held -- or has defined what agriculture is and the
6 production of livestock continues to be included in the
7 definition of agriculture.

8 So there is no differentiation that I'm aware
9 of for what is being proposed here versus raising
10 animals in A-frame buildings and out in a dirt lot.
11 It's livestock production, and it is consistent with
12 agriculture zoning or areas zoned for agriculture use.

13 MR. LAPE: Okay. Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Question for the
15 gentlemen in the green shirt in the back.

16 MR. STEIL: My name is Greg Steil, G-r-e-g
17 S-t-e-i-l. My question is more Mr. Rippel.

18 Can you please describe for me, in the best
19 terms that you can come up, these average houses that
20 sold within a mile and a half of a facility that I'm
21 not allowed to mention.

22 MR. RIPPEL: Well -- I'm sorry. Describe the
23 houses?

24 MR. STEIL: I want you to please describe the

1 houses. You described them as average. Now, do you
2 know which houses they were? Who lived there? I
3 do -- did.

4 Could you please describe them to the best of
5 your ability as to what you call an average house?

6 MR. RIPPEL: So the one a mile north is like
7 a -- I don't have the date or the information in front
8 of me. It was like a 1920s original farmhouse that
9 sold for like \$335,000, something along those lines.

10 MR. STEIL: Okay. Could you describe what
11 this 1920s farmhouse looked like when it was sold?

12 MR. RIPPEL: It's got grey siding. It's got
13 a three-car garage, detached. It's got a fence around
14 it.

15 MR. STEIL: What did that house look like
16 before the hog farm? And the other house. Please
17 describe the other house. I'm very familiar with that
18 facility as well. What was it like?

19 MR. RIPPEL: I'm sorry. Can you say that
20 again?

21 MR. STEIL: Could you please describe the other
22 house within the range of the Sandy Creek Lane? What
23 was that house like? What was that property like?

24 MR. RIPPEL: It's in a wooded area to the south

1 of Sandy Creek Lane.

2 MR. STEIL: That's the best you can do?

3 MR. RIPPEL: I -- I guess I haven't lately been
4 up to his front door.

5 MR. STEIL: Well, you ain't telling me nothing
6 new.

7 MR. TEEFEY: Question for the lady in the
8 middle.

9 MS. SALISBURY: I am Cindy Salisbury,
10 S-a-l-i-s-b-u-r-y, and I'm from Saratoga Township.

11 You said that you pay \$40,000 to the employees
12 who work there. How many of the employees of Sandy
13 Creek right now are from the local area and the
14 community that actually work in your facility? What is
15 the percentage of the people who actually work there
16 that are local?

17 MR. RIPPEL: Virtually I guess -- I would say
18 90 to 99 percent either live in the Wenona -- in Wenona
19 itself, which is in Marshall County, or the surrounding
20 area.

21 MS. SALISBURY: Are there originally from the
22 area or did they come and move into the area to work
23 there from other areas, other states and other parts?

24 MR. RIPPEL: A combination of both. We had

1 people move from Peoria to Wenona and other places.

2 MR. SALISBURY: But you don't know what the
3 percentage of local people who've lived here work
4 there?

5 MR. RIPPEL: I guess I'm not sure what the
6 difference -- what's the difference of local, what
7 makes them local?

8 MS. SALISBURY: People who lived there all
9 their lives who were against it --

10 MR. RIPPEL: I guess I can't answer that
11 question. I don't know about their whole lives.

12 MS. SALISBURY: Okay.

13 And this question is for the Department of
14 Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture was started
15 in 1819 by farmers who farmed the old way, the healthy
16 way we consider in how they farmed their ground.

17 The vision statement of the mission was, "To
18 promote and regulate agriculture in a manner which
19 encourages farming" -- not factories -- "and
20 agribusiness, while protecting the Illinois consumers
21 and national resources."

22 How much of that vision and mission statement
23 do you, the Department of Agriculture, take to heart
24 and really listen to the people here and the people in

1 the area who will be affected by this hog factory
2 whether by interfering with our natural resources, the
3 environment, our neighbor down the road, less than a
4 quarter of a mile, who told you the farm that she was
5 living on all of her life with her husband is going to
6 be altered and the traffic is going to be altered from
7 what she's used to, and her health and well being has
8 declined -- and others -- because of fighting this?
9 How much does the Department of Agriculture take that
10 to heart, and how much do you actually listen to us
11 regardless of all of the stuff they're showing you here
12 on the screen, regardless of the facts and figures?

13 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: I think we understand
14 the question.

15 MS. SALISBURY: How much do you take to heart
16 and really let your conscious be your guide in
17 listening to us the people, and stop this type of greed
18 and profit take away from our surroundings and where
19 we're living right now, and what can you do, as the
20 Department of Agriculture, to help them and their
21 investors find some ground elsewhere away from the
22 population, further than what they've shown that is
23 state wise okay but not okay with us?

24 Can you do that also, find them some place else

1 where it won't affect the neighbor, the local
2 community, won't stir us up, won't affect our health
3 and welling, and can you find them some place else on a
4 back 40 somewhere where they won't both anyone, and we
5 wouldn't be sitting here having to deal with this? How
6 much of that do you take into consideration when you
7 make a decision?

8 MR. GOETSCH: Well, I guess, first of all I
9 would say that, yes, we do have a vision statement and
10 we have a mission statement.

11 But we also have a statute that we are required
12 to administer, and we have the regulations that are
13 adopted under that statute. Our job is to administer
14 the law. We have a general assembly and we have a
15 governor that passes the law, and then signs off on the
16 laws. So our charge is to administer to the best of
17 our ability what it says in this statute.

18 Now, to the extent that we can affect
19 legislation, we can affect regulation, we do so to the
20 best of our ability following that mission statement
21 and that vision statement. But we still -- we have to
22 stay within the confines -- we have to stay in that
23 lane that's been defined by the general assembly and
24 signed into law by the government, and we can't deviate

1 from that.

2 MS. SALISBURY: So what you're telling us today
3 is that what we're saying and our concerns are falling
4 on deaf ears because and it doesn't matter even though
5 we're not taxpayers?

6 MR. GOETSCH: No. I'm not, ma'am. I'm not
7 saying that. What I am saying is the statute lays out
8 specifically what the department is supposed to do in
9 considering whether or not a facility -- a proposed
10 facility can be constructed.

11 It lays out a public informational meeting
12 process. That's why we're here, to hear issues, to
13 hear information. We can't make a decision -- no one
14 can make a decision 50, 100, 150 miles away without
15 going to the site without -- and not just seeing the
16 site once. I was out there this afternoon and walked
17 the site.

18 There are always other things that we may not
19 be aware of. The county might have platted a new
20 subdivision out there that weren't aware of. There
21 might be some other issue that we're not aware of.
22 This gives us some other opportunity to find that
23 information out.

24 But ultimately, our decision has to be based on

1 whether or not the applicant meets the requirements in
2 the statute.

3 MS. SALISBURY: So basically even if they meet
4 all of the requirements, our requirements of not
5 wanting it there, our asking it to be gone some place
6 else away from us so it doesn't affect our neighbors
7 and us in the community, you don't consider that if
8 they meet all of the requirements?

9 MR. GOETSCH: If they meet all of the
10 requirements, they are approved.

11 MS. SALISBURY: So us being --

12 MR. GOETSCH: I don't know how much clearer I
13 can say that, ma'am.

14 MS. SALISBURY: If that's --

15 MR. GOETSCH: And you'll have an opportunity to
16 testify in a few minutes, but the point is if they meet
17 the requirements of the statute, they are going to be
18 approved. If they don't meet the requirements of the
19 statute, they will not.

20 A perfect example of that is right now we have
21 a facility that was approved over in Adams County, I
22 believe. One of the requirements is they have to meet
23 the design standards that are in the statute. They
24 were given an approval; their construction plans and

1 specs were approved; we went out during the
2 constructions; we found substandard construction.

3 They are having to tear out all of the concrete
4 that was poured in that facility and repour it, rebuild
5 it. It's costing this applicant millions of dollars to
6 comply, but they will not be approved until they meet
7 the requirements.

8 Now, I don't know how much clearer I can make
9 it. I guess my point is: We -- there are standards in
10 here, and we require them to meet those standards. If
11 they can, they're approved; if they can't; they're
12 never allowed to operate that facility.

13 MS. SALISBURY: I think the gentlemen in the
14 hat in the back has had his hand up the longest.

15 MR. STEIL: I just have a couple of quick
16 questions. Greg Steil.

17 At a previous hearing you had available a
18 cordless microphone so the questioner could be a little
19 bit better heard. I'm wondering if you have one of
20 those now. If you do, I would be willing to take it
21 around to people.

22 The second is: You two gentlemen representing
23 the State, how would you feel if one of these wanted to
24 be in your backyard? Do you have any gut feelings

1 about that.

2 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: I am the hearing
3 office, so my gut feelings do not matter, but I will
4 ask if Warren Goetsch has any.

5 MR. GOETSCH: Again, if this was -- if this was
6 being proposed by near me, I probably would not -- or I
7 would probably recuse myself because I would have a
8 personal interest.

9 MR. STEIL: What about as a --

10 MR. GOETSCH: My job is not to either side with
11 you or side against you. My role -- The Department's
12 role is to ensure that we do not approve a facility
13 proposal unless they meet the standards that are
14 prescribed by the statute.

15 MR. STEIL: Please remove your position and
16 your office from the equation and speak from your heart
17 if you can.

18 MR. GOETSCH: Where I currently live now up,
19 until about I guess 10 years ago, I could go to sleep
20 every night with the windows open listening to the
21 feeders bang on the swine farm just up the road.

22 Now, that facility is no longer there. That
23 gentlemen went out of business. I don't think I can --
24 I didn't complain when I heard those feeders banging

1 all night in the summer, but my -- whether I believe or
2 whether I am for it or against it is immaterial.

3 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: The gentlemen in the
4 green shirt.

5 MR. CLANIN: Thank you. My name is Steve
6 Clanin, C-l-a-n-i-n. My question is for Mr. Rippel.

7 Do you deny that the Sandy Creek Lane farm has
8 had no negative impact on the neighbors?

9 MR. RIPPEL: Sandy Creek has not affected the
10 daily routines of the majority of the neighbors,
11 correct.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That is not true.

13 MR. CLANIN: That's absolutely not true. I
14 know that is false.

15 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: All right. Do you
16 have a follow-up question?

17 MR. CLANIN: Can you guarantee that this won't
18 affect these ladies here? Can you give them a
19 guarantee that this won't affect their lives
20 negatively?

21 MR. RIPPEL: We meet the eight siting criteria
22 of the LMFA.

23 MR. CLANIN: We'll take that as a no.

24 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: I'm not sure which had

1 their hand up first.

2 MS. GIFFIN: I have several questions. The
3 first one is for the young lady.

4 You said that if there was --

5 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: I'm sorry. Did you
6 say your name?

7 MS. GIFFIN: I'm sorry. Ruth Ann Giffin,
8 G-i-f-f-i-n.

9 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

10 MS. GIFFIN: You said that if it leaks, you'll
11 pump it out. Where are you going to pump it out to?

12 MS. BAKER: Manure would be removed as it would
13 be for land application. We'll pump out the pits, and
14 then apply it to the fields.

15 MS. GIFFIN: What if the fields are full of
16 crops?

17 MS. BAKER: There would have to be an emergency
18 situation where crops could be removed, so manure could
19 be applied earlier.

20 MS. GIFFIN: We don't remove crops like that.

21 For Mr. Rippel, you have said that this manure
22 is organic. If you have fed the pigs any antibiotics,
23 can you still call it organic?

24 MR. RIPPEL: So, first, I said it was a natural

1 fertilizer. I did not say it was organic fertilizer.

2 MS. GIFFIN: I just read in the paper something
3 about it being organic.

4 MR. RIPPEL: Okay. As far as antibiotics go,
5 in the last two years of the operation at Sandy Creek
6 Lane, we have fed zero grams of antibiotics.

7 MS. GIFFIN: Not even in the feed?

8 MR. RIPPEL: Nothing in the feed.

9 MS. GIFFIN: How about hormones?

10 MR. RIPPEL: Did you see my presentation?

11 There are no hormones that we can feed the pigs.

12 MS. GIFFIN: Have you given them any hormones?

13 MR. RIPPEL: We do not feed hormones to pigs,
14 no. It's illegal to feed hormones to pigs.

15 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: All right. Back there
16 in the black shirt.

17 MS. HUDSON: My name is Karen Hudson, and this
18 for Warren Goetsch.

19 I have a question about the disconnect
20 between -- I have a question about the disconnect
21 between the Environmental Protection Agency and the
22 Illinois Department of Agriculture for you.

23 IEPA recently told people in the last month
24 that most complaints come from emotional woman. There

1 were five people that witnessed that. They also said
2 not to believe anything that the Illinois Department of
3 Agriculture said. He doesn't like to talk about his
4 sister agency. I was wondering if you realized about
5 the huge, severe disconnect between the Illinois
6 Environmental Protection Agency and your office.

7 MR. GOETSCH: My only response is that I
8 believe that we work quite well with the Illinois
9 Environmental Protection Agency, and I think we've over
10 the years have developed a very good working
11 relationship, and I think we continue to work very well
12 together.

13 MS. HUDSON: Do you realize that the two people
14 you mentioned in Adams County are operating in
15 violation of the storm water construction permit as we
16 speak?

17 MR. GOETSCH: I do not have any specific
18 knowledge of their current compliance with anything
19 other than what we administer. The Department of
20 Agriculture administers the majority of the Livestock
21 Management Facilities Act, and that's why I mentioned
22 what I mentioned.

23 If they have to have a NPDS permit through
24 IEPA, that would be IEPA's responsibility to

1 administer, and I'm the sure they're doing a very good
2 job of it.

3 MS. HUDSON: Thank you, Warren. I think you
4 need to connect with IEPA.

5 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: I would just like to
6 point out too that the purpose of this informational
7 meeting is to discuss this particular facility, so any
8 complaint or animosity you have against the state of
9 the Department, specifically we're open 8 to 5 every
10 day. You can call us about other concerns, but right
11 now we're here to discus this particular facility.

12 Up there in the back with his hand up.

13 MR. GENTERT: Okay. I got your comment. He
14 can refer to sandy creek, and us neighbors living by it
15 cannot report about our hardships of it? That's
16 prejudice. My name's G-e-n-t-e-r-t. That's one sided.
17 You guys are supposed to be neutral. Not one sided.
18 You're hearing officers.

19 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Is that a question for
20 me?

21 MR. GENTERT: Why can't we refer to what it's
22 like living next to Sandy Creek?

23 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Yeah. I actually did
24 not say that.

1 MR. GENTERT: You never cut off Rippel.

2 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Well, I can answer
3 this question real fast, if you want me to. I didn't
4 say that you couldn't bring up Sandy Creek or your
5 experiences with that facility.

6 What I was specifically directing my last
7 statement to was animosity and complaints that
8 individuals bring up against the Department or the
9 State in general. So I --

10 MR. GENTERT: I've called them a million times,
11 and most of the time you don't call back.

12 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: You've never called
13 me, and I would call you back.

14 MR. GENTERT: I called down there --

15 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Well, I can't answer
16 or speak to who you called.

17 MR. GENTERT: I got a couple questions for
18 Mr. Rippel.

19 What is your turnover ratio of employees at
20 Sandy Creek?

21 And the second question is: Do you hire green
22 card people, VMC Management?

23 MR. RIPPEL: So I can't speak to a specific
24 number or percentage of turnover. I can tell you when

1 we started two years ago at Sandy Creek, we had a fair
2 number of employees come through because we were trying
3 to train them and in the area there wasn't much
4 experience. So people would come and learn that they
5 didn't really like to work with pigs because they had
6 never been exposed to pigs before.

7 Today, as I said today, we have a very solid
8 and a very strong workforce at Sandy Creek.

9 MR. GENTERT: The question was: Do you hire
10 green card people and what's the turnover ratio?
11 You're managing a facility, you should know your
12 turnover ratio. The question was green card people and
13 turnover ratio.

14 MR. RIPPEL: I'm not sure what you mean by
15 green card other than that every employee at
16 VMC Management is verified before they can -- before
17 there are able to work for us.

18 MR. GENTERT: So you do hire green card people?
19 That was the question.

20 MR. RIPPEL: No. We have not hired green card
21 people.

22 MR. GENTERT: Do you hire -- you don't hire
23 foreigners? They're all American citizens?

24 MR. RIPPEL: Everybody that we hire through

1 VMC is E verified and is legal to work in the United
2 States.

3 MR. GENTERT: That wasn't the question. Are
4 they American citizens? That's the question.

5 MR. RIPPEL: Not everybody in VMC Management is
6 American citizens, but they all are legal to work in
7 the United States.

8 MR. GENTERT: How about the turnover ratio?
9 You manage the facility, you should know the turnover
10 ratio.

11 MR. RIPPEL: It's about zero right now.

12 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: All right. We have a
13 question over here.

14 MR. PYLES: For the Department of Ag.

15 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Could you state your
16 name again please.

17 MR. PYLES: Dennis Pyles, P-y-l-e-s, for the
18 Department of Ag.

19 Does Mr. Rippel have to, if he wants to
20 increase the size of his operation, does he have to go
21 through further licenses through you?

22 MR. GOETSCH: Let's see. If this facility
23 proposal is approved and it's built and it goes into
24 operation, if they wanted to add a room to a building,

1 if they wanted to add another building, if they wanted
2 to expand the capacity of this facility, yes. They
3 would be required to file with the Department a notice
4 of intent to construct; they would have to provide
5 construction plans and specifications; and it depends
6 on how quickly that they opted to do this.

7 If they did this within -- what is it -- within
8 a two-year period of commencing production and they
9 exceeded 50 percent of the fixed capital cost of -- in
10 other words, if they wanted to double the size of it,
11 if they did more than that, they would be right back
12 here with a public informational meeting.

13 If they were below that, they would only have
14 to comply with all of the other provisions, but they
15 would not have to have another hearing.

16 MR. PYLES: And how often can they do that?
17 Does it go back to the original number of hogs, or does
18 it -- once they -- let's say they add 30 percent.
19 Okay? So now two years later, can he add 30 percent
20 again without going to a hearing?

21 MR. GOETSCH: If it's more than two years
22 later, yes.

23 MR. PYLES: So he can -- over a period of say
24 15 years -- how many hogs can he eventually have on

1 that farm?

2 MR. GOETSCH: Well, let me -- and you're not
3 going to like this answer, but let me just put this out
4 there -- there is a practical limit to how many animals
5 can be at a site or how big a site can be. I do not
6 believe that a sow farm like we're talking about here
7 has ever in the 23-year history of the Department of --
8 or the Livestock Management Facilities Act, I do not
9 believe that we have ever had one that doubled in size.
10 We may have had one add a building or add a, you know,
11 maybe 10 percent, 15 percent, maybe even 20 percent
12 more and only did it once.

13 The reason being -- you heard them talk about
14 biosecurity. You also need to consider just mass flow.
15 You know, you've got to bring animals in, you've got to
16 bring feed in, you've got to take animals out. There's
17 a practical limit to how big you can get, and that's
18 why they don't get any bigger.

19 MR. PYLES: Being the road commissioner, that's
20 my concern. How big can this thing get? How big can
21 this load get?

22 MR. GOETSCH: Well, you can ask him does he
23 have any plans to expand in the future.

24 MR. PYLES: He's going to tell me no tonight.

1 MR. GOETSCH: My answer is there's a practical
2 limit to the size of a facility, especially a facility
3 like this with multiple buildings and multiple size,
4 different size animals.

5 With finishing buildings, you know, we have
6 seen a finishing farm maybe double in size, and then
7 maybe half again as much again. That's the most we've
8 ever seen.

9 I don't believe we've ever seen a sow farm
10 expand. They've certainly never doubled. And the
11 reason is there's a practical limit. No one wants to
12 have that big of an investment in one spot subject to,
13 you know -- if there was kind of a medical -- or, you
14 know, a disease outbreak, they couldn't afford to have
15 that kind of exposure. I'm sure the veterinarian can
16 talk more about that, but there is a practical limit to
17 the size of these facilities.

18 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: I'm sorry. I've got
19 the man up there in the green shirt first. Do you
20 still have a question?

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No. I'm going to pass.

22 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Okay. We'll go to you
23 then.

24 MR. MURPHY: I guess I'd like to --

1 MR. TEEFEY: If you would go ahead and state
2 your name and spell your last name please.

3 MR. MURPHY: John Murphy, M-u-r-p-h-y.

4 I'd like to get the quantity for water usage
5 that this facility might use, quantifiable to some
6 range, and then what the wells might be at.

7 MR. RIPPEL: So Buffalo Run will use five
8 gallons per sow per day on average.

9 MR. MURPHY: Mr. Rippele, I asked consumption, I
10 didn't ask animals. I mean the building.

11 MR. RIPPEL: That is, that is. I'm
12 saying -- so for everything that happens in that farm,
13 we monitor the water consumption. Not that the sows
14 themselves drink five gallons, but for -- all of the
15 water usage, whether it's power washing, consumed by
16 the animals, the showers that we take for biosecurity
17 reasons, we average five gallons per inventory sow.
18 That's our water usage.

19 MR. MURPHY: That puts wells?

20 MR. RIPPEL: The wells will be approximately
21 900 feet deep.

22 MR. TEEFEY: Do you have a question standing
23 up?

24 MR. SALISBURY: Yes. My name is Charles

1 Salisbury, S-a-l-i-s-b-u-r-y.

2 Do you guarantee me, Mr. RippeL, that you're
3 not going to affect my water?

4 MR. RIPPEL: Where do you live in relation to
5 the Buffalo Run site?

6 MR. SALISBURY: About a mile and a half.

7 MR. RIPPEL: How deep is your well?

8 MR. SALISBURY: About 120 feet.

9 MR. RIPPEL: I will not.

10 MR. SALISBURY: Are you sure about that?

11 MR. RIPPEL: Going 900 feet, we'll be in a
12 different aquifer than what you are in.

13 MR. SALISBURY: You're going below my well, and
14 that will change it.

15 MR. RIPPEL: I've consulted with the well
16 driller on this very topic, and he confirmed there will
17 be no effect.

18 MR. SALISBURY: He's getting paid.

19 MR. RIPPEL: Yes.

20 MR. LAPE: My name is Jeffrey Lape, L-a-p-e.
21 Do you have a signed contract today with any farmers to
22 apply manure to their fields?

23 MR. RIPPEL: Yes.

24 MR. LAPE: Can you give me their names?

1 MR. RIPPEL: no.

2 MR. LAPE: I'll find out.

3 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Any other questions?

4 Yes.

5 MS. BLUMENSHINE: Thank you. Joyce

6 Blumenshine, B-l-u-m-e-n-s-h-i-n-e.

7 Could I please ask, Mr. Goetsch, when was this
8 permit put on public notice on the Department of Ag
9 website?

10 MR. GOETSCH: I don't have the specific date.
11 I would assume it would have gone sometime after we
12 received it. I don't know.

13 MR. BLUMENSHINE: Sir, with all due respect, as
14 a citizen, you did that mention in your comments IDOA
15 received the notice dated April 24th. I believe it was
16 some weeks until it appeared on your website, and for
17 citizens who only have that as a source of information,
18 what other options are there to find out about new
19 applications that might affect them, please?

20 MR. GOETSCH: Well, the only other option I
21 guess -- well, we do the best that we can. We're not
22 required to in the statute, but we believe it's
23 important to do so. I don't have control over how
24 quickly sometimes things happen, but there is always a

1 Freedom of Information Act request that you can make.

2 We do try to get those in there as quickly as
3 we can. The statute requires that we make notice for
4 meetings like this, and we follow that. We can always
5 improve, and we'll certainly strive to do so.

6 MS. BLUENSHINE: So is there any answer for why
7 there was an unusual -- that's my term, unusual --
8 amount of delay from the time of application to when it
9 was posted to your website?

10 MR. GOETSCH: Well, the conspiracy theorists in
11 the crowd will probably think there was, but --

12 MS. BLUMENSHINE: No. I just was asking --

13 MR. GOETSCH: -- I just would suggest that it
14 was a case where -- I don't know the answer. I would
15 assume that our web master could have been on vacation
16 or had a health issue. I don't know. We work very
17 hard, and if we haven't done a good job, we'll try and
18 do better in the future.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So you're insulting the crowd
20 now?

21 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: There's a question.

22 MR. GOETCSH: Yes. My name is Charles
23 Salisbury, S-a-l-i-s-b-u-r-y.

24 Was that comment all about, sir? I want to

1 know how we can get this crap changed, because it does
2 pertain to every person who lives in this community.
3 We should have just about to say about it as much as
4 anybody, including you.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

6 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Well, could you repeat
7 that question please.

8 MR. SALISBURY: How can we change these rules
9 that you go by so we can stop this stuff? This is a
10 factory farm. Why don't he go to Iowa? That's where
11 he's from. Is the income tax that he's paying and his
12 company -- is it coming to Illinois or is it coming to
13 Iowa?

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It goes down every year too.

15 MR. GOETSCH: The -- we have to follow the
16 provisions in the statute. The statute is passed by
17 the General Assembly. If you don't like the statute,
18 then you need to talk to your elected Senators and
19 Representatives.

20 MR. SALISBURY: We ain't got much of that.

21 MR. GOETSCH: If I have offended someone by
22 someone I said --

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You did.

24 MR. GOETSCH: -- I apologize. The point is

1 that the statute requires the applicant to send
2 out -- once we have determined that they meet the
3 setback distances, then they're required to send out
4 copies of the NOITC to all of the land owners within
5 the setback distances.

6 Now, if that is not adequate, which in some
7 cases, you know, I'm sure some people think that it's
8 not, that's why we try to put it on the website as
9 well. And, again, if we're not doing a good enough job
10 there, we will redouble our efforts to try to get that
11 done at a -- in a more timely basis.

12 And, you know, again, if you don't like the
13 provisions of the statute, just like any other law, if
14 you don't like the provisions of the Environmental
15 Protection Act or the county code or the municipal code
16 or any -- please -- that's what our elected officials
17 are for.

18 MR. SALISBURY: The County turned that Sandy
19 Creek farm down and you let it go.

20 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: The gentlemen in the
21 hat actually has a question.

22 MR. GENTERT: You guys give your fast talk
23 about --

24 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: I apologize. Can you

1 state your name one more time for the record?

2 MR. GENTERT: Charles Gentert, G-e-n-t-e-r-t.

3 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

4 MR. GENTERT: The Chicago Tribune ran a series
5 on these ag CAFOs, and they interviewed Lisa Madigan.
6 She says the way the law is written, it's got to
7 change -- I can't quote her -- but to represent the
8 citizens, not the corporations. She made that quote
9 somewhere in the -- where they interviewed her for the
10 article.

11 Has the Department of Ag recommended any
12 changes so that -- more in favor of the citizens
13 instead of the corporations, so they aren't a burden on
14 the citizens?

15 MR. GENTERT: So your question is: Have we
16 proposed any changes to the Livestock Management
17 Facilities Act?

18 MR. GENTERT: Right.

19 MR. GOETSCH: Not in the last 10 years.

20 MR. GENTERT: Well, aren't you supposed to
21 represent the citizens? It seems like the same thing
22 came out over in Quincy, here, and Wenona, the same
23 thing. You guys just fast talk your way away. So why
24 haven't you?

1 MR. GOETSCH: Because, again, our role is
2 administer the law as is passed by the General Assembly
3 and signed by the governor. It's not specifically to
4 change legislation. That's what the General Assembly
5 is for.

6 MR. GENTERT: But have you guys ever
7 recommended to the legislature or to the governor that
8 some of these laws have to be changed to look out for
9 the taxpayers instead of the corporations?

10 MR. GOETSCH: We have been called upon and
11 testified at legislative hearings in the past, yes.

12 MR. GENTERT: And you probably stood up for the
13 Farm Bureau and the corporations.

14 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: In the isle.

15 MS SALISBURY: Cindy Salisbury, C-i-n-d-y,
16 S-a-l-i-s-b-u-r-y. I have a question for you and your
17 company.

18 Why, Nicolas, have you chosen our area and this
19 spot to put this farm factory, hog factory? Why there?
20 Did you talk to the neighbor and the neighbors within
21 the district before you decided to go on with it? Why
22 do you continue to come into areas why rule community
23 lives, where you know you're going to be in for a
24 fight, you know the people don't want that big of a hog

1 factory in their neighborhood, but you want to build
2 it?

3 Why not choose areas where nobody lives around,
4 you're not going to bother anybody, you're not going to
5 hurt their water supply? Why do you come into our area
6 from Iowa to put this on us and our neighbor and
7 disrupt our lives and her life and the other neighbors
8 around the area? Why did you choose this location?
9 And give me a straight honest answer, not a dance.

10 MR. RIPPEL: I chose this location because I'm
11 a native of Marshall County. Two years ago I had the
12 opportunity to reinvest in my home town area, and now
13 today I have another opportunity to do that.

14 MR. GENTERT: Why don't you build on your dad's
15 farm?

16 MS. SALISBURY: Who is profiting from this?
17 You and your investors?

18 MR. RIPPEL: We work --

19 MS. SALISBURY: They have lots of money on
20 this; correct?

21 MR. RIPPEL: We work with independent pig
22 farmers.

23 MS. SALISBURY: What is the annual income that
24 you're profiting off of these facilities going in?

1 MR. RIPPEL: We work with independent pig
2 farmers.

3 I'll give you an example. I've got another
4 farm, unrelated to Buffalo Run. We've got the next
5 generation. It's one of the first farms that we --
6 managed -- started to manage. We've got the next
7 generation coming to farm. We got two 27 to 28 year
8 old young farmers that are in this farm, taking the pig
9 back to their own operation. These are young farming
10 families.

11 This is what Buffalo Run will be. We will work
12 with independent pig producers to --

13 MS. SALISBURY: You didn't answer the question.
14 How much money are you and your investors profiting off
15 of this facility that is going to be going up and at
16 our expense?

17 MR. RIPPEL: This facility specifically does
18 not make a profit because it is owned by the owners who
19 receive the pigs -- the weaned pigs out of the farm.

20 MS. SALISBURY: You are not making any money
21 off of the sale of these piglets going to that farm?

22 MR. RIPPEL: No. Because it's the same owner
23 who owns the sow farm who takes the pigs back to their
24 own place. VMC Management does not sell the pigs, no.

1 MS. SALISBURY: So you're saying it's a big
2 co-op?

3 MR. RIPPEL: Correct.

4 MS. SALISBURY: And how many of these farms
5 that the hogs are going to are in Illinois and how many
6 are going to Iowa?

7 MR. RIPPEL: This is throughout Illinois and
8 Iowa.

9 MS. SALISBURY: How many in Illinois and how
10 many in Iowa?

11 MR. RIPPEL: I don't have that number as I sit
12 here today.

13 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Question for the black
14 shirt in the back.

15 MS. HUDSON: I need a clarification from the
16 Department of Agriculture. I'm Karen Hudson.

17 I testified at a senate hearing in the last
18 years, and the Department of Ag actually testified at
19 that hearing; is that correct?

20 MR. GOETSCH: I believe so. I'm not sure which
21 hearing you're talking about, but I believe that we
22 were at the similar hearing.

23 MS. HUDSON: My question is: If you're telling
24 us to go back to legislators, why does the Department

1 of Ag testify at hearings and say there's nothing wrong
2 with the LMFA?

3 MR. GOETSCH: I don't know that I have ever
4 made that statement. I believe that I have been asked
5 by members of the general assembly to give a report on
6 the number of facilities or the number of applications.
7 A lot of the questions that we've had here explain the
8 process.

9 MS. HUDSON: Do you weigh in either way as far
10 as legislation? Does the IDOA weigh in either way as
11 far as legislation, or do they step aside due to the
12 conflict of interest?

13 MR. GOETSCH: It depends on what the question
14 is. If the General Assembly -- if a member of the
15 General Assembly would ask a specific question about a
16 provision or the need for an additional provision or a
17 change in a provision, we would explain what we believe
18 the impact of that would be.

19 But I don't push the button for the General
20 Assembly member in terms of how they vote or how they
21 don't. We provide information about the program that
22 we administer.

23 MS. HUDSON: Okay. It seems different to us,
24 but thank you very much.

1 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: We are creeping up at
2 8:30. We have a pretty long list of people who have
3 signed up for oral testimony, so if we could finish up
4 with the question and answer session in the next 10
5 minutes, I think that would be a good idea for this
6 process.

7 So if you any other questions, if you could go
8 ahead and ask them quickly.

9 Yes, sir.

10 MR. GENTERT: This is public hearing. You
11 can't cut that off, right? It's a public hearing,
12 anybody can speak. You can't set a time on it, can you
13 legally?

14 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: I mean, if someone --
15 I just said if someone has a question please ask them.
16 I'm not going to cut anyone off. That question wasted
17 more time than I was going to let -- if you have a
18 question, you may ask a question.

19 Are there any other questions at that time?
20 Yes. Back there in the pink.

21 MS. DEWEERTH: My name is Sharon DeWeerth. I
22 have a question.

23 Is there not a high rate of swine disease in
24 Iowa?

1 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Is this question for
2 the Department or the facility? Are you asking this of
3 the facility?

4 MS. DEWEERTH: Yeah. In general.

5 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Okay.

6 MS. DEWEERTH: Why are you not in Iowa instead
7 of coming over here to Illinois. Why?

8 MR. RIPPEL: So, Sharon, I appreciate you
9 coming out tonight. I know we've met on several
10 occasions and at that time I addressed all of your
11 concerns.

12 But to get to your question, are there pig
13 diseases in Iowa? Yes. There's pig diseases Iowa, and
14 there's pig diseases in Illinois and all across the
15 country. One of the attractiveness of this location to
16 for the -- to build a farm is that there is not as high
17 dense area of pigs in the area.

18 Now, granted, within five miles to the north
19 and three miles to the -- or four miles to the south,
20 we have two very similar type of facilities, pig farms.
21 But it's not as dense as it is in, say, the part of
22 Iowa that our practice is based out of.

23 MS. DEWEERTH: Why is it that all of a sudden
24 it's Camp Grove as an address? It's not Camp Grove.

1 It's Henry.

2 MS. BAKER: The nearest populated area,
3 distance wise, is Camp Grove. That's why it's listed
4 that way on the NOITC.

5 MR. SALISBURY: Henry mailing address, just
6 like mine.

7 MS. DEWEERTH: Dr. Rippel, did you say not too
8 long ago there would be 13,000 animals at the facility
9 at a given time?

10 MR. RIPPEL: The baby pigs.

11 MS. DEWEERTH: Then why does it say on the
12 Marshall County order on May 9th that the number would
13 be 22,000 under roof?

14 MR. RIPPEL: I'm not sure where you're getting
15 those numbers.

16 MR. GOETSCH: Well, let me just help out here.

17 If you look at the notice of intent to
18 construct, the number of sows equates to -- I'm sorry.
19 Okay. You have 8,890 head of swine, which is the sow
20 side, and you have 13,653 head of swine -- less than
21 55, and that's the piglets. You add those two
22 together, you're going to add up with 22,000 head of
23 something.

24 So I think they just combined those two

1 numbers. You got to remember the animal unit
2 calculation is -- it's split. Anything above 55, that
3 would be the sows; anything below 55 pounds, that would
4 be the piglets. But if you add those two numbers
5 together, you would come up with their 22,000.

6 MS. DEWEERTH: All right. And my other
7 question: What do you do with the dead pigs? What is
8 your disposal?

9 MR. RIPPEL: So when farmers raise livestock,
10 you're always going to have to deal with dead animals;
11 right? So we will have a concrete compost structure
12 that has a roof overhead and a fenced perimeter, and we
13 will compost the mortalities.

14 MS. DEWEERTH: And that will be outside; am I
15 correct?

16 MR. RIPPEL: It will have a roof over the
17 entire structure, but it will have exposure to the
18 outside, correct.

19 MS. DEWEERTH: Mr. Rippel, we got coyotes out
20 there pretty bad as it is. Do you think this is not
21 going to -- I don't care if they are in an enclosed
22 structure.

23 MR. RIPPEL: We'll have a -- just like at Sandy
24 Creek Lane, we'll have a chain link fence all the way

1 around the compost structure to prevent any scavengers
2 from getting into the compost.

3 MS. DEWEERTH: I've been told when I asked this
4 question -- by you, Dr. Rippel, we need to produce pork
5 to feed the people. Are we talking about the same
6 number -- not Chicago in this, but are there not less
7 people that are consuming people that are pork, then
8 there are people that are consuming corn and soybeans
9 and the products that that corn and soybeans go into?

10 You're telling me we're feeding people sausage
11 and pork versus corn and soybeans? You're talking,
12 Dr. Rippel, about corn and soybeans as part of the
13 feeding. That corn and soybean crops are not going for
14 human -- for people -- for human consumption. You're
15 using them to feed your pigs. We got people living
16 in --

17 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: I'm sorry, ma'am. Is
18 there
19 a -- do you have a question that you're asking?

20 MS. DEWEERTH: Yeah. I do have a question.

21 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Okay.

22 MS. DEWEERTH: I do. Because how can you
23 justify taking 28 acres out of good farm land and good
24 black, beautiful soil that we have out there and

1 turning it into a factory? How?

2 MR. RIPPEL: So when we raise pigs on the farm
3 today compared to 60 years ago, we're using 75 percent
4 less land. So we could -- so you're saying take 28
5 acres out of production, but before we took 75 percent
6 more out of production for the same amount of pigs.

7 The corn that we produce in the state of
8 Illinois and in the county as a general, the majority
9 of that goes to feed livestock.

10 MS. DEWEERTH: All right. And we have limited
11 amount acres in this county, and if those acres get
12 taken out of production by different facilities -- you
13 know what, we only have so much land. When it's gone,
14 it's gone.

15 MR. RIPPEL: That's why not only pig farmers
16 but crop farmers have embraced science and technology
17 to produce more food with less than ever before in
18 human history. That's how we're feeding the world.

19 So when -- look at everything that we get from
20 China, from our shirts to our shoes. We can feed the
21 world. We can feed ourselves, and we can feed the
22 world. I'm awfully proud that I can say pork is made
23 in the USA.

24 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Question here.

1 MS. LAPE: Jeffrey Lape again. You purchased
2 28 acres there; is that correct?

3 MR. RIPPEL: We have a purchase option for 28
4 acres; correct.

5 MR. LAPE: How many acres will you have under
6 roof?

7 MR. RIPPEL: I don't know that number off the
8 top of my head.

9 MR. LAPE: Sit there and work on it.
10 What will be the distance between your property
11 line and any building? What's the closest distance
12 between any hog confinement building to the property
13 line?

14 MS. BAKER: We will meet the County zoning
15 ordinance on the setback to the property lines, and
16 we're exceeding that. But off the top of my head, I
17 cannot give you a specific number.

18 MR. LAPE: By the way, an acre is 43,500 square
19 feet.

20 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: I think the
21 gentlemen -- does the gentleman in a white shirt have a
22 question? The gentleman in a green shirt have a
23 question?

24 MR. STEIL: Yes. The gentlemen that is

1 offering this property for purchase, is he in the
2 audience and would he be all right to stand up and be
3 identified?

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He's here.

5 MR. STEIL: Would he be okay to stand up and be
6 identified?

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah. I'm right here.

8 MR. STEIL: Thank you, sir.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You bet.

10 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: All right. We'll go
11 ahead and take the last -- last question here.

12 MR. GENTERT: Okay. How many --

13 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: I apologize to do this
14 again, but could you state your name again for the
15 record?

16 MR. GENTERT: Charles Gentert, G-e-n-t-e-r-t.

17 How many complaints with the EPA -- matter of
18 fact, I have not filed one yet. I have called them a
19 couple of times. But how many complaints through the
20 EPA has been filed on Sandy Creek Lane? How many
21 complaints have been filed with the EPA for the smell?

22 MR. RIPPEL: So within the first year of
23 operation, we did have communication with the Illinois
24 EPA. I have not had any contact in regards to the odor

1 complaints. It's been over a year since I've had any
2 communication with the Illinois EPA as far as any odor
3 complaints.

4 I do know in speaking with angered neighbors
5 around -- obviously you know, as well as I do, who are
6 the ones that file odor complaints. I know of people
7 between those neighbors that do not file odor
8 complaints, because they do not believe it affects
9 their daily lives.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That is not true. They don't
11 file odor complaints because they didn't know where to
12 file them. That's just more BS.

13 MR. GENTERT: I want it on record because I
14 believe the other as opposed to the people here. Why
15 would Senator Weaver's office, the representative, when
16 she said she contacted the EPA that numerous complaints
17 have been filed? Why would she lie to me? She said
18 she's contacted the EPA and numerous complaints have
19 been filed and basically when the law is written,
20 there's nothing that can be done.

21 Why would she lie to me, Mr. Rippel?

22 MR. RIPPEL: I'm not saying anybody is lying to
23 you. I just -- I have no knowledge of when the last
24 time the IEPA contact me.

1 MR. GENTERT: One last question. Are you
2 required by law to put that additive in the pits to
3 keep the smell down?

4 MR. RIPPEL: Repeat that one more time please.

5 MR. GENTERT: The additive that breaks down the
6 phosphorus and that? Are you required by law to put
7 that in the pits?

8 MR. RIPPEL: It is not required, but we do add
9 it to the pits to reduce the odor.

10 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Okay. Right now I
11 have 8:35. We're going to take a short, five-minute
12 break to collect the people who have submitted -- or
13 have signed up to do oral testimony. We currently have
14 27 people signed up to give oral testimony. We'll take
15 a quick five-minute break.

16 If you have written testimony -- if you have
17 written testimony that you would like to submit as part
18 of the record, you may bring that to me at this point,
19 at this time. When we resume this meeting, we will
20 enter that into the order.

21 So quick five-minute break. Let's reconvene at
22 8:40 for the oral testimony of tonight's meeting.
23 Thank you.

24 (8:35 p.m., recess taken.)

1 (8:42 p.m., proceedings resumed.)

2 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Let's go ahead and get
3 started again. I have a small file of people who have
4 submitted written at the time of the. Is there anybody
5 else that would like to submit written testimony before
6 we got started with the oral testimony?

7 Now, if you have written testimony that is not
8 referred to in your oral testimony, go ahead and bring
9 it up. But if you have written testimony that you will
10 be referencing during your oral testimony, it can be
11 entered into the record after your oral testimony.

12 Okay. I currently have the sign-up sheets that
13 were in the entrance to the room. Listing the people
14 who wish to provide oral testimony.

15 I would call the names of those who wish to
16 testify. When called upon, please step up to the
17 microphone here at the front of the room, state your
18 name and spell your last name for the record. I will
19 then swear you in.

20 Now, please remember that during this portion
21 you will have three minutes to speak. I will also --
22 after I call up the name of the next person speaking, I
23 will also just let you know who the next speaker is
24 after that, so you can go ahead and come forward as

1 well so you're ready to speak after the current
2 presenter.

3 At this time, are there any attorneys who are
4 representing clients who would like to provide oral
5 testimony? Okay.

6 We'll go ahead and get started with the oral
7 testimony. The first name on the list is Sharon
8 dither, after Sharon will be Vicki Walderschmidt.

9 MS. DEWEERTH: Good evening. My name Sharon
10 DeWeerth, D-e-W-e-e-r-t-h.

11 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: And Ms. DeWeerth, if
12 you could raise your right hand so that I can swear you
13 in.

14 (The witness was sworn.)

15 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you. You may
16 proceed.

17 MS. DEWEERTH: As I said, my name is Sharon
18 DeWeerth, and I'm a farmer in Marshall County, Illinois
19 and the nearest neighbor --

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can't hear. Can't hear.

21 MS. DEWEERTH: That better?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

23 MS. DEWEERTH: Okay. All right. I'll start
24 over.

1 My name is Sharon DeWeerth. I am a farmer in
2 Marshall County and the nearest neighbor to the
3 proposed Buffalo Run CAFO site.

4 I've lived and worked on my farm for 52 years.
5 I'm also a Farm Bureau member, and I oppose the fact
6 that they support CAFOs.

7 I grew up on the farm. I'm a third-generation
8 farmer. I'm very proud of that. I am a registered
9 nurse and have devoted my entire professional life to
10 not only caring for people, but caring about people. I
11 do care a great deal about you in my neighborhood and
12 my community and this town and the area.

13 Because of my medical background, I am
14 concerned that the construction of this factory will
15 not only damage my health but the health of others in
16 Marshall County. I know I only have three minutes.

17 The toxic gases like hydrogen sulfate, which is
18 not even monitored or -- I'm told -- regulated in
19 Illinois, often affects people in dangerous ways. Even
20 very, very low levels of the gas can cause permanent
21 neurological damage to people who are nearby. Among
22 that, the gas aggravates asthma and causes other
23 problems.

24 It actually carries the dust particles from

1 CAFOs deep into the lungs, which can cause lung damage.
2 The other things blowing out of these buildings consist
3 of viruses, fungi, skin, hair, dried urine, feces and
4 additives like antibiotics and other drugs. This will
5 be ventilated through fans towards my farm and my
6 neighbors. If the fans fail, the hogs die. Can you
7 tell me how safe that is for these workers? It's not
8 very safe.

9 The most vulnerable people are children and the
10 elderly. We have a young boy in our neighborhood with
11 asthma. Do you think this is not going to cause him
12 problems for a long, long time? Think about it,
13 people.

14 The industry -- they can't deny this. These
15 are facts. These are facts studied by universities and
16 what not.

17 What we're seeing with these antibiotics that
18 are being pumped into these hogs -- we are seeing
19 people, patients, whatever that are becoming drug
20 resistant. They can't fight out of the diseases
21 because there's not a drug that will take care of them,
22 and MRSA is one of those. I'm not sure how familiar
23 most of you are with MRSA, but it's terrible.

24 So by becoming antibiotic resistant, we are

1 putting your lives in possible danger. And if you've
2 ever -- that my signal?

3 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Yeah. If you can go
4 ahead and finish up.

5 MS. DEWEERTH: Okay.

6 So please, please educate yourselves about
7 these factories. They're not farms, people. They're
8 factories.

9 As I said, I'm a farmer and a farm bureau
10 member, and I disagree with their stance on it. I'm a
11 local resident who opposes the unsustainable business
12 within my community. Thank you very much.

13 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you. Next up is
14 Vicki Walderschmidt. After Ms. Walderschmidt will be
15 Karen Hudson.

16 MS. HUDSON: I'm going to pass tonight, but
17 thanks.

18 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: I'm sorry?

19 MS. HUDSON: I'm going to pass tonight.

20 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Okay. After
21 Ms. Walderschmidt will be Charles Gentert.

22 MR. GENTERT: Gentert.

23 MR. TEEFEY: Okay.

24 Ms. Walderschmidt, would you please raise your

1 right hand.

2 (The witness was sworn.)

3 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you. Could you
4 please state your name for the court reporter.

5 MS. WALDSCHMIDT: My name is Vicki Waldschmidt.

6 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Waldschmidt. I
7 apologize.

8 MS. WALDSCHMIDT: I'm concerned about the water
9 waste that we have in our area. Crow Creek is miles
10 long. It runs through the center of the field where
11 the sow confinement will be located. North of that
12 field is another Crow Creek going west to east. Both
13 of them are doing the same thing.

14 We also have Scholls Ranch. It's a waterway
15 that runs on LaPrairie. It comes across western at 3
16 and 400 east, and it travels to the northeast. These
17 waterways are open to the wild life and the farmers
18 chickens, cows, horses, whatever they may have.

19 The Sankoty aquifer is my drinking water, my
20 only water supply. The water supply in Henry is also
21 from the Sankoty Aquifer, so be aware of that. We are
22 concerned about our water. Every neighbor has a well
23 for their water supply. It's necessary. It's
24 necessary for life.

1 Hog confinements in Iowa have polluted over 700
2 waterways, and now researchers have found that the
3 waterways in Iowa with the highest concentrated --
4 concentration of livestock are the ones with the
5 highest nitrate pollution. That's it.

6 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

7 MS. WALDSCHMIDT: You're welcome.

8 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: After Ms. -- or Mr. --
9 what is your last name? I apologize.

10 MR. GENTERT: Gentert.

11 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Mr. Gentert. Next
12 will be Ruth Giffin. Will you raise your right hand?

13 (The witness was sworn.)

14 MR. GENTERT: G-e-n-t-e-r-t.

15 I'm Charlie Gentert. I live approximately a
16 mile and a half to two miles away from Sandy Creek
17 Lane.

18 I don't care what Mr. Rippel says, it drives
19 people out of their houses. It stinks when they're
20 spreading it. Don't the people next to these got any
21 rights on the smell and that? I've called the EPA.
22 I've never filed a compliant, but I've called them.
23 I've called the Department of Ag, never no answer.

24 Mr. Rippel gets up there and talks about how

1 great he's impact economic development. 18 and 39,
2 that's a TIF district. My opinion of TIF districts is
3 that you take away from one taxing body and give it to
4 somebody else. That's beside the point. They've been
5 trying to get that developed. Now, as bad as it is
6 stink is some days, who is going to develop that?

7 I'll also say. He talks about spreading the
8 manure and that and how they abide by the laws. Well,
9 one of my neighbors had to call the EPA when he got
10 home from vacation or Springfield, I forget which one,
11 because they went right up to his property line and
12 right next to his well.

13 No EPA complaint was filed? Well, it was
14 filed, but what are they going to do? They got right
15 up next to his property line, not knowing where the
16 well is, and injected that stuff. The EPA was out, so
17 you can double-check. It's documented and that. Don't
18 fall for it.

19 I know that at least when we fought out we had
20 the money, you know, to take it through the court
21 system. But like I've tried to say, the Department of
22 Ag pushes it over to the legislation. No
23 representation.

24 If you say anything negative, you get

1 intimidated. Because when we got all done, they said
2 we couldn't fight it in court because the laws were all
3 written in the corporation's favor. Okay. We signed a
4 paper saying we wanted to stop the lawsuit against the
5 Department of Ag. About a week or so later the press
6 interviewed their person and said -- she said, well, we
7 couldn't start construction, we're going to go to the
8 next phase.

9 Well, a week later, a high-class lawyer out of
10 Rockford intimidated us in sending a letter. We're
11 going to sue because we signed it. No. All we said
12 was stop construction and not drop the lawsuit again
13 the United States Department of AG. So you can say VMC
14 Management is going to be neighborly. You say anything
15 bad and they -- they try to intimidate you.

16 I live in LaSalle county, but Marshall -- Evans
17 Township is supposed to take care of my road. They're
18 leaving the road to go to hell. I got to call the
19 County to get it plowed. Can't even get -- it's
20 breaking up. Can't even get some gravel on it. They
21 take of the -- by Sandy Creek lane and everything.

22 I hope the road commissioner sticks to his
23 guns, because LaSalle County, when those roads are
24 posted -- they ain't supposed to be on them even they

1 go on them because LaSalle County.

2 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Okay. Thank you.

3 Ruth Giffin is next. After Ms. Giffin is Tammy
4 Halterman.

5 MS. GIFFIN: I believe my husband gave you my
6 papers.

7 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: For the written
8 testimony?

9 MS. GIFFIN: Yes.

10 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Do you want to
11 reference those in this oral testimony?

12 MS. GIFFIN: Yes.

13 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Okay. If you could
14 please raise your right hand.

15 (The witness was sworn.)

16 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you. You may
17 proceed.

18 MS. GIFFIN: My name is Ruth Ann Giffin. I'm a
19 wife, mother, grandmother. My husband and I farm just
20 five miles south of this proposed factory farm.

21 This project does not meet the LMFA criteria 8,
22 that's the Livestock Management Facilities Act. The
23 sheer magnitude of this project will likely degrade the
24 health, the quality of life, the property values, and

1 the local ecology of the area, and that does not fit
2 the vision of Marshall County. This is not the model
3 of agriculture that we welcome in Marshall County.

4 Having lived in the farm community for the past
5 20 years, I've learned that farm communities support
6 one another. They care for one another. They work
7 together with each other and with nature, and sometimes
8 against nature.

9 My husband had a heart attack two years ago,
10 and our field was literally filled with combines and
11 wagons and tractors as others came to help. Now,
12 that's my impression of a farm community.

13 As a former school teacher, 4H leader, room
14 mother, Red Cross instructor, and director of the
15 puppet ministry team, I'm concerned about the children
16 and the legacy that factory farms will leave for them.

17 While I was an associate director of the Soil
18 and Water Conservation district for five years, I
19 learned that local farms work hard to be good stewards
20 of the land, hoping to preserve it for future
21 generations.

22 When a factory farm comes in, it covers the
23 land with concrete and manure pits. Let me repeat
24 that. It covers the land with concrete and manure

1 pits. It takes good, beautiful black soil out of
2 production, and it covers it with an industrial-sized
3 operation that has been proven to degrade water, air,
4 and public health due to the amount of raw waste it
5 creates.

6 I have seen the movie "Right to Farm" and the
7 effects of factory farms on the neighbors. History
8 proves that they are definitely not neighborly. They
9 have emissions and odors that drive their neighbors
10 indoors or completely out of their homes.

11 Folks that are forced to remain on property
12 have been proven to exhibit the same types of same
13 affects as the confinement workers themselves who work
14 inside these facilities. These emissions adversely
15 affect immediate neighbors, and may adversely affect
16 nearby communities. Folks with allergies and asthma,
17 especially children, and adults with COPD are at
18 particular risk.

19 Studies from Iowa show acute respiratory
20 symptoms, asthma, and airway obstruction increase with
21 the proximity to and the density of swine CAFOs.
22 Research also shows that the elderly, the immune
23 compromised, and children are more at risk to the
24 pollution that is created.

1 The Marshall County nearest neighbors are
2 elderly farmers themselves who will be affected. As a
3 farmer myself, I don't want anyone to have a negative
4 impression of farmers.

5 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Ms. Halterman [sic],
6 if you could please conclude your oral testimony.

7 MS. GIFFIN: Yes. Yes. I'm sorry.

8 If you live near one of these -- I'm sorry. My
9 closing statement.

10 We have the right, many rights in this great
11 nation, but I do not believe we have the right to
12 destroy the health and quality of life for others. I
13 am concerned for Marshall County and for the world that
14 we leave for generations to come. As a Marshall County
15 farmer, I stand opposed to this project. Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you. Oh, I
17 apologize. My fault. Okay. Tammy Halterman is up
18 next and Pam Janssen will be next.

19 Do you have that correct on the record? The
20 testimony was just given by Ruth Giffin. Just it's
21 good for the record.

22 (The witness was sworn.)

23 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: You may proceed.

24 MS. HALTERMAN: Good evening. I'm Tammy

1 Halterman, District 5 Director of the Illinois Farm
2 Bureau.

3 I would like to thank the Department of Ag for
4 the opportunity to speak this evening on the proposed
5 Buffalo Run hog farm in Marshall County.

6 My family and I raise livestock and farm in
7 Grundy County, and through my involvement with the
8 organization, I have worked with farmers throughout the
9 State on matters relating to livestock.

10 The Illinois Farm Bureau supports all aspects
11 of agriculture, including the development of livestock
12 farms. Animal Agriculture plays a vital role in the
13 economics of Illinois, including counties such as
14 Marshall. Our organization's policy is to encourage
15 growth and enhancement of livestock industry in
16 Illinois, provided facilities comply with the statutory
17 and regulatory requirements.

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

1 In the most recent date from the Illinois EPA,
2 fewer than 1 percent of the livestock farms in Illinois
3 have any environmental issues. The Livestock
4 Management Facilities Act governs the siting,
5 construction, and certain aspects of operating
6 livestock farms in our state. It ensures that
7 livestock farms will be sited on scientific objective
8 criteria, and rules are applied uniformly throughout
9 the State.

10 Since it's enactment 20 years ago, the LMFA has
11 balanced the goals of the Environmental Protection
12 Agency with allowing farmers to earn a living raising
13 livestock.

14 Tonight this meeting provided the public an
15 opportunity to ask questions or comment on proposed
16 construction of Buffalo Run. The testimony presented
17 by Dr. Rippel and Gayle Baker informed attendees the
18 plans for this proposed facility to meet each set of
19 criteria, including environmental protections.

20 Should the Department discover from the
21 testimony tonight the information contained within the
22 applications and inspections of the proposed site the
23 ability of Buffalo Run to meet the standards set forth
24 in the LMFA, this project should be allowed to proceed

1 to the next phase of the LMFA process.

2 Bringing more livestock production into
3 Illinois, specifically to Marshall County, allows
4 future generations an opportunity to become involved in
5 animal agriculture. The opportunities available to
6 newer farmers are sometimes limited, but expanding
7 livestock allows those interested a place in the
8 industry.

9 Additionally, livestock production also
10 supports the grain farmers in and around Marshall
11 County. Livestock are an important market for the corn
12 and soybeans we raised, especially now with the
13 uncertain trade situation currently facing us.

14 On behalf of the Illinois Farm Bureau, I
15 appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight. Thank
16 you.

17 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

18 John Murphy will be next.

19 (Witness was sworn.)

20 MS. JANSSEN: Good evening, everyone.

21 My name is Pam Janssen, and I am the president
22 of Illinois Pork Producers. I farm. I am a pig
23 farmer. I have a family. We raise pigs. My husband
24 and I live just south of Minonk. It's a 2.5 mile drive

1 straight south to our farm. Our farm has been a
2 generational farm. Our two grandchildren are now 7th
3 generation. That is a long time.

4 Our pig barns have operated without any issue.
5 The annual tax revenue that we generate supports our
6 local community and everything in it. Fieldcrest
7 School District down to the fire department. We donate
8 sausage. We contribute back to our community.

9 The Livestock Management Facilities Act,
10 regulated by the Department of Ag, continues to provide
11 consistent statewide standards and ensures all
12 livestock farms will be sited on that scientific basis.
13 The current regulations that pig farms have to comply
14 with are to protect the environment and the communities
15 and the people that live in the communities. Even
16 after they are constructed, the buildings, we still
17 have rules that we have to follow in order to stay in
18 business.

19 As we continue to adopt new technology to raise
20 our animals and be profitable -- yes, it is a business,
21 that's what we do -- we want to stay transparent and be
22 open to everybody in the community. You have
23 questions? Just ask us. Don't Google it. Don't
24 Facebook it. Ask us. We are here.

1 Our top priority is always to protect our
2 environment, our communities, but to also provide a
3 protein for families that may not otherwise be able to
4 afford food. Food pantries, we donate. What else can
5 we do? We give back. That's what farmers do.

6 I work in a barn every day, seven days a week
7 with sows, baby pigs, finishing pigs. It's my life.
8 It's our family's life. Thank you for allowing me to
9 speak.

10 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

11 John Murphy is up next. After Mr. Murphy will
12 be Jeffrey Lape.

13 (The witness was sworn.)

14 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you. You may
15 proceed.

16 THE DEFENDANT: John Murphy, M-u-r-p-h-y. I'm
17 speaking on behalf of my children, Ryan and Natalie
18 Murphy, 16 and 18 years old.

19 We live at 1479 County Road 300, about a mile
20 from the proposed hog operation. The original Murphy
21 homestead, which is still owned by my brothers and
22 sisters, is about one mile away at 1347 LaPrairie Road.
23 We are a centennial farm, and we are proud of the 6th
24 generation farming family. The Murphys have always

1 been good stewards of the soil, with a constant and
2 unwavering eye towards sustainability and preservation
3 of the family farm and with the intention to pass that
4 onto the next generation.

5 My children have participated in 4H for over
6 ten years and every season have had show pigs. Their
7 grandparents raised pigs their entire life. Their
8 Uncle Tom and their dad also had a hog operation for
9 many years. We are no strangers to animal agriculture,
10 including pork production -- all aspects of farming
11 including pork production.

12 It is because of this we are here tonight to
13 stand in opposition to the magnitude and scale of the
14 proposed operation. We are not opposed to pork
15 production. We are in opposition to the magnitude and
16 scale.

17 There is no mitigation that can successfully
18 deal with the odor of 22,000 pigs. There will be as
19 many pigs in that facility as cumulative total to
20 number of people in the towns of Camp Grove, Henry,
21 Bradford, Sparland, Chillicothe, Wyoming, Toulon,
22 Tiskilwa, and Princeton. That's a total 22,516 people,
23 which happens to equate to the proposed facility size.

24 There is no doubt in absolute -- that in the

1 best efforts of some kind of odor mitigation, there
2 will still be degradation of air quality. Just because
3 the operation meets the minimum guidelines, it does
4 nothing to improve the quality of life in the
5 surrounding community.

6 In addition to the potential threats to water,
7 along with odor, seven months ago in the state of
8 Minnesota, which is the 3rd largest pork producer in
9 the US, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency denied a
10 pork facility permit on the basis of the possible
11 potential excess nitrates accumulating in an already
12 stressed agricultural aquifer.

13 There's not one person in this room who would
14 consciously choose to locate his or her home -- or her
15 or his family next to the operation of this magnitude.
16 It is stated the facility will provide approximately 25
17 jobs. However, it will severely, negatively impact the
18 surrounding community that are forced to live with it
19 seven days a week and the rest of their lives.

20 It is because of these things I thank the
21 County board, I thank the Illinois Department of
22 Agriculture trying to support our local farmers. We
23 ask that you deny this corporate-style, large-scale,
24 air-polluting hog operation on behalf of the past,

1 present, and future Murphy generations and the area
2 neighbors of western Marshall County. Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Jeffrey Lape is up
4 next. After Jeffrey Lape will be Jeffrey Morten.

5 (The witness was sworn.)

6 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you. You may
7 proceed.

8 MR. LAPE: My name is Jeffrey Lape, L-a-p-e.

9 Hi, folks. I'm just kind of winging it here.
10 I live at 1547 Country Road 300 East, one mile north of
11 the facility. I come from a farming family, though I
12 am not a farmer. I wanted to move to the county 21
13 years ago, and that's how long I've been in my house.

14 I don't care what anybody else does on their
15 property. I don't care what people do with hogs. What
16 I care about is walking out my door and smelling what I
17 consider to be putrid.

18 We're not going to stop the facility from going
19 in. It's going to happen. Common sense. All we can
20 do is fight after the fact and sue them. Every day
21 that the you smell hog feces outside your house,
22 document it. Get witnesses and friends. Class-action
23 lawsuits are becoming successful in the nation against
24 this type of abuse.

1 I'm an American. I've got rights. When what
2 you do on your property comes over to my property, I go
3 to my government. My government is not going to
4 protect me in this case. I have enough experience
5 seeing that. I will stand up. I will be civilly
6 disobedient. I hope somebody else has the courage to
7 stand up with me. Thank you.

8 MR. TEEFEY: Thank you.

9 Jeffrey Morten is next. After Jeffrey Morten
10 will be Dawn Rippel.

11 Is Jeffrey more ton here? Okay. Jeffrey
12 Morten is gone. Dawn Rippel will be next. After Dawn
13 Rippel will be R. Charles Salisbury.

14 (The witness was sworn.)

15 MR. TEEFEY: Thank you. You may proceed.

16 MS. RIPPEL: Dawn Rippel, R-i-p-p-e-l.

17 I'm going to wing this, because I didn't know
18 until I came tonight if I would do this. I have the
19 same last name as Dr. Nicolas Rippel because I am his
20 blood sister. I am not here to tell you how you should
21 feel because there are a lot of valid concerns. I am
22 here to tell you who Nicolas is and what I have seen.

23 Now, this is the first time I'll admit it, but
24 I am his older sister. I was not the nice, older

1 sister, so I am not speaking this because he is my
2 brother. I am speaking this because I have done my
3 research through him, through the Internet, through
4 other farmers.

5 Nicolas has grown up with myself and two other
6 brothers on a hog farm. We started off with dirt lots
7 with a hot wire fence. We grew -- and not huge, not
8 what he's putting in -- but we did have animals inside
9 buildings, inside farrowing crates, inside gestation
10 stalls.

11 This is Nicholas's life. He was born into it.
12 He saved a runt pig, Sambow. I had to ask him, "How
13 old were you?" He was five. So he has cared about
14 animals at least since he was five, if not before that.
15 That animal was like a pet. It walked in the farmland
16 on the farm ground. We would have people stop and tell
17 us there's a pig out. "No. That's my brother's pig."

18 We were hit in the '80s and '90s with a lot of
19 what the small farmers have been hit with. They had to
20 get out of the hog production. In the late '90s, my
21 farmer asked me, "Would you go into hog production with
22 me?" And I told him, "No." To this day I regret it
23 because I would be one of those farmers in that co-op.
24 But at the time, I saw the hardship each farmer went

1 through, including my own family, and I was not going
2 to put my family through that. I had my corporate job.
3 I wasn't going to give it up.

4 So what did Nicolas do? He stayed in the farm
5 business. He schooled himself -- he paid for his
6 schooling, and is continuing to pay for his schooling.
7 He went to four years to Grinnell College in Iowa and
8 four years at the University of Iowa. All for what?
9 To become a swine veterinarian.

10 Now, he has pigs in Iowa, but he crosses both
11 lines. He has farms in Iowa he manages; he has farms
12 in Illinois he is managing. He is trying to better the
13 county he grew up in.

14 Watching Nicolas grow up, he was a straight-A
15 student, and that continued through college. He
16 continues to stay up on education, understands there
17 are still the farmers that have the dirt lots, as well
18 as the big farmers.

19 All I ask is: Like Nicolas said, ask a farmer,
20 ask a pig vet, don't go with an agenda. Keep an open
21 mind, sit down, and have a one-on-one conversation.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. TEEFEY: Thank you.

24 R. Charles Salisbury is next. Cindy Salisbury

1 will be next.

2 MS. SALISBURY: I pass.

3 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Okay.

4 (The witness was sworn.)

5 MR. SALISBURY: R. Charles Salisbury,
6 S-a-l-i-s-b-u-r-y. I'm not a speaker. I'm a farmer
7 and a mechanic. I may not make any sense. I don't
8 know. Some people say I never do.

9 My family has been in Saratoga Township since
10 1864. My sons are the 6th generation in this township.
11 My great, great grandfather was the first road
12 commissioner. My great grandpa worked for the county.
13 They all farmed also. My grandpa was the road
14 commissioner for Saratoga Township for 30 years and a
15 farmer. My dad and my brother have served on township
16 boards. We have been involved in Saratoga Township all
17 of our lives.

18 I've raised hogs, farrow finished with about a
19 1,000 head a year. I've had 65 cows, fed the calves.
20 We farmed until this type of farm put me out of
21 business -- Smithfield, Tyson, this type of farming.
22 They do not care what happens to the people. They do
23 care what happens to their neighbors. They will raise
24 their hogs for corporate greed. Period. Make their

1 money. That's all it's about.

2 They are not going to pay their own way. I'm
3 going to have to subsidize it because their taxes that
4 they pay will not maintain their road. \$10,000 a year
5 will not maintain that road, and it certainly won't
6 make it an 80,000-pound road, which it needs to be. So
7 that means the taxpayers of this township have to
8 subsidize it for this whole operation in different
9 ways. The road and bridge money that's going to the
10 county isn't going to pay for the road repairs that's
11 going to have to be done on the county roads. It's
12 going to have to come out of the taxpayer's money.

13 I don't care what anybody says. When you drill
14 a well 900 feet into the ground, and mine's 120 feet,
15 it will affect my water supply. You're going to go
16 through a lot of it.

17 I've raised hogs in confinement and I've raised
18 them in open pens. I'm not blaming the Department of
19 Agriculture for what's going on here, because they have
20 rules to go by. What we have to do as people is we
21 have to change the rules, because that's why there's
22 only a few and a handful of farmers left in this
23 county.

24 When are they going to stop this? We don't

1 want you in Saratoga township. I'm sorry. Take it
2 elsewhere where you're wanted. A good neighbor and a
3 good person would never do this to their neighbor. I'm
4 sorry. That's the way I feel.

5 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you. Next up to
6 testify is Dennis -- I believe Pilot?

7 MR. PYLES: Pyles.

8 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Pyles. I apologize.

9 And then next will be Josh Merdian. Is there a
10 Josh Merdian here?

11 MR. MERDIAN: Yeah.

12 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Do you still want to
13 testify? All right.

14 (The witness was sworn.)

15 MR. PYLES: I affirm.

16 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: You affirm. You may
17 proceed.

18 MR. PYLES: My name is Dennis Pyles. I'm
19 Saratoga Township road commissioner.

20 Nicolas is going to give in his taxes Saratoga
21 township approximately \$10,000 a year. Let me give how
22 much it costs to just maintain a road. We have a 1400
23 where Nicolas is going to propose this hog farm. The
24 east end of that, this year, less than a mile, we

1 ground that up. We added four inches of CA6 road
2 gravel and we're going to double coat it with seal.
3 That is going to cost \$86,000. So in other words, it
4 would take Nicolas 8.5 years to pay for less than one
5 mile. So he's going to have to be -- as Mr. Salisbury
6 said, subsidize it.

7 Okay. So I went to Advanced Asphalt, and I
8 asked them for three quarters of a mile about upgrading
9 it from what it is. I went to them for the purpose --
10 they are in partnership with our local asphalt guy. I
11 asked them how much would it cost to upgrade that
12 road -- they know the history of it -- to an
13 80,000-pound road. We wouldn't have any problems
14 really tearing up the road as bad. They gave me a cost
15 between 450 and \$500,000. It makes the \$10,000 look
16 pretty puny; doesn't it?

17 So as far as the road district, I object to
18 this because we have to maintain it. Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you. After Josh
20 Merdian will be Mike Haag. Is Mike still here? And
21 you want to testify? All right.

22 (The witness was sworn.)

23 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: You may proceed.

24 MR. MERDIAN: My name is Josh Merdian,

1 M-e-r-d-i-a-n.

2 I have lived and farmed near this proposed
3 facility. I'm excited that this new facility appears
4 to meet the criteria set forth by the LMFA. I'm glad
5 that new facility will provide local jobs, taxes
6 revenues, and consume the corn and soybeans that I
7 produce on my farm.

8 I'm also happy that this farm business will add
9 value to our locally grown products. I think it's
10 important to remember that the agriculture business
11 needs to continue to grow in order for all of us to
12 make a living in it.

13 In closing, I support the proposed Buffalo Run
14 sow farm. Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

16 Make Haag is up next. After that will be Pat
17 Sloan.

18 (The witness was sworn.)

19 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: You may proceed.

20 MR. HAAG: Thank you for the opportunity to
21 come and speak to this group tonight. My name is Mike
22 Haag. I'm from Livingston County. I'm a fourth
23 generation farmer, just like a lot of you that were
24 talking about four generations.

1 I was raised on a farm with about 800 sows.
2 They were right in the backyard. I now raise my three
3 children on that same farm with 1,200 sows. There's a
4 lot misnomer out there, and I was sitting back there
5 thinking about this. I remember 30 years ago when we
6 talked about building 1,200 sows -- I mean, it got some
7 people thinking because that was an awful big hog farm.
8 Technology has done amazing things. I've managed to
9 raise three wonderful children on that site, and it's
10 given me that opportunity. I believe also that it's
11 about passing it onto that next generation.

12 I'm extremely excited to hear Mr. Rippel talk
13 about bringing in new food production unit to Illinois.
14 What other businesses are coming to Illinois today? I
15 mean, we hear people leaving the state, businesses
16 leaving the state. We just passed a gazillion more
17 taxes this week. We got to find ways to do it. I
18 commend you for bringing a facility back to Illinois.

19 Pork Power is a program that I've been
20 passionate about over the years. Illinois Pork,
21 Illinois Corn, Illinois Soy have managed to give
22 771,000 pounds of pork back to food pantries throughout
23 the state in the last 10 years. I think that's an
24 extremely lofty thing to be doing. I know this --

1 these guys represent that also.

2 I think this is a great opportunity for the
3 neighbors to embrace this technology. I really do
4 believe -- and I know I'm not doing that -- but I
5 honestly believe that there are some great jobs coming
6 to your community. I believe it will help with the
7 corn prices and soybean prices. There was a little bit
8 of talk earlier about how many people eat corn. I can
9 tell you that very few people eat corn, but a lot of
10 people eat pork. Pork eats corn.

11 Grain farmers need livestock, and they need a
12 lot of livestock to increase bases in their areas. I
13 also wrote it down earlier that I've always considered
14 hog manure to be organic. Now, I call that because it
15 adds to the organic matter of the soil. It doesn't
16 just produce the main ingredients. It also creates
17 organic matter. I think if the local farmers would
18 embrace this, there's going to be some opportunities to
19 improve that farm ground around this area.

20 With that, I'd just like to, again, thank
21 Nicolas, and I wish him luck. I hope this community
22 can embrace him in the future.

23 I was also going to say I toured the Sandy
24 Creek facility. I've been around hog farms my entire

1 life, and the technology in that farm was just
2 mind-boggling. I hope they do an open house when this
3 opens, and I hope everybody has the opportunity to see
4 just the amazing technology that is going into this
5 unit. Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

7 Pat Sloan is next. After Pat Sloan is Steven
8 Clanin.

9 MR. CLANIN: I'm going to pass.

10 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Okay. So after Pat
11 Sloan will be Darrell Schlosser.

12 (The witness was sworn.)

13 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you. You may
14 proceed.

15 MR. SLOAN: I like how you cut the lights out
16 up here. Hopefully I can read my notes. If not, I'll
17 go longer than three minutes.

18 I'm the county engineer for Marshall-Putnam
19 County. I'm also the zoning administer, but I'm not
20 going to talk about any zoning issues.

21 As far as -- and I will for the record briefly
22 give my professional qualifications, since I will be
23 offering professional evidence, an opinion. I have a
24 BS Degree in civil engineering from the University of

1 Illinois. I have a Master of Science degree in
2 agricultural engineering from the University of
3 Kentucky. I received my professional engineering
4 license in 1988. I have 27 years in the consulting
5 business, clients of all sizes from individuals and
6 farmers all the way up to including in the federal
7 government.

8 Right now, for the last six years, I've been
9 with you people, Marshall and Putnam County. They're
10 my clients through the County board and through the
11 Road Commissioner Dennis Pyles. I work with all of
12 these people every day. This is an appointed position,
13 and I've been appointed for another six years.

14 I'm not supporting or -- I'm not taking any
15 position on the hog farm. I'm just asking that they
16 comply with the laws and rules as any other resident of
17 Marshall County or any other developer.

18 I'm responsible for approximately 800 miles of
19 roads in Marshall-Putnam and 150 bridges. Last year we
20 invested \$200,000 in LaPrairie Road, and shortly in the
21 next week or two we're going to start replacing a
22 bridge within one mile of this facility. We'll be
23 spending \$300,000, just to put into context how much of
24 the tax dollars are going to be coming from this

1 facility.

2 So as I mentioned, any users, including the
3 farmers that have grain bins out there, they know what
4 the rules are. Buffalo Run will need to comply with
5 vehicle and the highway code just as any other user.

6 Now, I've tried to work with Mr. Rippel, and
7 I've given him a proposal, which he has not answered.
8 I've offered written testimony here, which will need to
9 be amended, which I will do. Tonight I was told
10 they're going to live within the seasonal weight
11 limits. However, the slide that was put up there was
12 not correct, because it showed an ADT on 1400 that
13 would correspond with that weight limit. So hopefully
14 the Department of Ag will do the proper inquires and
15 consider that issue. I will be glad to help.

16 So as far as I can tell right now, this
17 facility is not complying with criteria's 3, 7, or 8,
18 particularly criteria 7 in the traffic patterns.

19 Just specifics, briefly, Western road is a
20 Class 3 route. No issues there. LaPrairie Road, which
21 this is a county road, it is under my jurisdiction.
22 There are more roads under the county jurisdiction than
23 there are under Saratoga Township. We're the first
24 roads to get to the facility. LaPrairie Road is a

1 posted road. It has seasonal weight limits. No one
2 has explained to me how the proposed traffic plan
3 will -- proposed transportation plan will meet those
4 posted limits.

5 So I made a generous offer to Mr. Rippel. It's
6 going to cost 320,000 to upgrade LaPrairie road to a
7 Class 3 truck route. We would obtain -- or seek and
8 probably obtain a truck access route program grant for
9 \$135,000, but we need help with the balance on that.
10 Any other developer does the same thing. I'm working
11 with MarkWest Energy right now for a road use
12 agreement. I'm working with the wind farm on a road
13 use agreement. I have these all of the time.

14 So that's all I'm asking, is that as a
15 developer he does the same as everybody else.

16 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

17 Up next is Darrell Schlosser. After
18 Mr. Schlosser will be Jennifer Tirey.

19 (The witness was sworn.)

20 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: You may proceed.

21 MR. SCHLOSSER: The reason I was --

22 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: If you could please
23 state your name and spell it for the record.

24 MR. SCHLOSSER: Darrell Schlosser,

1 S-c-h-l-o-s-s-e-r.

2 The reason I was interested in this to begin
3 with is because I've farmed in Marshall County for 36
4 years, and I've always worked another job. The latest
5 that I've had for the last 24 years is in the
6 fertilizer business. I see all kinds of fertilizer,
7 soil tests. We're on the farms. I run from Ohio to
8 Illinois to the north.

9 What I've noticed over the years is any of the
10 ground that had manure on it is just so much better.
11 The organic matter is better. The nutrient value is
12 better. The crop production value is better. It's
13 just -- you can buy commercial fertilizer, but you
14 can't duplicate organic carbon that is in manure.
15 Mr. Haag brought up the organic matter, and that's kind
16 of where I'm going.

17 If you look at where these soils were when we
18 took over the -- you know, the settlers took over, we
19 had seven to eight percent organic matter on these
20 prairie soils in this area. Now, for every one percent
21 organic matter, that's 25 percent more water holding
22 capacity for next year's crop. For every one percent
23 is five times nutrient availability for next year's
24 crop.

1 How huge is that? It's unbelievable. You know
2 where most of the area cropland is now for organic area
3 for this area? Two to four, and some of it below two
4 and some of it below one.

5 When the organic matter gets low like that, you
6 having more erosion problems because the sticky part
7 that holds the soil together gets less and less. It
8 actually magnifies itself and the erosion becomes worse
9 and you lose your organic matter even faster than what
10 we've been losing it. Right now it's just -- the
11 degradation just keeps going on.

12 Well, a year or two ago, I was at a meeting
13 with Dr. Jerry Hatfield from the soil tilth lab in
14 Iowa, and Jerry said that they had come up with a
15 recipe for gaining organic matter in the soil that was
16 just phenomenal. They just discovered it. They had
17 about 30 different sites between Illinois, Indiana,
18 Iowa where they were trying this, and it was working
19 out great. They were gaining one percent in three to
20 give years, and sometimes two percent in seven.

21 That's huge. The earth made the organic matter
22 seven or eight, and it took thousands of years to do
23 it. It's really slow. It's not very efficient. He
24 was doing this in, you know, three to seven years.

1 So I really interested in how he did that. His
2 recipe for gaining organic matter was corn on corn, no
3 till or strip till -- don't work the ground, you lose
4 it and burn all of the mechanic matter -- liquid hog
5 manure, and cover crops to keep something green growing
6 on it all of the time.

7 They were gaining -- this is about replenishing
8 the soil and maintaining it to take it back to where it
9 will last for humanity, instead of where history takes
10 us when you look back to Rome and Greece and where some
11 of the ports of the ocean that used to be in Rome are
12 20 miles inland now.

13 So that's where I was coming from with why I
14 wanted this facility. I want the manure. It's a
15 liquid fertilizer plant to me. I think a lot of the
16 area farmers will benefit, the land will benefit, and
17 that's why I want it. Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

19 Jennifer Tirey is next. After Jennifer is
20 Joyce Blumenshine. Is Joyce still here? Did I say
21 your name right? No. All right. Jennifer.

22 (The witness was sworn.)

23 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: You may proceed.

24 MS. TIREY: Good evening, everyone. My name is

1 Jennifer Tirey, and I work with the Illinois Pork
2 Producers Association. I represent 1,600 men and women
3 who work in pig farms every day of their lives, and
4 they have done for many generations.

5 I thank you for sticking it out tonight. I
6 know it's kind of warm in here, so thank you for being
7 here. We as the Association and as pig farmers
8 appreciate this process and the transparency so you can
9 ask questions and find out more about this particular
10 operation in Marshall County.

11 A couple things I wanted to clarify from some
12 past speakers.

13 One, was about the Illinois Department of Ag's
14 involvement with the legislative branch. The
15 legislative hearing that was referenced actually
16 occurred in November of 2017. The Illinois Department
17 of Agriculture and the Illinois Environmental
18 Protection Agency were invited to speak by the chairman
19 of the Senate Agricultural Committee.

20 Now, as you probably understand in the state of
21 Illinois, we have a large urban representation. A lot
22 of our legislators that want to learn about the
23 Livestock Management Facilities Act have no agriculture
24 in their district, so they invited both of those

1 agencies to come and present to the legislature about
2 the whole process, the regulations that our farmers
3 should follow, and all of the regulations that occur
4 after the farm is built.

5 So I just want to make you understand that the
6 Department -- both the Department of Agriculture and
7 EPA are not there advocating for one side or another.
8 They're there to give factional information to
9 legislators that are consumers like many other
10 consumers that have no knowledge of agricultural. They
11 don't live in ag counties that are zoned for
12 agricultural like Marshall County. So we have to be
13 able to give them that information so that they have a
14 better understanding of our process. I just wanted to
15 make sure you all understood that.

16 One other thing that I wanted to point out was
17 another speaker talked about the one percent
18 EPA violation. I want to break that number down just a
19 little bit.

20 So the last USDA census was in 2012. There
21 were 35,000 livestock farms. Not just hog farms, but
22 cattle farms, horse farms, goats, sheep. That's all
23 livestock in the state of Illinois. There were 24
24 violations on all livestock farms. That's less than

1 one percent. So out of 35,000 livestock farms of all
2 types of species, 24 violations on those same types of
3 farms.

4 So I just wanted you to know that when we give
5 you facts, we have that information to back it. We
6 work really hard to tell our story, and I'm very, very
7 proud to represent the men and women that work very
8 hard and want to raise that animal, raise the products
9 to make sure it's safe for your consumption as a
10 consumer. Thank you very much.

11 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

12 Nic Anderson will be next.

13 (The witness was sworn.)

14 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: You may proceed.

15 MS. BLUMENSHINE. Thank you. My name is Joyce,
16 J-o-y-c-e, Blumenshine, B-l-u-m-e-n-s-h-i-n-e.

17 I'm a volunteer and member of the board of
18 Heart of Illinois Sierra Club. The Sierra club has as
19 its motto to protect the environment for our families
20 and for our future.

21 I'm here tonight to just give a few points to
22 please ask the Illinois Department of Agricultural to
23 closely consider that this proposal does not meet
24 numerous points of the LMFA.

1 Regarding No. 2, it was clear from comments
2 made by Maurer-Stutz engineer tonight that the design
3 location and operation -- we contend will not protect
4 the environment. It is my opinion because of what they
5 said, that the water table is so high, that this
6 location is really very ill-advised.

7 Concerns for pollution via sand lenses that are
8 clearly indicated below this facility could mean that
9 any kind of water contamination will travel in multiple
10 direction. It could travel undetected even from the
11 perimeters around the building that were cited to be
12 the protection system. That means water pollution of
13 the water shed.

14 No. 3 is also concern about incompatibility of
15 the surrounding area. That was commented on by many of
16 the local residents and their hope for locally
17 appropriate agriculture and true local agricultural
18 that is considered not only for its size, but the fact
19 that animals are living, feeling, smart critters that
20 deserve a life.

21 No. 4, the facility is in an environmentally
22 sensitive area. Clearly there is an aquifer layer
23 below this. Again, I urge the Illinois Department of
24 Agriculture to look critically at risks to the

1 groundwater and the facts that this plan as we heard
2 described tonight is not adequate nor protective.

3 No. 6, odor control claims. It is clear from
4 comments and from other individuals who have lived near
5 CAFOs and endured the smells that plans to reduce or
6 minimize odors do not do that successfully 365 days a
7 year. Until that can be done, it is a consideration of
8 myself that other people should not be unwillingly
9 polluted or have their space violated by toxic fumes
10 and smells that will cause illness.

11 And No. 7, I already talked about regarding
12 traffic concerns.

13 No. 8, Marshall County is a beautiful rural
14 area with important streams that feed into waters of
15 our state. Those are legally significant waters of the
16 state, meaning they go into such major national rivers
17 such as the Mississippi. Each and every person here is
18 responsible for a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico the
19 size of the state of New Jersey, where there's so
20 little oxygen no critters can live. That is a
21 nonproductive area.

22 We are killing this plant, and this permit
23 should be denied. Thank you.

24 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

1 Nic Anderson is next. After Nic Anderson is
2 Greg Steil.

3 (The witness was sworn.)

4 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: You may proceed.

5 MR. ANDERSON: Good evening. My name is Nic
6 Anderson, N-i-c A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. I work with the
7 Illinois Livestock Development Group.

8 There's a couple clarifications tonight, a few
9 of the speakers talked about the eight siting criteria
10 If the Sierra Club has an opinion that has come facts
11 behind it, I think that would be appropriate to share
12 with the Act. But "appropriate local agricultural," I
13 don't know that that's defined in the county. I hope
14 that I can maybe get a definition of that from them.

15 Also a little bit of contention -- I know a lot
16 of folks talked about some other things, and I'll try
17 not to repeat that -- but property values were brought
18 up, properties over on Sandy Creek that were comparable
19 to this neck of the woods.

20 I'm going to enter in the documents -- the tax
21 base from two properties. The property to the south of
22 Sandy Creek is at 3,200 feet, much like the nearest
23 residence here on this farm. It sold for \$355,000.
24 The average home price in Marshall County is \$122,000.

1 The owner of that property is not here too protest odor
2 or any issues that they had. They paid some pretty
3 good money to come to that farm and purchase that.
4 I've got that documentation here.

5 And then also to the north in LaSalle County, a
6 house sold for \$255,000 in LaSalle County. Both of
7 these residences were owned by residents that were in
8 opposition to Sandy Creek and were involved in the
9 lawsuit. One of the contentions was that property
10 value would decrease, so I listed the last years of
11 property values on this document from the tax code and
12 showed that that does not exist for the Department of
13 Agriculture's record.

14 Not only did it not decrease the value, some of
15 them -- the one property in LaSalle County went up
16 according to that assessed value. I'll hand those in
17 here at the end of the discussion.

18 On the soil part of those things -- and,
19 Darrell, great to meet you tonight. I see your vision
20 of what can be done with the manure on your operation.
21 So the 28 acres or so that's being developed and poured
22 concrete over, the soil benefit from the manure from
23 this farm is going to the benefit that 1,200 to 1,500
24 acres far more than that 20 acres.

1 We're going to utilize the efficiency of the
2 animals that can be produced there, invest in the
3 technology to care appropriately for appropriate
4 agriculture in Illinois to get the best out of the
5 animals in the performance and the care, and invest in
6 jobs and rural development here in Marshall County.
7 Sandy Creek is a great example of that.

8 The other thing that was brought up -- before I
9 run out of town -- Sandy Creek sure had some odor
10 complaints. We all agree it happened, and we knew it
11 happened. The EPA came out and investigated that.
12 There have been no odor violations, no odor compliance
13 reports or issues filed with Sandy Creek. They didn't
14 find anything. They have no odor complaints in
15 violation on that farm, and we don't expect any here.

16 The best place for this farm in Illinois is in
17 Saratoga County. They did their homework and found a
18 great place and a great farmer to work with. Hats off
19 to you, Nicolas and your team, and future success.
20 Thank you to the Department of Agriculture and the
21 County board. I think this is a great opportunity for
22 agricultural in Marshall County.

23 I have a document to enter into the record.

24 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

1 Greg?

2 MR. STEIL: Yes, sir.

3 MR. TEEFEY: Greg Steil will be our next
4 testimony of the evening.

5 MR. STEIL: It's pronounced Steil.

6 (The witness was sworn.)

7 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: You may proceed.

8 MR. STEIL: Thank you to everybody for coming
9 out here, both sides pro and con.

10 I am a con because I am collateral damage to
11 the Sandy Creek facility. I smell it all the time.
12 When you have to get up in the middle of the night to
13 close your windows, it's not the most fun. I have had
14 to leave my property because of the smell.

15 It is -- we are 1.7 miles to the west of it,
16 but the application of the effluent -- I will not ever
17 call it nutrient -- comes up to within a quarter mile
18 of my house. I have one well on my property that is 25
19 feet deep, has six feet of water in it all of the time.

20 You can't drink that because of the nitrates and other
21 run off from agriculture.

22 To top that all off, I consider myself to be an
23 innocent victim at war with the Illinois Department of
24 Agriculture -- agriculture in general because I have no

1 standing to say anything about it whatsoever. So when
2 they want to shut somebody up, they threaten a lawsuit.
3 So every year I end up filing complaints with the
4 Illinois Department of Agriculture because of off-site
5 chemical applications.

6 I have 10 gardens. We sell this stuff at
7 farmer's markets, but you can't sell a crop of pees
8 that are burned bright yellow. You just can't do that.
9 You throw them away because you're not going to eat
10 them.

11 So I'm at war with agriculture, even though I
12 recognize how important it is in this country. No
13 matter how many pigs there were in this county in 1959
14 and 1949, if there's the same amount of pigs now,
15 there's less than a tenth of the amount of farmers.
16 That is what's wrong with this facility. We need many
17 more small farmers. Farming and agriculture is the
18 back bone of this country. It built it. We need more
19 small farmers, not that.

20 Do you realize that center building in that
21 picture there -- you can have two football games in
22 that. That's how long that is. You can have two
23 football games if you are not fussy about the interior.

24 Thank you very much. Thank you everybody for

1 coming out.

2 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

3 At this time, I would like to enter into the
4 record as Exhibit No. 4 the written testimony along
5 with any exhibits that were introduced during the oral
6 testimony.

7 Entered into the record as Exhibit No. 5 is the
8 sign-up sheet for oral testimony.

9 Entered into the record as Exhibit No. 6 is the
10 attendance sign-up sheet.

11 That concludes the oral testimony portion of
12 tonight's meeting.

13 At this time does the facility have any closing
14 remarks? They are indicating that they do not.

15 Are there any closing remarks from the
16 Department?

17 MR. GOETSCH: I just would like to say that on
18 behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of
19 environmental programs, I'd like to thank you all for
20 your participation this evening.

21 Let me assure you that the Department does
22 appreciate the time and the effort that you have put
23 forward to attend this evening, and we are certainly
24 interested in your comments. I'm sure that the

1 Marshall County Board will consider them as they
2 develop their recommendation to the Department and we
3 will certainly consider them as we move forward through
4 this evaluation process. Thank you very much.

5 HEARING OFFICER TEEFEY: Thank you.

6 As mentioned earlier, a copy of the transcript
7 of tonight's public meeting will be provided to the
8 County Board. For any other person who desires a copy
9 of the transcript, it will also be available by
10 contacting the court reporter.

11 Thank you for your attendance tonight. This
12 public informational meeting is hereby closed.

13 (9:57 p.m., proceedings concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, ISAIAH ROBERTS, a Certified Shorthand Reporter (IL) and Registered Professional Reporter for the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Isaiah Roberts

Illinois CSR # 084-004890