|  |  | 1 | BETH LUBBERT | 55 | 13 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 2 | HOWARD HUDSON | 56 | 24 |
| 1 | PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING | 3 | DANA GLOVER | 58 | 7 |
| 2 | REGARDING THE | 4 | JENNIFER TIREY | 59 | 1 |
| 3 | PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A LIVESTOCK |  | JENNIFER TIREY | 59 | 1 |
| 4 | MANAGEMENT FACILITY | 5 | JENNY LAWLER | 59 | 14 |
| 5 | BY | 6 | TIM MAIERS | 61 | 3 |
| 6 | county line swine, inc. swine facility | 7 | STEVE DeMOSS | 61 | 15 |
| 7 |  | 8 | CATHY CAMPBELL | 62 | 4 |
| 9 | DATE: Thursday, September 20, 2018 | 9 | MARLA MERIDETH | 62 | 16 |
| 10 | TIME: 6:00 P.M. | 10 | CRYSTAL CLAIR | 62 | 24 |
| 11 |  | 11 | THAD KING | 65 | 2 |
| 12 | LOCATION: $\begin{gathered}\text { Adams County Coardroom }\end{gathered}$ | 12 | CHARLIE GENTERT | 66 | 12 |
| 13 | 507 Vermont <br> Quincy, Illinois |  |  |  |  |
| 14 |  | 13 | GINGER ROGERS | 67 | 15 |
| 15 | TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING | 14 | ROSEMARY BRICKMAN | 68 | 2 |
| 16 |  | 15 | CINDY ARNETT | 68 | 12 |
| 17 | REPORTED BY RANDALL W. WELLS | 16 | CRYSTAL CLAIR | 68 | 25 |
| 19 |  | 17 | SHARON HUDSON | 70 | 1 |
| 20 | Wells reporting service | 18 | THAD KING | 71 | 1 |
| 21 | \& Legal video | 19 | GINGER ROGERS | 73 | 6 |
| 22 | 54120 HIGHWAY HH | 20 | ROSEMARY BRICKMAN | 73 | 21 |
| 23 | HANNIBAL, MISSOURI 63401 |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | (573) 248-0940 | 21 | CATHY CAMPBELL | 74 | 14 |
| 25 | E-MAIL: wellsreperallstech.com | 22 | TIM MAIERS | 78 | 4 |
|  |  | 23 | CHARLIE GENTERT | 78 | 20 |
|  |  | 24 | CRYSTAL CLAIR | 79 | 11 |
|  |  | 25 | NIC ANDERSON | 81 | 23 |
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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 |  |  | Page | Line | 2 | CRYSTAL CLAIR | 84 | 25 |
| 3 |  |  |  |  | 3 | GINGER ROGERS | 87 | 12 |
| 4 | OPENING REMARKS by hearing officer | 10 | 3 |  | 4 | thad king | 89 | 4 |
| 5 | SONDGEROTH |  |  |  | 5 | CINDY ARNETT | 90 | 4 |
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| 7 | OPENING REMARKS BY MR. GOETSCH: | 16 | 7 |  | 7 | DUANE VENVERTLOH | 93 | 25 |
| 8 | COMMENTS FROM THE FACILITY | 21 | 11 |  | 8 | GINGER ROGERS | 94 | 8 |
| 9 | MR. PETER | 21 | 23 |  | 9 | WRITTEN TESTIMONY | 94 | 20 |
| 10 | MS. BAKER | 22 | 22 |  | 10 | ORAL TESTIMONY | 96 | 8 |
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| 15 | KAREN HUDSON | 38 | 9 |  | 15 | TERRY WITTLER | 108 | 23 |
| 16 | JOHNSON CORNWELL | 39 | 12 |  | 16 | DARREN SIMS | 111 | 1 |
| 17 | NIC ANDERSON | 41 | 10 |  | 17 | CINDY ARNETT | 113 | 8 |
| 18 | THAD KING | 43 | 14 |  | 18 | JENNY LAWLER | 115 | 12 |
| 19 | RANDY CLAIR | 44 | 6 |  | 19 | KIM TRENT | 117 | 19 |
| 20 | CHARLIE GENTERT | 46 | 20 |  | 20 | JENNIFER TIREY | 119 | 18 |
| 21 | CRYSTAL CLAIR | 48 | 21 |  | 21 | THAD KING | 122 | 12 |
| 22 | BRUCE MERIDETH | 50 | 19 |  | 22 | TASHE BUNTING | 125 | 2 |
| 23 | PAUL TERWELP | 51 | 19 |  | 23 | BEN HUGENBERG | 127 | 14 |
| 24 | JAY FRERICKS | 53 | 4 |  | 24 | KAREN HUDSON | 129 | 17 |
| 25 | GINGER ROGERS | 53 | 21 |  | 25 | tim maiers | 133 | 6 |
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| 1 |  | NICK | KANGER | 136 | 8 |  | 1 | PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 |  | NIC | ANDERSON | 137 | 24 |  | 2 | REGARDING THE |
| 3 | CLOSING | REMARKS | FROM the department | 140 | 19 |  | 3 | PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A LIVESTOCK |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 | MANAGEMENT FACILITY |
| 5 |  |  | EXHIBIT INDEX |  |  |  | 5 | BY |
| 6 | Exhibit |  | Description |  | Page | Line | 6 | COUNTY LINE SWINE, INC. SWINE FACILITY |
| 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 7 |  |
| 8 | Exhibit | 1 N | Notice Of Intent To | 21 | 5 |  | 8 |  |
| 9 |  |  | Construct |  |  |  | 9 | TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING heard on |
| 10 | Exhibit 2 | 2 | Department's PowerPoint | 21 | 9 |  | 10 | the 20th day of September, 2018, at the Adams County Courthouse, |
| 11 |  |  | Presentation |  |  |  | 11 | Adams County Board Room, 507 Vermont Street, in the City of |
| 12 | Exhibit 3 |  | Written Testimony From | 34 | 12 |  | 12 | Quincy, State of Illinois. |
| 13 |  |  | Maurer-Stutz \& PowerPoin |  |  |  | 13 | APPEARANCES |
| 14 |  |  | Presentation |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | Exhibit | 4 W | Written Testimony From | 95 | 6 |  |  |  |
| 16 |  |  | Linda \& James Link |  |  |  |  | Illinois Department of Agriculture |
| 17 | Exhibit 5 | 5 W | Written Testimony From | 95 | 12 |  | 15 | State Fair Grounds |
| 18 |  |  | John \& Becky Beck |  |  |  | 16 | P.O. Box 19281 |
| 19 | Exhibit 6 | 6 W | Written Testimony From | 95 | 14 |  | 17 | Springfield, Illinois 62794 |
| 20 |  |  | Linda \& James Link, Sean |  |  |  | 18 | By: Craig J. Sondgeroth |
| 21 |  |  | \& Tina Peters \& Cornwell |  |  |  | 19 | General Counsel At Illinois Department of Agriculture |
| 22 |  |  | Farms |  |  |  | 20 | Hearing Officer |
| 23 | Exhibit 7 | 7 W | Written Testimony From | 95 | 17 |  | 21 |  |
| 24 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 22 |  |
| 24 |  |  | Dan Cole |  |  |  | 23 |  |
| 25 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 24 |  |
| 25 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 25 |  |
| Page 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Page 7 |


| 1 | Exhibit 8 | Written Testimony From 95 | 19 |  | Illinois Department of Agriculture |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 |  | Stanley Campbel1 |  | 2 | State Fair Grounds |  |
| 3 | Exhibit 9 | Written Testimony From 95 | 21 | 3 | P.O. Box 19281 |  |
| 4 |  | George \& Jacquelyn Witt |  | 4 | Springfield, Illinois 62794 |  |
| 5 | Exhibit 10 | Written Testimony From 95 | 23 | 5 | By: Warren D. Goetsch, P.E. |  |
| 6 |  | Scott Bruenger |  | 6 | Bureau Chief |  |
| 7 | Exhibit 11 | Written Testimony Folder 100 | 6 | 7 | Bureau of Environmental Programs |  |
| 8 |  | From Crystal Clair |  | 8 |  |  |
| 9 | Exhibit 12 | Written Testimony From |  | 9 | Illinois Department of Agriculture |  |
| 10 |  | Randy Clair - Page 103-21 |  | 10 | State Fair Grounds |  |
| 11 | Exhibit 13 | Written Testimony From 117 | 13 | 11 | P.O. Box 19281 |  |
| 12 |  | Jenny Lawler |  | 12 | Springfield, Illinois 62794 |  |
| 13 | Exhibit 14 | Written Testimony From 124 | 24 | 13 | By: Doug Owens |  |
| 14 |  | Thad King \& Photo |  | 14 | Bureau of Environmental Programs |  |
| 15 | Exhibit 15 | Oral Testimony Sign-In 140 | 14 | 15 |  |  |
| 16 |  | Sheet |  | 16 |  |  |
| 17 | Exhibit 16 | Attendance Sign-In Sheet 140 | 15 | 17 |  |  |
| 18 |  |  |  | 18 |  |  |
| 19 |  |  |  | 19 |  |  |
| 20 |  |  |  | 20 |  |  |
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| 24 |  |  |  | 24 |  |  |
| 25 |  |  |  | 25 |  |  |
|  |  |  | Page 6 |  |  | Page 8 |

## APPLICANTS:

me. He's the Chief of the Department's Bureau of Environmental Programs.

## Ragan Peter - Applicant

## 11 Adams County Board:

13 Dave Bellis
14 Theresa Bockhold
15 John Brady
Steve DeMoss
Ryan A. Niekamp
Mark Peter
Les Post
Seldon R. Totsch
Duane Venvertloh
Rebecca Weed

## SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Well, good evening,
everyone. My name is Craig Sondgeroth. I'm General Counsel of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. I'm also the Chief of Staff.

Does anybody have any issues hearing tonight?
Had some -- we had some issues in the past. I want to make sure everybody can hear. So if you can't hear and we can do something about it, let me know.

Before we begin tonight I would ask everyone to please turn your cellphones to silent. Please make sure they're on silent.

Thank you very much.
Good evening, everyone. On behalf of Raymond Poe, the Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, I thank you very much for the invitation for the Department to come here tonight to Adams County.

As discussed, my name is Craig Sondgeroth. I'11 be serving tonight as the Hearing Officer for tonight's public informational meeting.

Also with me tonight on behalf of the Department is Warren Goetsch, sitting to my left. He's the Deputy Director of the Department.

And also Doug Owens, who's sitting right in front of

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$$

This meeting is being conducted pursuant to Section 12 of the Livestock Management Facilities Act. The informational meeting is being held at the request of the Adams County Board.
The purpose is to afford members of the public an opportunity to
ask questions and present oral testimony and written testimony regarding the proposed construction of a new two thousand animal unit swine facility by County Line Swine, Inc.

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

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

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

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

Following Mr. Goetsch, representatives for the
Page 11
proposed construction project will be given an opportunity to describe the project and demonstrate how they believe it meets the siting criteria of the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

After their presentation, I will open the meeting to questions. Anyone wishing to ask questions of the Facility representatives or the Department will be given an opportunity to do so. During the question and answer session I will ask that you state your name and spell your last name for the court reporter. You may then ask your question. Depending on the number of people who wish to testify in the oral testimony phase of this meeting, which is after the question phase, there may be a time limit placed on the questioning phase.

Following the question and answer phase I'11 ask for written testimony. If anyone has written testimony that is not part of your oral testimony, I will accept it and enter it into the record for this proceeding.

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

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

Following the written testimony, I will ask for oral testimony from the public. Sign-in sheets are placed at that table to my left as you came in. There's one sheet for attendance and another sheet for testimony.

testing, anaerobic lagoon financial responsibility demonstration, 2 and facility setback requirements.

1

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

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

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

The proposed project is to consist of the construction of one 121 feet 10 inch by 325 feet swine finishing building, with an 8 foot deep under building concrete livestock waste holding structure.

The project is proposed to be located approximately 2.7 miles east of Loraine, Illinois in Northern Adams County. The application was submitted by Maurer-Stutz Engineers on behalf of County Line Swine of West Point, Illinois.

The maximum design capacity of the proposed facility
Page 17
is two thousand animal units, or five thousand head of swine greater than fifty-five pounds.

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

On August 10th of this year the Department determined that the notice was complete and forwarded a copy of the completed application to the Adams County Board.

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

The design capacity of the proposed facility requires compliance with a residential setback distance of not less than 1,540 feet, and a populated area setback distance of not less than 3,080 feet.

On August 30th the Department received official notice from the Adams County Board requesting that a public informational meeting be scheduled regarding the proposal.

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

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

The Department has not received a formal submittal of Page 18
detailed engineering design plans and specifications for the 2 proposed project's under building livestock waste handling 3 facility at this time.
after this evening's meeting is as follows: The County Board Page 19

1
will have up to thirty business days from today's meeting to submit to the Department a non-binding recommendation relative to the proposed siting of this facility. Thus, a recommendation from the Adams County Board is due at the Department on or before November 2nd, 2018.

After the close of the County's thirty business day comment period, the Department will have fifteen calendar days, or until November 17th, 2018, to review all of the information submitted to date, including the Notice of Intent to Construct, construction plans, transcripts from this evening's meeting, the County Board's recommendation, and any other additional information submitted by the owners at the request of the Department.

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

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

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

I would also provide a copy of the Department's
PowerPoint presentation to be marked as an exhibit as well.
This concludes my formal remarks.

Page 20

I hope you guys are doing okay.

| 1 | And again, thank you for your attention. I look |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | forward to hearing your comments regarding this proposal and will |
| 3 | now turn the meeting back to the Hearing Officer. |
| 4 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Entered into the record |
| 5 | as Exhibit Number 1 is the completed Notice of Intent to |
| 6 | Construct, including correspondence between the Department and |
| 7 | the Applicant, notices of a public informational meeting, and |
| 8 | correspondence from the Adams County officials. |
| 9 | Also entered into the record as Exhibit Number 2 the |
| 10 | Department's PowerPoint presentation. |
| 11 | At this time we'11 hear comments from the Facility. |
| 12 | Before you begin: For those who will be presenting |
| 13 | testimony, can you please state and spell your last name for the |
| 14 | court reporter and then I'11 swear you all in together? |
| 15 | MR. PETER: Ragan Peter, R-a-g-a-n P-e-t-e-r. |
| 16 | MS. BAKER: Gayle Baker, G-a-y-1-e B-a-k-e-r. |
| 17 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Will both of you please |
| 18 | raise your right hand? |
| 19 | RAGAN PETER \& GAYLE BAKER, |
| 20 | having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says: |
| 21 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Thank you. You may |
| 22 | proceed with your testimony. |
| 23 | MR. PETER: Good evening. My name is Ragan Peter. I |
| 24 | would like to thank everyone for attending the public meeting |
| 25 | here tonight. |

Page 21

I grew up in Adams County. Moved to Loraine in 2008. I've been farming in Adams and Hancock County.

I've got a wife and two girls; a three year old and a one year old.

I'm a grain farmer and also a hog farmer. We've had pigs most of my life. And I also have a custom manure application business.

The facility will meet or exceed all the requirements from the Livestock Management Facilities Act, which governs the siting of livestock farms and protects the rights of citizens.

The new hog farm will bring economic activity to our local economy. Our farm has four full-time employees. The farm will provide a market for local corn and soybeans. We will also be adding approximately $\$ 16,000$ of tax revenue in the county, which ten thousand will go to the Mendon School District.

At this time I would like to turn it over to Gayle
Baker. I've hired Maurer-Stutz to help with the meeting of the requirements from the LMFA. They've designed and engineered plans for my project and will assist me and address the siting criterias.

Thank you.
MS. BAKER: First I'm going to enter into the record our written testimony of tonight, along with a copy of our Power Point presentation.

Are you guys doing okay in the back? I'm really hot.
Page 22

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Okay. Well, as Ragan stated, my name is Gayle Baker. I'm a Professional Agriculture Engineer. I have been licensed for the past four years and an engineer for the past eight.

Our firm specializes in assisting livestock producers with developing nutrient management plans, siting farms, as well as providing design plans, storm water plans, and things along those lines.

So tonight to -- we will be talking about the proposed structure, which is a finishing barn, that will be located in Keene Township.

And to recap, the Department of Agriculture's presentation we're going to be discussing how this farm siting will meet the eight siting criteria laid out in the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

With the first being the registration and
certification requirements.
The second being the design, location, and operation standards will exceed the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

The third: That we looked at the location compatibility.

And floodplain and aquifer protection.
Criteria Number 5: That we have developed plans to minimize our environmental impact of the farm.

And prepared plans for odor and control reduction. Page 23

Protection Agency.
The Nutrient Management Plan will be kept on site
with applicable records. This plan will include the total annual volume calculations of manure that will be produced at this farm; the target crop yields for fields that will be in the plan;
yearly manure analysis that will provide the nutrient content of
the manure that can be used to calculate the agronomic
loading/application rates that will be used on the fields that are in the plan; land application provisions, such as the setback and in areas requiring injection will also be included in the of where the livestock waste is applied.
Currently we're planning for more than four hundred acres to be included in the plan.
The acre requirement is calculated based on the
manure production and the nutrient value, along with the crop agronomic fertility needs. This will vary year to year. And that's why the records will be very important.
The plan will be in place within sixty days of the beginning of the operation.
And the Nutrient Management Plan and all associated records will be available for farm inspection.
On Criteria Number 2 is the environmental protection.
The structure design requirements that our firm has gone by in designing this structure is designing it by a licensed

Page 25
professional engineer and a licensed structural engineer.
The design requirements are based on the Livestock
Management Facilities Act, the ASABE standards, which stands for
the American Society of Agricultural \& Biological Engineers, and the Midwest Plan Service 36.

A site investigation was performed under the
direction of a licensed professional engineer pursuant to the
LMFA regulations, which we'll talk a little bit more about that later, and a reinforced concrete pit will be, with steel, was designed according to the Midwest Plan Service 36 and the ACI-318, which is the Building Code Requirements For Reinforced Concrete.

The structure is also designed, needs to be designed for five months of storage according to the Livestock Management Facilities Act. This structure will provide almost twelve months of storage. And so it will exceed that requirement in the Act.

Additionally, all joints and penetrations must have waterstops to prevent leaks or seepage of liquids.

And pit walls must be designed with appropriate
concrete footings for soil bearing and settlement.
These are some examples of details that will be in our structural plans.

On the left is a detail of the wall and footing. You can see we call out our rebar that will be in the wall, the footing location and the footing sites.

On the right are typical construction and control
2 joints that will be utilized in the pit to make this pit
3 watertight.

On this slide I'm going to show some examples of control joints.

This is a PVC base seal water stop that will be laid out in a grid based on the soils and concrete and reenforcement to control cracking in the slab. So that way when the concrete is poured through this we're controlling that cracking by using this base seal with a crack inducer. At this location a crack will form. This PVC water stop is flexible and can withstand shrinkage that will occur in the concrete. And these ridges help make sure no seepage occurs out of the concrete pit.

For construction joints that may occur in the walls, we use a center bulb water stoppage, which again is a PVC flexible water stop. When a concrete pour is stopped, it stops along the center ball. It will take off the forms, move the forms, and start to pour again. This water stop allows movement in the walls, while these walls are fastened with dowels, but prevents leakage and seepage from the walls.

And finally at the slab to wall interface there's a -- can you hear me?

There's a compression water stop, as you can see in the picture on the left. That prevents seepage or leaking underneath the wall.

Page 27

1

Do these design requirements provide a manure storage structure that does not leak?

Yes.
Additionally, we evaluated a FEMA 100 year floodplain map. This site is not located in a floodway or flood fringe of a 100 year floodplain.

Additionally, we evaluated for whether the structure was located in a karst region. From the IMAP-8 by ISGS it is not located in a karst region or near a sinkhole area.

Additionally, we performed a site soil investigation, and no aquifer material was found to a depth of five feet below the lowest point of the planned bottom of the structure.

We did find in our site soil investigation a seasonal high water table. So a perimeter drainage system will be required to control buoyancy around the structure.

This will require the farm to have a monitoring port,
which will be sampled quarterly.
A monitoring port will look something like here on the left. They will be able to take a sample quarterly of the water that's drained from the perimeter tile, submit it to a lab, which will then be submitted to the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

If an issue was ever discovered through these
samplings, a value is placed by the monitoring port so in essence this could be shut off until the issue is mitigated.


1 and a half feet below the current ground surface, which is more
than five foot below the planned bottom of the structure.

During this investigation we found stiff lean clay soil with a pit determinating in a glacial till. This information was used to do a soil bearing analysis as well as settlement analysis.

Construction standards are consistent with the criteria laid out in Criteria Number 2 with the goal of protecting the safety of the area.

Additionally, surface water will be diverted away from and around the structure using detention basins, pipes and swales.

And setbacks, waterstops, and design standards, again outlined in Criteria Number 2, protect groundwater, surface water, and structural integrity.

Under Criteria Number 5 we'11 outline our operation plan.

For farm management, all manure will be stored in a reinforced concrete pit, or a below building tank.

The farm will be operated by a certified livestock manager.

And the farm will have almost a year of storage versus the minimum five months of storage.

This provides the opportunity to wait to land apply during optimum conditions, which will reduce leaching and runoff
potential. Page 31

[^0]And finally, the location complies with and exceeds
the setback distances as established in the LMFA.
In the residential setback we've exceeded it by 740 feet, and in the populated area we've exceeded by over 4,000 feet.

This site, again, is located in a rural area surrounded by trees, which will help control the odor.

Additional odor control methods employed is minimize odor-causing particles that leave the building through ventilation by performing regular maintenance.

Maintenance will ensure building's fans operate efficiently, thus minimizing dust buildup.

All best management practices will be utilized.
Criteria Number 7 is regarding the traffic patterns to get to the farm.

This table here displays the moving traffic that was gathered from an Illinois Department of Transportation study done in 2008.

State Highway 61 and State Highway 336 already experience truck traffic. Roads that will be used to get to the farm will be North 2700 th Avenue and East 1850th, which I will show you on the next slide, and they range from fifty to seventy-five vehicles per day.

When roads are not posted, traffic that will be

| 1 |
| ---: |
| 2 | coming off of 336 or State Highway 61 will travel to the farm $\quad$. When this road is posted, truck traffic will come off

Page 33

As Ragan stated, about $\$ 16,000$ in tax benefits will go to the County, with this School District 4 Mendon, County, Keene Township, John Wood, receiving the largest amount.

Finally, County Line Swine will be located in a rural area and will be benefit the community by adding value to corn and soybeans produced in the area.

In summary, this concludes our testimony on the eight siting criteria that this facility has met.

Thank you.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Entered into the record as Applicant Exhibit -- strike that.

Entered into the record as Exhibit Number 3 is the testimony from -- by Maurer-Stutz and a copy of their PowerPoint presentation.

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

If you have a question you would like to ask, please raise your hand and when called upon please state your name and spell your name for the court reporter.

Please indicate to whom you are directing your question; as the Applicant, or the Department, or perhaps both.

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

After this question and answer session there will be
25 a session dedicated to public testimony where you can provide
your oral comments.

Page 35
So please limit this session to questions only.
Also, please keep in mind the questions need to pertain to this particular facility.

Are there any questions?
Yes, ma'am.
CRYSTAL CLAIR: Crystal Clair, C-1-a-i-r.
My question is: What is -- what do you do when you
know an untruth has been told?
Because Ragan has said he lived in Loraine, but his
notice says West Point, Illinois. And West Point, Illinois is in Hancock County, not Adams County.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Is that question
directed to the Department or --
CRYSTAL CLAIR: Yes.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: -- or the Applicant?
CRYSTAL CLAIR: What -- what -- it's an untruth. He does not live in Loraine.

And then we've noticed some spelling errors. They've got Loraine spelled wrong.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Sounds like you're
making a statement. Is there --
CRYSTAL CLAIR: I'm sorry.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: -- a specific question you want the Department --
,
CRYSTAL CLAIR: I mean, how -- how do we get these
things corrected?
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Does the Department want
to respond to that?
MR. GOETSCH: I guess my suggestion would be that if
you have specific issues or incorrect statements you believe have
been made, to just pass those on to Mr. Owens at the Department
and --
cRYSTAL CLAIR: So that would include if he didn't
send the notice to all property owners?
mR. GOETSCH: Anything that you believe is a -- a
information, please pass that on to the Department.
CRYSTAL CLAIR: And where would we send that to?
E-mail or -- or write a letter?
MR. GOETSCH: Either is fine. E-mail to the
Department or by U.S. Postal Service. Either is fine.
CRYSTAL CLAIR: And that's on the website?
MR. GOETSCH: Yes.
CRYSTAL CLAIR: Okay.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Perhaps Mr. Owens has a
card he can provide to you if that will help, ma'am.
CRYSTAL CLAIR: That would be great.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, ma'am.

C-a-t-h-y C-a-m-p-b-e-7-1

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My question is to the I.D.O.A. Is it legal to run a dragline along a driveway or on top of a road; and if not, what is the penalty doing so?

And when we see this happen again in our area, who do we report it to?

MR. GOETSCH: I believe that local roads -- well, the roads are under the jurisdiction either of the U.S. -- or the Illinois Department of Transportation, or the County, if it's a county highway, or the local township official if it's a township road.

So you need to pass those on to those individuals or entities.

CATHY CAMPBELL: It was a township road. Would it be the township road commissioners?

MR. GOETSCH: That would be correct.
CATHY CAMPBELL: And you didn't say. Is that lega1?
MR. GOETSCH: That would be under their purview, not the Department of Agriculture's.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
Ma'am, in the red.
MARLA MERIDETH: My name is Marla Merideth.
M-a-r-1-a M-e-r-i-d-e-t-h.
I'm addressing this one to Ragan. Are you willing to sign a legal and binding contract proving insurance to cover
clean-up and loss of income of all organic farms involved until
the organic status would be regained should contamination occur?

## Will you sign a legal and binding contract to protect

MR. PETER: I'11 have to seek legal advice on that. MARLA MERIDETH: Which means no.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? Yes, ma'am.

KAREN HUDSON: I have a question about the
construction plans.
Karen Hudson. H-u-d-s-o-n. First name Karen.
$K-a-r-e-n$.
You said that you had done the plans. Are the construction plans completed?

MS. BAKER: They're preliminarily completed with our firm. We're finalizing our review and they will be submitted to the Department of Agriculture for their review.

KAREN HUDSON: Okay. I think it's important that --
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Just questions, ma'am.
KAREN HUDSON: Okay.
My second question is: What is the depth to the groundwater?

MS. BAKER: There is a seasonal high water table that was found during the site soils investigation, which will be controlled with a perimeter drain.

KAREN HUDSON: But you're supposed to find the depth
to the groundwater. That's something that the county board would need to know and we would like to have that.

MS. BAKER: According to the Livestock Management
Facilities Act I'm supposed to investigate within five feet below the depth of the structure, which we did.

KAREN HUDSON: Okay. Great. I didn't hear you say that.

Thank you.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
Yes, sir. Black shirt.
JOHNSON CORNWELL: Yes. I guess I would --
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I'm sorry. Would you
all stand up, please, and state your name?
JOHNSON CORNWELL: Johnson Cornwell. J-o-h-n-s-o-n
C-o-r-n-w-e-1-1.
I guess I would direct this for the Department. Is the Department aware that the application was in error?

We own the property on the east for one mile. It borders all of the property. We own the property on the -- the farm on the south.

It states on the application that there's no one living in the property on the east. We have owned that property for 111 years. There has always been somebody in that property. Five generations have been up on that farm.

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$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { not occupied. } \\
& \text { HeARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Is that for the } \\
& \text { Is that what you said? } \\
& \text { JOHNSON CORNWELL: Yes, sir. } \\
& \text { MR. GOETSCH: If you, again, as I said to someone } \\
& \text { else earlier, if you believe that there's an error in their } \\
& \text { application, if you could please pass that information along to } \\
& \text { us, either by mail or by e-mail, that would be appreciated. } \\
& \text { JOHNSON CORNWELL: So will that application have to } \\
& \text { be resubmitted? } \\
& \text { MR. GOETSCH: I need to see that information before I } \\
& \text { can answer that question, sir. } \\
& \text { JOHNSON CORNWELL: What -- what do you mean by see } \\
& \text { the information? } \\
& \text { MR. GOETSCH: I need to confirm -- well, we just need } \\
& \text { the information to see whether or not there is an error. } \\
& \text { JOHNSON CORNWELL: Okay. So where do I go from here? } \\
& \text { I'm not fully understanding what you're saying. What }
\end{aligned}
$$ do I need to do to --

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Let me interrupt.
Doug, would you bring me one of the cards and I'11 announce it and they can take that information down? I think that will clear up some of the confusion of where to send these

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comments to once and for all
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So I am going to read into the record: The Bureau Chief of Environmental Programs is Doug Owens. His phone number is 217-785-2427.

And his e-mail address is doug.owens@illinois.gov.
His physical mailing address is P.O. Box 19281,
Springfield, Illinois, 62794.
Any other questions?
Yes, sir.
NIC ANDERSON: Nic Anderson. A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. I'm with the Illinois Livestock Development Group.

Kind of a two part. I need to try to find some information from the engineer.

On the residential set -- on the populated area setback, how many residents did you list, or how many on that map? I --

MS. BAKER: I will bring that back up for you. I do have them circled.

NIC ANDERSON: So resident -- that's residential? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: No. That's not it. MS. BAKER: Oh. There. There. Thank you. Sorry. We identified three residences that were occupied that were nonfarm residences within the populated area setback.

NIC ANDERSON: Okay. And to the Department: Could you explain the threshold for the populated area setback of how Page 41
many houses or no houses are included, or excluded, or how you determine that?

MR. GOETSCH: A populated area is defined as that area of the donut that would have to have at least ten farm residences located within it. That would qualify it as a populated area, and thus that would disqualify a facility from being sited there.

Or if you had a commonplace of assembly, which is a location which is frequented by at least fifty people at least once per week during the time of the year that that location is open. Or a nonfarm business.

NIC ANDERSON: I guess for some clarity. If there was a residence mismarked or misidentified, would the farm have an opportunity to make that correction; and if it impacted that -- that determination you would have to decide one way or the other, but if it didn't it's just renotifying?

Or is that the process that the farm would use if
there was a discrepancy from a standpoint that you're made aware of?

MR. GOETSCH: Again, that's where I would have to go back and look at the specific situation. It may very well been that, yes, the fact that a facility was misidentified -- or excuse me -- a home was misidentified, but it would result in still less than ten being -- occupied residences being within that area, it would not have a material impact on the
determination of as to whether or not there was a common -excuse me -- a populated area that existed.
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provisions of the statute to make sure that proper notice was being provided, et cetera.

But, you know, the bottom line is if there's not ten,
then it does not exclude that location from qualifying as a potential site.

NIC ANDERSON: Thank you.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Are there any other questions?

I know -- I'm going to come back to you. I know you want to ask questions. I'm trying to get everybody involved.

THAD KING: I have a follow-up to that.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, sir.
THAD KING: My name is Thad King, K-i-n-g.
Do you mind moving forward about ten or fifteen slides to the one that has the green dots on it, please?

Back one.
On this slide --
MS. BAKER: Hang on. Technology is not agreeing with me.

THAD KING: So I guess my question then is: How many residents are mentioned in this slide?

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Who are you speaking to?
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MS. BAKER: Eleven residences are located within one mile of the farm. The populated area setback is three thousand -- three thousand and eighty feet.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, sir? In the plaid.
RANDY CLAIR: Randy Clair, C-1-a-i-r. This is to the
Department of Ag .
Mr. Peter told his neighbors from his previous confinement setup that --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear in the back. We cannot hear.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Sir, maybe -- would you be willing to stand? I think it would project your voice a little bit.

RANDY CLAIR: Okay. Mr. Peter told his neighbors at the previous confinement setup that he had three miles north of this one that he was going to put up one building. He ended up with three.

Isn't that a bit of a loophole in the law if he's not required to disclose to the neighborhood what his future plans are for expansion of this operation?

The original construction setback's changed.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Let's -- let's take them
in turn. It's a compound question.
I'm not sure that's relevant. We're not here to

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discuss the merits of the law. I don't want to get into that, 2 the Department's position of the merits of the law. We're really

Unless Mr. Goetsch would like to respond.
MR. GOETSCH: Well, let me just say that the statute does have provisions that govern how often or what the scope of an expansion could be. There are provisions that talk about ex -- you must expend less than fifty percent of the fixed capital costs of a comparable entirely new facility within any two year period.

Such that he would not be able to expand -- let's, for the sake of argument, he is approved eventually after this whole process is over and he builds that facility. If he wanted to expand it he could not expand it for at least two years; and that expansion would have to be less than a scope such that -- in essence what it amounts to he could not double that -- the size of that facility.

Because that would then, if he did more than fifty percent of the fixed capital costs of a comparable entirely new facility with a proposed expansion, that makes him classified as a new facility and he would have to go through this whole process again. And would be subject to even larger setbacks because he would be then talking about something like four hundred -- excuse me -- four thousand animal units instead of two thousand. So the setbacks would be significantly greater.

1 Department of Ag what recourses these people have after things
2 spill on the odor control.

So there are provisions of the statute that do affect the ability of one to expend -- or expand.

The other thing you also I think have to remember is that there is a certain size that you really can't go beyond just because the amount of material that has to be moved in and out of the facility. You have the issue of disease control. You know. You don't want to have so many animals at one location that if you did have some kind of an outbreak it wipes out the whole facility. You want to have facilities separated by a significant difference just so you can control the potential for diseases.

So I think there is a practical limit to what these facilities can be expanded to. And the statute, as I mentioned, does have provisions.

What the applicant may or may not have said to the people in the community I can't address because I'm not aware.

RANDY CLAIR: Thank you.
MR. GOETSCH: Thank you.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
Yes, sir. In the red pullover.
CHARLIE GENTERT: Yeah. I would like to --
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Sir, could you please
state your name? Spell it for the court reporter?
CHARLIE GENTERT: All right. Charlie Gentert,
G-e-n-t-e-r-t.
I would like to know from the Depart -- the

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HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Just to clarify. You said after things spill?

CHARLIE GENTERT: Right. What recourses do they

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they?
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MR. GOETSCH: I would say that every law is subject to every taxpayer's opinion. And you can have whatever opinion you would like to have, but those laws are passed by the General Assembly and signed into effect by the Governor; and we as state agencies are mandated to enforce them.

CHARLIE GENTERT: I got a question for that Mr. Peters.

Is there going to be a grain mill on that property? You've said locally grown and that. Is there going to be a grain mill on there, or are you going to -- is there a grain mill locally?

Or you -- how far are you going to get the feed trucked before -- and mill?

MR. PETER: There will be no feed mill on the property. The feed will be coming out of Carthage, Illinois. HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? Yes, ma'am. In pink. CRYSTAL CLAIR: Crystal Clair.
I'm not sure who to address this to. Miss Baker said you have approximately four hundred acres to spread the raw hog manure on. So I've been sitting here trying to do the math.

At what rate is he planning on applying it?

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tax exemption for this new facility?

| 1 | And does he have enough acres to do it? |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I believe that's a |
| 3 | question more for the Applicant. Let him take a shot at it. We |
| 4 | can give the opportunity to the Department after that. |
| 5 | MS. BAKER: Manure application rates are calculated |
| 6 | yearly because manure nutrient values do fluctuate. So yearly |
| 7 | manure samples will be taken, along with soil fertility of all of |
| 8 | the fields that will be in his plan. |
| 9 | Ragan is required by the Livestock Management |
| 10 | Facilities Act to show the location of all of the fields that |
| 11 | will be in his plan, along with the calculation of how many acres |
| 12 | will be required. |
| 13 | The amount of acres that he has in his plan are owned |
| 14 | by Ragan, as well as -- help me with the -- as well as the |
| 15 | pinnacle group. |
| 16 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: And how -- so how do we know what the |
| 17 | rate is? |
| 18 | I mean, the calculations that I have done say he |
| 19 | really -- if he puts five thousand gallons on, is that - I mean, |
| 20 | is that a normal rate? |
| 21 | This would say he would need four hundred and |
| 22 | seventy-one acres. And he doesn't have that many acres. |
| 23 | I mean, we -- we can show you -- |
| 24 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Let's let her respond to |
| 25 | that question. |
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MS. BAKER: Again, that rate calculation is going to vary from year to year. And it does depend on the facility and the feed that is being fed to the pigs.

So as far as the exact rate that he will be applying at, I cannot tell you that tonight.

CRYSTAL CLAIR: When can he tell us that?
MS. BAKER: When he has the manure test, and soil fertility test. And when we've done that calculation --

CRYSTAL CLAIR: So after that.
MS. BAKER: -- we will do a preliminary calculation that will be included in his plan. But that calculation will be updated yearly.

CRYSTAL CLAIR: After that.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Are there any other questions?

Is there anyone who hasn't had an opportunity to ask

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a question?
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Yes. You haven't, sir, in the white polo. BRUCE MERIDETH: Thank you. Bruce Merideth, M-e-r-i-d-e-t-h.

I have a question for Mr. Peters. Concerning the income produced for the -- the taxing income to the area, you received a pollution control tax exemption for part of your land which significantly lowers your tax rate.

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tax exemption for this new facility?
And are you planning to apply for any other tax
exemptions which would lower your tax rate?
MR. PETER: I think with anyone we're always looking at options to increase our profitability; and if it's available for this facility we will apply for it.

BRUCE MERIDETH: Okay. If I can have one more quick question. Address it to the County Board.

Will the meeting that you actually vote yes or no on this be a public meeting and advertised in advance so we know when it's happening.

MR. POST: Yes. It will be our regular meeting October -- well, second Tuesday in October. Should be the 9th. October 9th. 7:00 p.m.

BRUCE MERIDETH: Okay. Thank you.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? Someone who hasn't had an opportunity to ask a question yet.

Sir in the back?
PAUL TERWELP: Paul Terwelp, T-e-r-w-e-1-p.
I had a question about the -- this is probably for Mr. Peter, but might be for the designer -- about the odor control for this kind of -- this particular facility.

In the direction of the prevailing wind, how much distance do you think there will be odor from -- produced by this facility that will be noticeable?

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this facility because it's not required by the Livestock Management Facilities Act for this testimony.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Would the Department like to comment on that?

MR. GOETSCH: I would just -- I would just add that there are many, many criteria that's associated with what odors are detectable and how far odors can be detected.

One of the major ones is the local topography. If you have been out to this site I think you'll notice that the proposed site is significantly sheltered on, what, on the west, east, and north with a significant amount of trees.

Those trees do have a major impact in terms of dispersing odor-carrying particles that, you know, that could be -- or that would -- or could leave a facility.

I think that the topography of this particular site has some significant advantages of other sites that we have seen.

But every site is unique. And I don't know that we would have or even the Applicant would really have a good answer for you, but part of the setback distances that are required by -- or that are included in the LMFA is an attempt to make some estimates there.

That doesn't mean that you won't smell it outside a setback distance, but depending on the local topography it can have at least somewhat of an indication.

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    HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Anyone who hasn't had an
opportunity to ask a question?
    You, sir, in the polo.
    JAY FRERICKS: Yeah. Jay Frericks, F-r-e-r-j-c-k-s.
    This is to Mrs. Baker over there. You went to great
    lengths on telling us about the pit that stores the manure.
    Is that manure considered a toxic waste going into
the pit?
    MS. BAKER: The manure is considered a by-product of
animal livestock that contains a nutrient value.
    JAY FRERICKS: Is that a toxic waste?
    Yes. So why in the world would I want that on the
ground around my property?
    MS. BAKER: That is not what I said. I said that
    that manure has a nutrient value. It does need to be handled in
    a way that that nutrient is applied agronomically so the crop can
    use it efficiently, but it is not a toxic waste.
    HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Anybody who hasn't asked
    a question yet?
    Yes, ma'am. In the back.
        GINGER ROGERS: Ginger Rogers. G-i-n-g-e-r
    R-o-g-e-r-s.
    My questions is for Mr. Peter. What is your primary
water source for this complex?
    And do you have to have a backup; and if so, what is
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your backup water source?
MR. PETER: Yes. We'll have three water sources.
Our primary will be the well on the property.
GINGER ROGERS: Is there a -- I'm sorry. Is there a
well already dug?
MR. PETER: Yes.
And then -- that's our primary. We've got a backup
pond that is on the property already.
And then we've spoken to ABS Water. We'11 be hooking
up to that.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: And the third one? You said you have three.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Hold on, ma'am. Hold on. We have to call on you. Got to get your name on the record.

Has anybody else not entered -- or not asked a
question?
UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: He didn't answer the
question. He --
MR. PETER: I think I answered it. I -- I listed off
three water sources. One is --
UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Is there a well that --
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Hold on. One at a time.
MR. PETER: Can I answer?
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes. Finish your
response, please.

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Department of Ag.
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To the engineer: Do you think in the opinion of the residents of the State of North Carolina and the United States EPA that they think the hog waste flowing down the rivers and streams right now is toxic?

Is that safe drinking water?
MS. BAKER: Sir, I would like to talk to you afterwards about that, but that does not change the site or the siting criteria laid out by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

HOWARD HUDSON: Secondly to the operator: With the -- the recent history of the United States Department of Agriculture having on hand an average of over six hundred million pounds of pork in cold storage that the United States taxpayers
are paying for, and due to the unprofitability of the hog industry right now, why do you think you need this many additional hogs?

MR. PETER: We were contracted by a grower to custom finish the hogs, and we have no interest in that.

HOWARD HUDSON: Question for the Department of Ag.
If the -- if a discrepancy due to errors on the application is found, will you be repeating this meeting?

MR. GOETSCH: It depends on the severity or -- well, it depends on the specifics of the situation. I'm not going to tell you that if you find a comma was missing or an apostrophe Page 57
that we're going to redo this. It depends specifically on the situation. And we will review that with our general counsel and make a determination what the statute requires us to do.

HOWARD HUDSON: Thank you.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Anyone else not -- in the back, ma'am. Blue dress.

DANA GLOVER: My name is Dana Glover. D-a-n-a G-1-o-v-e-r.

This is for the designer and/or the operator.
I understand there's a considerable amount of mortality involved in the operation of a swine facility. So I would like to know what the operator plans to do to handle the carcasses, and the associated risk to wildife, and the neighboring community through vermin spreading, flies, odor, wildlife carrying the debris, or the runoff, or the decomposing carcasses.

MR. PETER: We will use a composter, which is a three bay structure. It will have sawdust in it. Your day-to-day death loss will go into that. It will be turned and kept track of.

And then in the event of a mass casualty there will be a rendering company hired.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions for someone who hasn't asked a question yet?

Yes, ma'am?

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

compost and sawdust. And that compost has a system. Gets to a
temperature that kills microbes. And the odor from composting
systems is very minimal when operated efficiently.

As far as biofilters for the site, Ragan currently
does not have plans to install any.

JENNY LAWLER: So do you have plans possibly in the
future to do that?

Because my husband is on oxygen twenty-four hours a
day and has lung conditions. And there's other people in the
area that do.

My main -- my concern is the biofilters with the
gases and such.

MR. PETER: We're going to use --

JENNY LAWLER: Are you going to do that?

MR. PETER: We're planning to use the natural tree
buffers and regular maintenance of the fans and cleaning of the
buildings will keep the smell minimal.

JENNY LAWLER: Okay. I'm not so worried about smell
as I am the air quality.

So therefore, no filters are going to be used because
you're just using the trees around the --

MR. PETER: That's correct.

JENNY LAWLER: So we live a little, just a little
over a half a mile from there. So that's not going to help us
with our health issues.

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| 1 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Sir in the back? | 1 | I guess the first one is more of a statement. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | You haven't asked a question yet. | 2 | spoke with |
| 3 | TIM MAIERS: Tim Maiers, M-a-i-e-r-s. | 3 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Ma'am? Hold on. |
| 4 | Ragan, I guess somewhat of a follow-up question. | 4 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: Okay. |
| 5 | You've worked in hog barns for quite a few years. Have you ever | 5 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: This is question and |
| 6 | had, or employees, ever had any health issues working inside the | 6 | answer. I'11 give you the opportunity to provide written |
| 7 | barns? | 7 | testimony, I'11 give you the opportunity to provide oral |
| 8 | Mr. PETER: No. | 8 | testimony, but this is just questions at this point. |
| 9 | TIM MAIERS: So would you think it's pretty unlikely | 9 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: Who at ABS Water told you they |
| 10 | that someone would have any health issues? | 10 | approved your -- that you could use them? |
| 11 | MR. PETER: Yes. | 11 | It's my understanding their engineer has not talked |
| 12 | TIM MAIERS: Thank you. | 12 | to them yet. |
| 13 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? | 13 | MR. PETER: I talked to Cindy Keys when we received |
| 14 | Someone that hasn't asked a question yet. | 14 | permit. She's going to submit it to the board if we can use |
| 15 | STEVE DeMOSS: I got one I would like to. | 15 | that as our third line of defense on water. |
| 16 | You stated -- Steve DeMoss. S-t-e-v-e D-e-M-o-s-s. | 16 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: The meeting is next week. |
| 17 | You stated that if the -- if places met once a month, | 17 | MR. PETER: Thank you. |
| 18 | more than fifty people in it within that vicinity. Is there any | 18 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Did you -- ma'am, I'11 |
| 19 | churches around that area where you're going? | 19 | give you -- did you have a second question? |
| 20 | Because there might be a -- a bunch of congregation | 20 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: I do have a second question. |
| 21 | might meet there on Sunday. So | 21 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: What's your second |
| 22 | MR. PETER: We have a church to the southeast. It's | 22 | question? |
| 23 | well out of the populated area. I think it's four thousand feet | 23 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: It's about composting. Are you going |
| 24 | to -- seven thousand feet to the church and we need to be three |  | to be using an anaerobic or an aerobic compost process? |
| 25 | thousand. | 25 | Are you going to -- do you farm the ground that |
|  | Page 61 |  | $\text { Page } 63$ |
| 1 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions of | 1 | you're going to be putting this on? |
| 2 | someone who hasn't asked a question yet? | 2 | Because it's my understanding if you don't farm it |
| 3 | Yes, ma'am. In front. |  | you have to have a compost permit from the EPA. |
| 4 | CATHY CAMPBELL: I would like to ask a -- I'm sorry. | 4 | Do you farm the Kennedy Summers' ground? |
| 5 | Cathy, C-a-t-h-y, Campbell, C-a-m-p-b-e-1-1. | 5 | . PETER: I don't. |
| 6 | I would like to follow-up on the trees being a | 6 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: And so is that not right? If you put |
| 7 | buffer zone. I'm very curious. There are a large number of | 7 | compost -- doesn't the Illinois Department of Ag say if you're |
| 8 | trees there now, but I would suspect a lot of those will have to | 8 | putting compost on ground that you don't farm you have to have a |
| 9 | come down for construction of the building | 9 | compost permit? |
| 10 | MR. PETER: That's incorrect. The building will be | 10 | MR. PETER: I purchased the hundred and thirty-six |
| 11 | out in the field where there's corn planted on a level area. | 11 | acres last Thursday where the site's going to go and -- |
| 12 | CATHY CAMPBELL: So you won't be taking trees out? | 12 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: But if you put it on the Summers' |
| 13 | Mr. PETER: No. No trees. | 13 | ground -- |
| 14 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? | 14 | Mr. PETER: There won't - |
| 15 | Yes, ma'am. In the red. | 15 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: -- there |
| 16 | MARLA MERIDETH: Marla Merideth, M-e-r-i-d-e-t-h | 16 | MR. PETER: There won't be any need to put it on the |
| 17 | What is the capacity of trees in the wintertime with | 17 | Summers' ground. They won't -- they won't want it there. And |
| 18 | no foliage to filter? | 18 | I'11 put it on my own because I own the facility, not on a |
| 19 | MS. BAKER: Those trees will still help to dissipate | 19 | neighbor. |
| 20 | any odors that are there. | 20 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: I'm not talking about where the |
| 21 | MARLA MERIDETH: I don't think so. | 2 | compost is located. I'm talking about where it's spread. |
| 22 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? | 22 | MR. PETER: It will be spread on my property. |
| 23 | Yes, ma'am. In the pink. | 23 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: Not on the Summers' property. |
| 24 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: I don't know which one to ask first. | 24 | MR. PETER: Correct. |
| 25 | Oh. Oh. Crystal Clair. I'm sorry. C-l-a-i-r. | 25 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? |
|  | Page 62 |  | Page 64 |


| 1 | Yes, sir. In the white. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | THAD KING: My question -- Thad King, K-i-n-g. |
| 3 | My question is for Gayle. It's kind of a follow-up |
| 4 | to the North Carolina question. |
| 5 | But during your presentation, and I quote, you said, |
| 6 | on the environmental slides, "This is to reduce the potential," |
| 7 | and then later you said, "To minimize the potential of leaching |
| 8 | and runoff." |
| 9 | So is it -- are you stating that there is a potential |
| 10 | for leaching and a potential for runoff from this facility? |
| 11 | MS. BAKER: As with any facility livestock business |
| 12 | there are risks when you are operating. |
| 13 | So from the standpoint of the facility there's a risk |
| 14 | when moving manure for leaks, breaks in hoses, things like that. |
| 15 | THAD KING: And leaching from the spread? |
| 16 | MS. BAKER: By applying it, like I detailed in my |
| 17 | slide, by applying it at opportune times when the crops can |
| 18 | efficiently use that, we have found that the crops are able to |
| 219 | utilize that manure. The soil quality becomes better and the |
| 20 | crops are able to utilize all that nutrient that we placed there |
| 24 | for it. |

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Quickly, please.
THAD KING: Okay. You also had mentioned that you're going to use this at opportune times. During your proposal you said you're planning on storing a year's worth to apply it, but yet when you look at the application rate you said you do it yearly; not at the applicable time.

MS. BAKER: We will be spreading it every fall. So the storage will be yearly, with application in the fall when the fields are able to handle the application.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
Yes, sir. In the back. In the red.
CHARLIE GENTERT: Okay. The --
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Sir? Can you state your name, please?

CHARLIE GENTERT: Gentert. G-e-n-t-e-r-t.
This manure application, are you going to use
something like an additive to the manure, like a stabilizer or something?

You know, I know there's farmer in here. They're
familiar with $N$-Serve. But also Dow Chemical makes Instinct,
which it helps on the -- on the -- helps that defermentation process and that.

Are you going to use a stabilizer in the manure to
keep it out of the groundwater?
MR. PETER: Yes, we will. We use it to help with

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flies, and odor, and the stabilization of the nitrogen.
CHARLIE GENTERT: Isn't that better to spread that
manure in the spring? Because that way it can -- is less likely
to get down into the groundwater?
MR. PETER: The --
CHARLIE GENTERT: With a stabilizer.
MR. PETER: The optimum time to spread manure is in
the fall of the year when it's dry. That will be our target
application time.
We try not to apply in the spring due to all of the
rains and the potential for runoff if we would have a ten inch
rain or something like that.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
Yes, ma'am. In the back.
GINGER ROGERS: Ginger Rogers.
Mr. Peter stated that he has a well for his primary
flies, and odor, and the stabilization of the nitrogen.
CHARLIE GENTERT: Isn't that better to spread that
manure in the spring? Because that way it can -- is less likely to get down into the groundwater?

MR. PETER: The --
CHARLIE GENTERT: With a stabilizer.
MR. PETER: The optimum time to spread manure is in the fall of the year when it's dry. That will be our target application time.

We try not to apply in the spring due to all of the rains and the potential for runoff if we would have a ten inch rain or something like that.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
Yes, ma'am. In the back.
GINGER ROGERS: Ginger Rogers.
Mr. Peter stated that he has a well for his primary
source. I want to know: What is the usage of this complex; and will that well sustain that usage without lowering the water
table in the area?
MR. PETER: Yes. The well will put out
thirty gallons a minute. It's an 1800-gallon an hour. You take that times twenty-four is forty-five thousand gallons, roughly.

The building on a hot day, such as today, we use
seventy-five hundred gallons. So there will be plenty of capacity there from the existing well.

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HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, ma'am.
ROSEMARY BRICKMAN: Rosemary Brickman.
R-o-s-e-m-a-r-y B-r-i-c-k-m-a-n.
This is for Miss Baker.
Could you share with us whether your firm has
designed any facilities that have had any problems that have been
addressed by the EPA?
MS. BAKER: I will not be sharing that as that has
nothing to do with this facility at this testimony hearing.
ROSEMARY BRICKMAN: Well...
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, ma'am?
CINDY ARNETT: I'm Cindy Arnett. C-i-n-d-y

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| 1 | Miss Baker, when you determined the characteristic of |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | County Line Swine in the area, how in the world can you say it is |
| 3 | characteristic to be incompatible with an organic farm right next |
| 4 | door? |
| 5 | MS. BAKER: Wel1, manure is an organic source, and |
| 6 | it is a great fertilizer for organic farms. Many organic farms |
| 7 | use manure - |
| 8 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: We do not. |
| 9 | MS. BAKER: -- to fertilize their ground. |
| 10 | From a certification point, and the research that I |
| 11 | have done, and finding out if any organic farms in Illinois have |
| 12 | been decertified from the use of manure, currently none in |
| 13 | Illinois have been decertified. And all research points to |
| 14 | manure being a great source for an organic facility. |
| 15 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: So are you saying then we don't have |
| 16 | the right to determine what we have in our farm and if we don't |
| 17 | want organic -- or don't want manure on our farm we don't have |
| 18 | the right to stop it? |
| 19 | MS. BAKER: My understand is no manure is being |
| 20 | applied to your farm. |
| 21 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: But it will 1each. |
| 22 | MS. BAKER: Not if it's applied correctly, as Ragan |
| 23 | has proposed to do. |
| 24 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? |
| 25 | Yes, ma'am. |

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THAD KING: Thad King, K-i-n-g.
My question is for the Department. Are you aware of any studies saying that manure carries diseases?

MR. GOETSCH: I couldn't put my hands on one to hand you one, but --

THAD KING: Are you aware?
MR. GOETSCH: -- I can't say -- but I can't say that there -- that there isn't such a thing. I just don't have it here in front of me.

THAD KING: Okay. A follow-up to that. If they were to exist in the manure, and that manure is spread, would those, whatever name your disease, would that be spread with that application?

MR. GOETSCH: I think it depends specifically on the

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repeat public informational meetings in the past because of errors on applications?

MR. GOETSCH: Yes. We have repeated it's either two or three that I can recall. I think one was in Woodford County.

I'm trying to remember the other two.
But yes, we have --
SHARON HUDSON: Thank you.
MR. GOETSCH: -- we have in the past.
And again, let me just add: It is based on -- I
think one of the -- the one in Woodford County, if I remember correctly, that actually the application was after the public informational meeting was held. The application was withdrawn and resubmitted by the applicant.

There are lots of -- it all depends on the nature of the issue and whether or not the requirements of the statute are being met by the application as it exists.

We will look at that. If we get information, we'11 look at that information and determine what, if any, impact it has on the application in front of it.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
Yes, sir.

THAD KING: Do any of those pathogens --
MR. GOETSCH: I'm not a --
THAD KING: -- spread? Do any --
hearing officer sondgeroth: well, sir, hold on. Let
a
MR. GOETSCH: Like I said, I'm not an expert in this
area.
I would say that the statute the way it's written
allows for the spreading of manure under certain controls. And
the intent of those controls is to ensure that that manure stays
where it's applied.
That's why application rates are restricted to the
agronomic use of the crop to be grown. That's why setbacks are
put in around -- or are required around wells, around waterways,
around other known conveyances to try and ensure that that
material does not leave the site of application.
THAD KING: Okay.
HEARING OFFICER sONDGEROTH: Do you have a follow-up
question, sir?
THAD KING: Yeah.
So if a bacteria, pathogen, whatever, was known to be
able to survive in water, and dirt, and manure, if that were
spread, I mean, you would fully anticipate that if it's able to
survive in manure, and it can survive in dirt and water, when
they spread it it would be put on given fields.
mR. GOETSCH: I'm not sure I understand the question,
it is legal to apply those materials at the rates with the
restrictions that are included in the statute, regardless of
whether there's something else there other than the manure.
mould just say that the way the statute is written
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I would say that the statute the way it's written
allows for the spreading of manure under certain controls. And the intent of those controls is to ensure that that manure stays where it's applied.

That's why application rates are restricted to the agronomic use of the crop to be grown. That's why setbacks are put in around -- or are required around wells, around waterways, around other known conveyances to try and ensure that that material does not leave the site of application.

THAD KING: Okay.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Do you have a follow-up

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| 1 | I mean, the manure and whatever it's carrying it's |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | legal to apply that material based on Illinois law with the |
| 3 | restrictions that are included in the statute. |
| 4 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? |
| 5 | Yes, ma'am. In the back. |
| 6 | GINGER ROGERS: Ginger Rogers again. |
| 7 | Who's going to be responsible for supplementing Keene |
| 8 | Township's road maintenance checkbook? |
| 9 | Because this is going to meet -- need extra |
| 10 | maintenance, I would assume, due to the extra traffic. |
| 11 | So I don't know how much Keene Township has in excess |
| 12 | to maintain their roads. |
| 13 | MR. PETER: The road commissioner, Paul Graff, he |
| 14 | indicated that twenty-seven hundred was suitable for eighty |
| 15 | thousand pounds, and as well as 1850 when it's not posted. |
| 16 | In our conversations he didn't indicate that we would |
| 17 | be responsible for any kind of maintenance; just the money that |
| 18 | comes in from the taxes. |
| 19 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? |
| 20 | Yes, ma'am. In front. |
| 21 | ROSEMARY BRICKMAN: Rosemary Brickman, |
| 22 | $B-r-i-c-k-m-a-n$. |
| 23 | For Miss Baker. You spoke awhile ago and said that |
| 24 | you weren't aware of any organic farms that had lost their |
| 25 | certification due to runoff or leaching. |

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They are subject to -- we could come unannounced and ask for and see their records if we would like.

But -- so I guess to answer your question: Yes, there are specific requirements that they have to adhere to. Their waste management pl an is required to outline all of the specifics that they described; the locations, the setbacks, the application rates, the manure volumes that are applied, the nutrients that are included based on those annual samples.

All of that is included in that formal plan that they're required to maintain.

CATHY CAMPBELL: Okay. I understand that.
But they're available for review, but there is no
timeframe or system for an official to monitor that?
It's all self-monitored then?
They keep the records and nobody monitors that other than --

MS. BAKER: When -- can I step in on the question? MR. GOETSCH: Sure.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Go right ahead.
MS. BAKER: As well as the Illinois Department of Ag , there's the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Ragan is considered a large unpermitted CAFO. His records, as I stated, will be kept on site, and EPA does routine site inspection.

When they come to his site they can -- they will request to see his records. If they are not kept up-to-date, if Page 75

[^1]regulation, or is there any regulation of the actual application of the manure?

Is that -- is that regulated or monitored at all?
MR. GOETSCH: A facility -- a facility this size is
required to have a waste management plan , as $I$ believe the
Applicant has described; and that application -- or that plan is subject to specific rules and regulations that are included in the statute and rules.

We don't specifically visit a facility like that -
or like that's being proposed other than on a complaint basis.
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confinements as close to an organic farm as this situation will be?

Twenty-two hundred and eighty feet, I believe it is. With runoff in three directions into the pond. MS. BAKER: No, I can't list a specific facility for you.

ROSEMARY BRICKMAN: Okay. Thank you.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
In the front?
CATHY CAMPBELL: My name is Cathy Campbell.
I've got a question for the Department about the

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|  | person who applies the manure, is there a certification required for that? |
| :---: | :---: |
| 3 | To the Department. |
| 4 | MR. GOETSCH: The only -- the only program that we |
| 5 | administer is a certified livestock manager program. Every |
| 6 | facility over a certain size is required to have at least one |
| 7 | certified livestock manager associated with the facility, |
| 8 | especially during times when manure is being transferred. |
| 9 | This facility is of an adequate size that to become |
| 10 | certified once every three years they have to not only attend a |
| 11 | training session but they have to successfully pass a closed book |
| 12 | exam. |
| 13 | That's all we -- or that's our only requirement. |
| 14 | CATHY CAMPBELL: And that person would not |
| 15 | necessarily be the person who would spread the manure in all |
| 16 | cases, correct? |
| 17 | MR. GOETSCH: That is possible. You could -- but |
| 18 | they would have to be on site when that manure is being |
| 19 | transferred. |
| 20 | In most cases, though, most commercial companies, |
| 21 | even thought they may not be livestock producers -- I shouldn't |
| 22 | say most. Many of them take our program as well just because |
| 23 | they want to be able to say that they are certified livestock |
| 24 | managers. |
| 25 | But it's not a specific requirement in our statute. |
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CATHY CAMPBELL: Thank you.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes, sir. In the back
in the white.
TIM MAIERS: Tim Maiers, M-a-i-e-r-s.
Ragan, you mentioned you have a custom manure
application business. And how long have you had that?
MR. PETER: Since 2007.
TIM MAIERS: So you've applied quite a bit of manure
over those years.
Have you ever had a violation or environmental issue
on any manure that you have applied?
MR. PETER: No, we haven't.
TIM MAIERS: A follow-up question. Have you ever had
an EPA audit in any of the barns that you operated?
MR. PETER: Yes. We had one this summer.
TIM MAIERS: Did you have any issues?
MR. PETER: No. It passed.
TIM MAIERS: Thank you.
HEARING OFFICER soNDGEROTH: Yes, sir. In the red.
CHARLIE GENTERT: Going back to the -- oh. Gentert.
G-e-n-t-e-r-t.
Wasn't there a couple of years ago, a spinach spill

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ultimately would happen if that was the case that there -- you
2 know -- the issue was whether a home was habited -- or was

| 1 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: I know. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | MR. GOETSCH: -- management plan. |
| 3 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: So how do we know what is -- you know |
| 4 | -- what is -- they're proposing? |
| 5 | But how do we know this is what's actually going to |
| 6 | be put on a piece of paper and then you only give us so many days |
| 7 | to -- |
| 8 | MR. GOETSCH: Right. The challenge, though, is if |
| 9 | you look at the statute and the rules, they're not required to |
| 10 | actually formally file a waste management plan with us until six |
| 11 | -- within sixty days. |
| 12 | Well, actually, they're not -- the size of this |
| 13 | facility is such that they're not required to have it until sixty |
| 14 | days after this facility would have been placed into service. |
| 15 | So there really is not going to be an opportunity for |
| 16 | you to see the actual pages. |
| 17 | They, I think, have tried to describe it as best they |
| 18 | possibly can what the numbers are, what they're trying to do, how |
| 19 | they're trying to do it, but I doubt whether you will have an |
| 20 | opportunity to actually see the document. |
| 21 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? |
| 22 | Yes, sir. |
| 23 | NIC ANDERSON: Nic Anderson, A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. |
| 24 | For Warren. Understanding that folks want to make |
| 25 | sure that you get all the information you can, can you kind of |
|  | Page 81 |

define what a residence is when -- when the farm identifies residence in setbacks or outside of setbacks?

The requirement of what constitutes a residence. Is it a phone number, a tax bill, inhabitants for a certain amount of time?

Kind of maybe give us the definition of what a residence is.

MR. GOETSCH: Well, without going back and looking specifically, I mean, it does -- it does lay out in the statute, in the rules, that it has to be an inhabited residence. It actually has to have running water. It has to have a septic system or some kind of -- it has to be able to provide all of the specific functions.

And it has to have been inhabited at least six months, I believe, out of the last two years.

So there are specific criteria to judge whether a facility -- or excuse me -- whether a home is indeed qualified for the setback.

NIC ANDERSON: So if somebody wanted to provide you that information they should show you an electric bill for six months, or a letter, you know, some documentation to provide that?

That would be a good way to give you that
information?
MR. GOETSCH: We11, yeah. I mean, what -- what

3 study has found that property values around facilities are --

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inhabited, whether it qualified or not.
You give us that information, for example. We would then have to turn around and contact that person, or the person that you identified that lived there, and try and get, you know, some kind of substantiating evidence.

Maybe it's as simple as going to the post office and finding out that they've been receiving mail there for the last twenty-seven years. But -- and that, you know, they have lived there.

But we would have to follow-up to ensure that, you know, that that information was accurate.

But, you know, that's one of the reasons for this meeting. You know. I mean, we sit in Springfield. We can do so much. You know. Now with drones maybe we can do more.

## That was humor.

But we need your comments. We need your information because you're the folks that live in this community and you know that information because you're here all the time.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Another question?
Yes, sir.
THAD KING: Thad King, K-i-n-g.
I apologize for the longwinded question. But recent

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HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Who is the question for?
THAD KING: It's actually for, if $I$ can address the Board here, the County Board.

So recent property value evaluations have shown decreases in local, meaning anywhere from adjacent to within a half mile, can be devalued by forty up to eighty-eight percent for adjacent --

NIC ANDERSON: Can I -- can I make an objection? THAD KING: Well, I'm sorry. I'm asking a question. HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Let him finish. THAD KING: Is it reasonable for these local areas to ask for decreases or offsets for property taxes due to this facility going in?

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I'11 request if anybody responds, maybe the board chairman can respond, whether the County wants to respond or not I don't know, but --

MR. POST: I think that would be appropriate discussion for the board meeting and not for this meeting.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Okay.
Any other questions?
THAD KING: Not according -- not for that one.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions from anyone?

## Yes, ma'am. <br> CRYSTAL CLAIR: Crystal Clair.

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| 1 | Again, to the County Board. Would there be someone |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | that could explain to the citizens that are sitting here that the |
| 3 | control -- excuse me -- the pollution control exemptions that hog |
| 4 | confinements with pits receive in Adams County? |
| 5 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Anyone from the Board |
| 6 | would want to respond? |
| 7 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: Do the citizens of the county know |
| 8 | they receive pollution control exemptions? |
| 9 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Ma'am? Ma'am? This |
| 10 | meeting is focused for the Department, the Applicant, and you |
| 11 | guys. It's for the benefit for the County Board to hear and see |
| 12 | this. I'm not quite sure this is the forum for the question, |
| 13 | but |
| 14 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: I apologize. |
| 15 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Yes. Mr. Goetsch? |
| 16 | MR. GOETSCH: Then I would just add that it -- the - |
| 17 | the tax reduction, if you will, is a reduction just on the |
| 18 | assessed value of the pit. So it's not like -- I mean, I don't |
| 19 | want people to think that somehow there's a reduction in |
| 20 | someone's taxes from what they are today with the livestock |
| 21 | facility not being there. |
| 22 | This is based on the -- if this facility was sited |
| 23 | and the assessed -- assessed valuation of that new structure, |
|  | there is the potential for a reduction, a pollution control |
|  | reduction, which is administered by the Illinois Department of |
|  | Page 85 |

Revenue and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.
It's them that decide who qualifies and who doesn't and what that reduction is, but it's a reduction on this increased value of the facility; not what the current tax structure is.

And I hope I didn't confuse it even more, but I just wanted you to understand that it's not like someone would be 8 getting a tax break from what they're currently paying. It's a 9 reduction on the assessed valuation of that new -- just the manure storage component of the facility.

CRYSTAL CLAIR: May I ask a follow-up question,

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please?

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please?

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HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: One question quickly. CRYSTAL CLAIR: Then are you telling us -- we are all about pollution control on our farm

So are you telling us then we should be asking for this exemption? Because everything we do controls pollution. We do nothing that pollutes. Everything that we do is pollution control.

I mean, are we eligible for that?
MR. GOETSCH: That's a question that you would have to ask -- I don't believe so. I believe that that's a question you would have to ask the Department of Revenue.

But my belief is it's based on this structure that is
25 being proposed. This manure storage structure qualifies as a
$\square$
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pollution control device, and therefore is allowed to have a reduction in its -- in its assessed valuation compared to what it -- you know. Like compared to if this was just a -- the concrete walls in a basement of a building, for example. Because it's storing manure and it's storing it in a way that ensures that it doesn't get released into the environment it qualifies as a pollution control structure.

But again, that's a question that's best addressed to the Department of Revenue.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? Yes, ma'am.
GINGER ROGERS: We've heard a lot about hog waste management. What about the human waste management?

And this is directed I guess to the -- the State. I don't know who else to direct it to.

But do the employees have to shower in and out every time they go in and out of this building to prevent disease spread; and if so, is there a separate septic system for that water from their toilets and their showers, or is it just dumped into the pit?

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: If you're asking for specifics for this facility, it's really a question for the facility.

Is that what you're asking?
GINGER ROGERS: I'm just asking and whoever can
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        GINGER ROGERS: Thank you.
        HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
        Yes, sir?
        THAD KING: Thad King, K-i-n-g.
        My question is for the operator. It's a two part
question.
    Do you have a commercial package policy for your
property and with your auto insurance?
    MR. PETER: Repeat the question.
    THAD KING: Do you have a commercial package policy
covering your property, your general liability, and your auto?
    And does that cover both the facility and the
spreading of manure?
    MR. PETER: I carry auto insurance, of course.
    I have liability for my farm.
    Liability for my pumping business.
    And then a two million dollar pollution policy for my
application business.
    THAD KING: You said a two million?
    MR. PETER: Yeah. For the --
        THAD KING: For pollution?
        MR. PETER: Pollution insurance.
            THAD KING: So you got an exclusion on there you had
to endorse?
    MR. PETER: I'm not familiar with the terms. It's to
    Page }8
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cover the application of manure when I'm doing it.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
Yes, ma'am.
CINDY ARNETT: Cindy Arnett.
This is for the engineer. Within the last five years
an independent study has identified twenty CAFO's in Adams
County. IEPA displayed two.
Now how can they actually do an adequate job in
making sure these CAFO's are all compliant when they do not have
a complete inventory still as of today?
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I'm not sure of the
study you're referring to, but if the Applicant is aware and can
respond I'll let them respond.
MS. BAKER: I believe that's a question for the
Illinois EPA, not for myself.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions?
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's one in the back.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I actually have one --
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One in the back.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I have one question
myself. I'11 come back to you.
I noticed in your slide, this is Criteria Number 7,
traffic patterns, there's a chart and lists roadways and vehicles
per day. Slide 37.
MS. BAKER: Uh-huh.

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questions for the County Board. They're not really here and 2 prepared to answer those type of questions.

DANA GLOVER: How about this?
Is there a regional plan that addresses the quantity
and the distribution of facilities like this?
MR. POST: These facilities are regulated by and permitted by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The County has no bearing whatsoever on it.

Our only vote on these is whether we feel they meet
the siting criteria; not whether we feel they should be built or shouldn't be built.

DANA GLOVER: Do some -- I have one more. Do some counties take it upon themselves to create that kind of a strategic plan?

MR. GOETSCH: It's called zoning.
DANA GLOVER: Yes.
MR. GOETSCH: I mean, seriously. There are some counties that zone and there are some counties that have no zoning. And it really -- and there are some counties that have comprehensive plans and some counties that don't. And it --

DUANE VENVERTLOH: It -- it was addressed many years ago, I believe it was and --

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Excuse me. Let me interrupt you.

DUANE VENVERTLOH: Duane Venvertioh,
Page 93
v-e-n-v-e-r-t-1-o-h.
Central planning, comprehensive planning was
addressed at the county level about eight years ago, I think it
was, and it was soundly defeated by a similar group, if not larger, than in the gallery tonight.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Any other questions? Ma'am? You get the last question of the night.
GINGER ROGERS: Okay. This is for the County Board. Ginger Rogers.

Do any of the county board members who are going to vote on this decision ever recuse themselves due to a conflict of interest?

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: And I just don't think that's relevant to what we're doing here tonight. It's not a forum for a question to the county board.

You can certainly ask them that on your own time.
You can contact them at a board meeting. I will not allow it to be -- on relevancy grounds.

That concludes the question and answer phase.
I will now accept written testimony. If you have written testimony, that does not refer to your oral testimony, I will accept it now and enter it into the record.

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

Following the written testimony we will take a ten minute break.

Is there any written testimony to be offered at this Bruenger, B-r-u-e-n-g-e-r.

Is there any other written testimony that you would
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| 1 | Are there any attorneys here that are representing |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | clients? |
| 3 | Next person on the cellphone has to buy ice cream for |
| 4 | the entire group. |
| 5 | UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'11 do it. |
| 6 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: I'11 call the first |
| 7 | person's name. And then I'11 say who's on deck so you'11 know if |
| 8 | you're coming up or not. |
| 9 | You can pass if you don't want to testify, but I'11 |
| 10 | call the next on deck. |
| 11 | So the first person that is going to testify is |
| 12 | Crystal Clair. |
| 13 | And on deck will be Randy Clair. |
| 14 | Is this your written testimony? |
| 15 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: Uh-huh. |
| 16 | Crystal, C-r-y-s-t-a-1, Clair, C-1-a-i-r. |
| 17 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Miss Clair? Would you |
| 18 | please raise your right hand? |
| 19 | CRYSTAL CLAIR, |
| 20 | having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says: |
| 21 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed with |
| 22 | your testimony. |
| 23 | CRYSTAL CLAIR: My husband Randy and I own Sunset |
| 24 | Lake Organics east of Loraine. We have seven hundred and fifty |
| 25 | acres of certified and transitional ground. We've been certified |
|  | Page 97 | the fad stage anymore. It's here to say. And the people of Adams County are searching for organic foods.

The majority of the food that we -- grain that we grow is food grade grain, and we don't want to eat food grown in hog manure.

No one has the right to tell us what we can and can't put on our ground. Are you farmers ready for the Illinois Department of Ag or lobbying groups to tell you what seed you can use or what crop you have to plant?

And then there's the problem of noxious weeds; shattercane, Johnson grass. Will palmer amaranth be next?

Finally, I'm seriously ill. And I had been doing well until this was thrown at us. I've been advised by my medical staff that if $I$ can hear events or $I$ can smell the smell that I have to stay inside.

I am a partner in this business. I don't just bring my husband 1unch; I help him. I run the combine. I do tillage. And you are trying to take that away from me. You don't have the right.

If you allow this hog confinement to be put here,
then you are making me abandon what I love.
Just because you can do it doesn't make it right.
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since 2014. Our already established, successful business is two thousand two hundred and eighty feet west of this proposed hog confinement.

My husband has lived in Adams County his entire life, except for the four years he served our country in the Vietnam War. economy in the area. We believe that the potential economic downturn in this project is huge.

Our operation is profitable and has positive economic impact on Adams County. We do business almost exclusively in Adams County. We pay taxes here and we employ people here.

We have had a major investment made in our organic operation. We had planned to expand, we had planned to hire further people, but now since the uncertainty of our future we can no longer do that.

And I want you to keep this in mind: We make virtually the same or more on one bushel of corn that is made on one head of hog and three times more on soybeans than on head of hog.

A hundred acres of organic corn is more profitable than thou -- twelve thousand head of hog. And I have the information here prepared by a professional ag lender.

The hog operation is really such a big benefit that you would cause us to abandon an organic operation?

## Right is right and wrong is wrong. And this is wrong.

And Board, I want to thank you very much for letting


## meet that standard.

There may be people who will say this is right -- a right to farm issue. Do I not have the right to farm in a manner that protects the environment, the health of the community, and provide safe and nutritious commodities for the organic market while following my own ethical standards?

If you say that they have the right to apply manure to their property around our lake and organic fields, shouldn't we have the right to know what they are prepared to do to avoid all contamination of our organic operation?

This is in reference to the Number 3 Criteria. I believe our organic operation is a significant contributor to the character of this community; and this proposed facility is in no way compatible with that character.

If ever there was a time and place to deny siting of one of these hog factories, this is the time and this is the place.

Thank you.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Admitted into the record
as Exhibit Number 12 the written testimony for Mr. Randy Clair.
Next will be Marla Merideth.
After her will be Cathy Campbell.
MARLA MERIDETH: My name is Marla Merideth.
M-a-r-1-a M-e-r-i-d-e-t-h.

1

## right hand?

I'm sorry. Miss Merideth. Can you please raise your

## MARLA MERIDETH,

having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed with your testimony.

MARLA MERIDETH: I own and pay taxes on farmland in Adams County with a hundred and eighty acres of this land as certified organic.

I'm proud to have Randy and Crystal Clair as my tenants.

I earn a higher profit on the organic land than the conventional land that I own.

If the proposed County Line Swine facility is granted permission to build adjacent to the Clair property it poses a risk to the water supply, namely their lake, used for compost, which is applied to all organic land farmed by the Clairs.

While the owners and the operators propose the swine facility and other swine operators will argue that they meet the guidelines and the regulation, life doesn't come with guarantees.

Watch the news. Read the paper on a daily basis. You will see unlikely events of mother nature; heavy rains, chemical spells, in this case manure, equipment accidents.

There are mechanical failure; hoses that break on
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## equipment, and human error even if deemed professional.

Everything is deemed safe until it isn't. Tobacco was safe. Now it isn't. Insecticides like DDT was safe until it harmed beneficial insects like bees.

How long will it be until it is deemed that manure is not safe?

In a recent article in the September 15 th edition of
the Herald-Whig Mr. Ragan Peter claimed our concerns are unwarranted.

And Mr. Tim Maiers' claim, agreed that runoff and leaching is unlikely. Maiers was then quoted: "I can't say it never happens, but the overwhelming majority do not see issues with manure application. I don't see where there will be any issue at all and I don't think manure will get on their property."

Really? The majority he refers to are involved in swine production, and most likely are not informed about organic procedures. They appear to have a disregard for our protection, and they cannot guarantee the safety of our water supply.

I view their disregard of our concerns as a lack of respect for our farming operation.

If the water supply of Sunset Lake is polluted it cannot be used to make the compost, which is the fertilizer we use in our organic fields. The damage would be catastrophic and long-term. It would take a minimum of three years to regain that

2 of us in the area with compromised immune systems that this could
3 have serious impact on.

and/or the households in the Bigneck area that signed our petition against the hog confinement in green.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you get near the

## microphone?

CATHY CAMPBELL: I am so sorry.
So this is the Bigneck area.
The green are the households that signed our petition against the hog confinement.

The yellow are the organic fields that are in the immediate area.

And the red is where the proposed confinement will go and the manure will be spread.

This second poster shows the more than thirty-five sites that our group was able to determine through the county tax records operate in Adams County at this time. Those are purple.

And the two pink marks are the two proposed sites in
Adams County.
Emotions have been running high in our neighborhood this summer. The residents of our neighborhood are emotional because we all feel threatened. Yeah, we do; we feel threatened.

We feel threatened because of the threat to our
lifestyle changes at our homes, which should be the safest place on earth for us.

The threat of the deterioration of air quality and the water quality in our area.

1

The threat to our income.
The threat to our township's budget due to the use of roads, of our roads by the very heavy trucks.

The threat to our neighbors, and our partners, the Clairs, and their established enterprise of Sunset Lake Organic Farms.

The definition of an enterprise is a business or company, a project or undertaking, typically one that is difficult or requires effort.

Sunset Lake Farms is an enterprise that has been spending most of their money with the Adams County businesses.

The IDOA Criteria Number 8 pertains to economic development. Sunset Lake Farms is an existing Adams County business that deserves to continue to operate just as much as Country Swine -- excuse me -- County Line Swine has a right to operate. Maybe even more since they were here first.

Sunset Lake Farms was founded with their first organic field in 2014. My husband Stan's first organic field was certified organic in 2015.

If manure is spread on the pinnacle, the Summer ground, there can very easily be runoff into the Sunset Farms, the Clairs' lake, contaminating it. This lake is key to their

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compost production. And the compost is key to be spread on the organic fields for fertilizer.

The threat of this contamination is very serious and could hinder Randy and Crystal from practicing farming the way that they have learned through experience during the last four years is best for them for organically raised corn, soybean, wheat and hay in a very environmentally friendly way.

If the IDOA approves the placement of this hog confinement in this area, you are discriminating not only against these organic producers, but against all of the rest of the organic growers in the state.

Thank you for your time.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next will be Terry Wittler.

After Terry will be Darren Sims.
TERRY WITTLER: My name is Terry Wittler.
hearing officer sondgeroth: No, Mr. -- no.
I thought you were going to start your speech.
Will you spell your last name?
TERRY WITTLER: W-i-t-t-1-e-r.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Will you raise your
right hand, please?
terry wittler,
having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Please proceed.

| 1 | TERRY WITTLER: Okay. I live within a half mile of |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | where this new hog building is going to be built. About sixty to |
| 3 | seventy people in our community that we've been meeting with are |
| 4 | against this building. |
| 5 | It's a very shame that out of this many people |
| 6 | doesn't have near the power of voice as one guy with the big |
| 7 | money being invested in it. |
| 8 | The other areas in our community, which is in Adams |
| 9 | County, is going through the exact same thing. There's other |
| 10 | communities that are trying to stop it but don't have the |
| 11 | success. |
| 12 | I have a very good friend that started this many |
| 13 | years ago, and it was so bad he actually moved. |
| 14 | Well, I can't just up and sell my house and move. |
| 15 | And as when as I do here, the house within a half a mile -- or |
| 16 | not a house -- but my property within a half a mile loses its |
| 17 | value up to eighty percent. |
| 18 | I built that, I built a garage and a few things, and |
| 19 | I think I got a nice place. I'm losing that all because of one |
| 20 | man and one investment through the rest of the community. |
| 21 | Okay. Again, I just would like to see, and I found |
| 22 | out tonight the county board does not have the say so on what's |
| 23 | going to happen out here, but the community is asking and -- and |
| 24 | it's still a shame how one person can ruin it for a community out |
| 25 | of seventy people's voices. They do not have the voice. |
|  | Page 109 |

## As far as traffic impact, I live on 2700th

Avenue. We have a nice blacktop coming out of Bigneck, which you would use in the summertime. When it's posted you can't use it.

There is a tar and chip road in front of my house, my neighbor Randy and Crystal. When the frost goes out that road will be destroyed because they cannot drive on the other one. So
then I won't have that tar and chip.

They actually, the people before me that owned my place that I bought, and Randy, they spent some of their own money to get this put in.

These trucks, they're hauling feed and the hogs out will destroy that road this spring like everybody knows.

When they haul grain they take their time and pick
the days to do it. As we know, feed has to go every day when it's needed.

So I am so much against this I -- it's just a shame
that seventy people don't have the same power as one and big money.

Thanks.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next will be Darren
Sims.
After Darren will be Cindy Arnett.
DARREN SIMS: Darren Sims. D-a-r-r-e-n S-i-m-s.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Mr. Sims, raise your
right hand.

DARREN SIMS,
having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Please proceed.
DARREN SIMS: I'm a fifth generation grain farmer and
a third generation pork producer here in Adams County.
My family and myself have been involved with pork
production. Myself ever since I was born.
I live currently a quarter mile away from our farm.
My father and mother live a quarter mile in the other direction.
We've got -- had no health issues to speak of correlated on the pig farm.

I've got two young boys, nine and eleven years old.
They accompany me to the pig barns weekly, if not daily sometimes.

I have no issue with bringing anybody that wants to come to our farm in for a tour. There's just been no issue with that health-wise.

A little bit more about our background. So like I said, we've been in the pig business for a long time.

The 70's and 80's pigs were raised outside. And then
we started building pig barns, there's many benefits to pig barns. The less and less producers there are, the more pigs. It's a higher management.

The ventilation has improved.
There's just been a lot more benefit to have them
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## indoors.



## permitted.

The Illinois Department of Ag was also contacted by Mr. Fred Button. I think he come in and talked to you about what I had going on here.

These images have also went to Washington, D.C., and they've had great impact out there, too.

Ask yourself: You already know what it is like to live around these. All of you are here. You know. A sweet man back over here in the corner stated he's one mile away and he struggles with the smell.

How in any way are these beneficial? They're not to the neighboring body, to the community, to the water, to the air, to the property values. How are they beneficial?

And they keep painting this pretty picture that is not real. They have proven to cost more to the family farmer jobs. If you go back through and you look at Iowa, who's rated right now the number one hog producer, how many small family producers have they lost as these CAFO's have come in?

Go back and look. You guys can find this stuff as easy as I can.

Also, I was informed to by the IEPA that it was too difficult to monitor the odor. Since the day that we went out in February, we spent two and a half hours out there, and I
guarantee you it reeked. And they inform me they have no way of monitoring that. I would think they would because you can find
this stuff on-line.
Anyway, the pretty picture's been painted. More of the hog producers are going to come up. They're going to tell you some more. But you guys know your reality. And I'm telling you you have to monitor all of it.

Thank you.
And thank you.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next is Jenny Lawler. And on deck is Kim Trent.
JENNY LAWLER: Good evening. My name is Jenny,
J-e-n-n-y, Lawler, L-a-w-1-e-r.
JENNY LAWLER,
having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Please proceed.
JENNY LAWLER: Okay. And like I said, my name is
Jenny Lawler. And my husband Clarence is back there in the audience.

We live about half a mile east of the proposed County Line Swine, Inc. CAFO near Bigneck.

As you can see, my husband has a lung condition requiring him to be on oxygen twenty-four hours a day.

A few of our concerns are air quality, and odor control, insects and vermin.

There are several people in our immediate community that have serious health problems; and therefore, such as cancer,

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asthma, and like my husband, lung conditions, which compromise their immune system.

It is my understanding certain typical, or topical, air pollutants are found in the air surrounding CAFO's, such as ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, methane, and particulate matter.

I read where the source of particulate matter is found in the feed, bedding materials, dry manure, and animal matter. The health risks are chronic bronchitis, chronic respiratory symptoms, and a decline in lung function. This is a big concern for us.

As for the odor, I also read that the odor that CAFO's emit are a complex mixture of, again, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and carbon dioxide, as well as volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds.

When manure is stored in pits or lagoons for long amounts of time it's the primary cause of the smells. Depending on things like weather conditions and farming techniques, CAFO odors can be smelled, and I read this in an article, and it's from a health bureau, that they can be smelled as much as five to six miles away, although three miles is a more common distance.

My husband uses oxygen. When he uses his oxygen it increases the odor that he breathes in. And so that will cause him very much to suffer and then make it difficult for him to spend time outdoors.

We are also concerned as to the increase of flies and

its living environment.

portion that is owned by the government is used to feed the military, schools, public aid assistance.

So just making sure you know the facts about some of the accusations.

Our farmers are working very hard and want to protect the land so they can continue it for the next generation.

Thank you so much for your time. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next is Thad King.
After Thad will be Tashe Bunting.
THAD KING: Thad King. T-h-a-d K-i-n-g. THAD KING,
having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Please proceed.
THAD KING: I'm speaking on Criteria 8 and the impact to recreation.

The creation and storage of over forty tons of manure each day and the subsequent spreading of this feces into -- is not just about the single particles that go down and bind with
the dirt; it's about what doesn't bind.
The other particles contain the contaminants such as
MRSA and E-coli and will flow directly into the tile that floats through.

This is not about the single particles that find a
new home; it's about spreading disease that breeds and incubates
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If you contaminate a water source such as a lake, it doesn't just sink to the bottom of the lake and go away. It breeds. It grows. And according to UVM dot edu the most common reason for beach closing is E-coli.

E-coli was found -- it also states that E-coli is found in animal feces and makes its way into our lakes, our ponds through rain runoff.

Farm drainage tiles are built to carry water away.
The water entering the drainage tile contains manure contaminants that do not bind to the dirt; and thus they will enter the water stream as it seeps through the ground into the field tiles until it finds an exit point.

For this proposed site that could be the ditches, such as this one that has drainage water in it right now. It could be gullies that lead directly into Thurman Creek. And it could be an organic farmer's lake.

It impacts all the farmers, families, the friends and the loved ones.

Will no longer be able to walk down -- will not longer be able to fish in our own lake, walk down the local creek, catch a meal from our lake for a meal. Will no longer be able to swim in the lake because of the fear of getting sick.

Our children, who are cross-country runners, baseball players, will not be able to go outside and breathe the air and

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enjoy their recreational choice because of the contaminated air that we'11 breathe.

Even having a picnic outside will not be possible.
I have four younger children under the age of eleven.
We did a research project and we found on Pest World For Kids dot org that houseflies tend to stay within one to two miles of where they're born. One to two miles of this proposed site is many different houses. And just beyond that typical two miles is the City of Loraine.

We found that according to a study by Penn State houseflies are strongly suspected of transmitting at least sixty-five diseases directly to humans.

To expand upon this, we took a look at Speed of Animals dot com. There we found that a housefly travels at 4.5 miles per hour. To travel just three hundred feet -- or three thousand feet it takes around seven minutes.

A horsefly, which is a common swine pest, is much faster, and it could make the trip from sitting in hog feces to your local picnic table in just under a minute.

Avoiding activities we love because of this site does not sound like recreation to me.

HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next is Tashe Bunting. After Tashe will be Ben Hugenberg.
Admitted into the record is Exhibit Number 14.
25 Written testimony from Thad King, including a picture.

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| TASHE BUNTING: Tashe Bunting, B-u-n-t-i-n-g. <br> TASHE BUNTING, <br> having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says: <br> HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed. <br> TASHE BUNTING: Good evening. My name is Tashe <br> Bunting. I'm a mother, farmer, and livestock industry <br> professional. My husband and I raise our children on our farm in <br> 8 Livingston County where we raise cattle, sheep. And our kids are <br> 9 just beginning to become involved in the livestock industry <br> 10 through 4-H. <br> I grew up raising registered cattle on a centennial <br> 12 farm, which sparked my passion for livestock and led me to a <br> 13 career in agriculture. <br> 14 Not only do I understand the day in and day out <br> 15 activities of farming, but I also work to advocate for livestock <br> 16 and dairy farmers throughout the State of Illinois in my role <br> 17 with the Illinois Farm Bureau. <br> 18 As a supporter of livestock and growing the livestock <br> 19 industry in Illinois, the LMFA serves as a valuable tool <br> 20 guaranteeing future generations can be involved in agriculture. <br> 21 Through the use of new technologies farmers have <br> 22 increased their efficiencies, environmental stewardship, and <br> 23 animal care practices which have changed the look of today's <br> 24 barns compared to those of our parents and grandparents. <br> 25 But the values and dedication to agriculture remain <br> Page 125 | 1 successful in caring for their animals, the environment, and <br> 2 their neighbors, but it's also given future generations the <br> 3 opportunity to remain in our communities and to stay involved in <br> 4 agriculture. <br> 5 As an industry professional, farmer's daughter, <br> farmer's wife, and future farmer's mother, thank you for the <br> opportunity to speak in support of livestock development in <br> 8 Illinois. <br> 9 Thank you. <br> BEN HUGENBERG: My name is Ben Hugenberg. B-e-n <br> $13 \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{u}-\mathrm{g}-\mathrm{e}-\mathrm{n}-\mathrm{b}-\mathrm{e}-\mathrm{r}-\mathrm{g}$. <br> BEN HUGENBERG, <br> having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says: <br> HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Please proceed. <br> BEN HUGENBERG: Good evening. As I stated, my name <br> 18 is Ben Hugenberg. I serve as a director on the Adams County Farm <br> 19 Bureau Board and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to <br> 20 speak to you tonight on the subject of livestock expansion in our <br> 21 county. <br> 22 Today's farms have changed over the course of a few <br> 23 decades, just as many of our homes and businesses have evolved <br> 24 throughout the years. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 the same. Illinois families still own and operate nearly <br> 2 ninety-eight percent of the farms in our state. <br> Livestock farms also provide an important market for <br> grain by providing additional demand for corn and soybeans, which is especially helpful during this time of market volatility. <br> Restricting livestock farms in Adams County would <br> mean less economic development and fewer markets for local <br> groups. <br> Livestock farms, like this one, help create property <br> tax revenue for the county and other units of local government. <br> According to the 2015 Illinois Agricultural Economic <br> 12 Contribution Study, livestock in Adams County contributed nearly <br> 13 ninety-six million dollars and almost four hundred jobs to the <br> 14 log economy. <br> 15 Everyone's gathered here tonight to learn more about <br> 16 this farm. Certainly modern hog farms have increased in size and <br> 17 have become more specialized, yet the vast majority in Illinois <br> 18 operate without disrupting neighbors or the community. <br> 19 The recently released Truth About Livestock report <br> 20 showed that less than one percent of hog farms in Illinois had an <br> 21 odor or water pollution violation. <br> 22 Pork producers are committed to using the latest <br> 23 technologies to protect our natural resources and reduce our <br> 24 impact on the environment. <br> 25 In Illinois not only has the pork industry been | 1 hold dear are just as strong as they were generations ago. <br> 2 We, too, as farmers want safe food, protection of the environment, and quality of care for our animals and for our soils and being good stewards of the land. <br> Agriculture, whether crops or livestock, is an important part of the economy of Adams County. <br> Livestock is also an important market for the crops grown here in the county and throughout Illinois. <br> Hogs consume nearly three-quarters of the soybean meal fed in Illinois. Made from about twenty-eight million bushels of soybean. And consume more than a hundred and fifty-five million bushels of corn each year. <br> Showing livestock is an important market for our crops grown in Adams County. <br> Bringing more livestock production into Adams County is allowing for new generations to move back to the farm; something many of us in agriculture works towards each day and have been lucky enough to experience. <br> The opportunities available to newer farmers, like myself, are sometimes limited. But expanding livestock allows those interested a place in the industry. <br> The Farm Bureau as an organization at the national, state, and local level can be summed up to say that we promote agriculture. Plain and simple. We promote all aspects of agriculture, including livestock. |


| 1 | Our position at the county level concurs with the |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Illinois Farm Bureau policy that we encourage growth and |
| 3 | enhancement of livestock throughout the industry and throughout |
| 4 | our state. |
| 5 | The way that our board determines if we are going to |
| 6 | support a livestock expansion or not is very simple. It's very |
| 7 | cut and dry. As long as the proposed site meets the criteria of |
| 8 | the State of Illinois, we are in support of that site. |
| 9 | We as an organization support livestock. Animal |
| 10 | agriculture plays a vital role in our economies in Illinois and |
| 11 | in particular in our county. |
| 12 | On behalf of the Adams County Farm Bureau I would |
| 13 | like to thank you for allowing me to speak tonight. |
| 14 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Next is Karen Hudson |
| 15 | On deck is Tim Maiers. |
| 16 | KAREN HUDSON: Karen Hudson. |
| 17 | KAREN HUDSON, |
| 18 | having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says: |
| 19 | HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Please proceed. |
| 20 | KAREN HUDSON: As far as any fake news, I have photos |
| 21 | tonight of them emptying hog lagoons in North Carolina last week |
| 22 | before the hurricanes hit. And I am in contact with people that |
| 23 | are -- that are taking photos and video of that. |
| 24 | So in no way, shape, or form are -- is the tragedy |
| 25 | that's happening in North Carolina fake news whatsoever. |

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I would like to also state that hog waste spills accounted for nearly half a -- half a million fish killed in Illinois from 2005 to 2014. No other industry in our state even came that close.

In 2016 EPA identified animal feeding operations as one of the top ten leading sources of impairment in lakes and 7 streams, and likely contributed even more because 1 and application has not even been taken into account for.

Since 2005 there's been twenty-six pollution lawsuits against swine operations.

Since 2002 eighty serious polluting, and more likely unreported.

So we've got conflicting evidence here that there are problems in this industry. I know there may be some bad actors, and there are people who are not deliberately polluting, but it happens anyway.

I also want the Board to know that seventy percent of folks that come to these public hearings oppose these facilities and are mostly local.

The other -- the other percentages that come, five percent support the project, and they're brought in from the outside by outside consultants and government officials.

That's a research study from the University of Illinois by Goldsmith.

Also, this year in the Iowa Policy Project Report,

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continues to spread to the general population.
    Two more sentences.
    "For years people have been saying that LA-MRSA was
benign and causing mostly manageable skin infections."
    But the senior author of this paper stresses that now
    we see this strain is just as dangerous as other types of MRSA.
            I am not saying that animal agriculture is causing
    MRSA, but I'm saying there are concerns that it's contributing to
    it. And I have the research to back that up.
        Thank you very much.
        HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Miss Hudson, I
        appreciate your testimony. If you want to provide written
        testimony you could provide it to me and I'll enter it into the
        record.
        KAREN HUDSON: I already talked to Doug about that.
        HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Sure. And you're more
        than welcome to do that. It's somewhat tortuous to our court
        report. He's doing the best job he can down there. It's hard
        for him to keep up with you.
        KAREN HUDSON: Yeah. You're going to get all of
1
We need to be conscious: We need to speak at a speed where our court reporter can take it down. He's trying to make a
continues to spread to the general population.
Two more sentences.
"For years people have been saying that LA-MRSA was
benign and causing mostly manageable skin infections."
But the senior author of this paper stresses that now
we see this strain is just as dangerous as other types of MRSA.
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KAREN HUDSON: Yeah. You're going to get all of
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: So feel free to submit
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which I'm going to provide as testimony, on page 2 they go on record stating that the industry sponsored systematic review on relationships of MRSA colonization and CAFO proximity.

They're clarifying the record. They say that several scientific studies -- several scientists' studies, peer reviewed research on MRSA and proximity to CAFO's were not included in the industry assessment; and that the industry skewed the bias towards industry interests.

That's brand-new out and I'm going to -- I'm going to be supplying that tonight.

They also conclude that concerns are more substantial than the industry reveals.

Studies published in the Journal -- a new study published in the Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases finds that Livestock-Associated MRSA, this is a specific type of MRSA, not community associated, can cause serious bloodstream infection.

In one study they found sixteen percent of bloodstream infections were from Livestock-Associated MRSA. This causes skin and other soft tissue infections in people.

One of the senior authors of this study, Lance Price, states that researchers found that the majority of the people who contracted LA-MRSA blood infections had no contact with livestock, but tend to live in rural areas. This study suggested the number of infections and deaths could increase if LA-MRSA

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clear record.
    Next is Tim Maiers.
    And on deck is Nick -- I think it's Zanger. Sorry if
I mispronounce that.
    TIM MAIERS: Tim Maiers, M-a-i-e-r-s.
        TIM MAIERS,
    having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:
    HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.
    TIM MAIERS: Good evening. I am a livestock farmer
    here in Adams County. And for the past twenty years I have
    worked with farmers throughout the state in sitings similar to
    the proposed farm here as Ragan is proposing.
    I am here in support of the farm. I believe that it
has met and exceeded the eight siting criteria.
    Often times in these meetings it is very emotional.
    And, you know, those opposed have concerns. And we're not trying
    to dismiss those in any way.
    But if you look at the reality of these farms that
    have been built, the overwhelming majority, those -- those
    concerns have not been realized.
    And I'11 show -- talk about some data here a little
bit that proves that.
    So I think one of the best indicators we have to look
at this specific farm, and we've talked a lot about different
things that have happened around the state, or certain instances,
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to me one of the best things we can do is look at the operator
who is applying to say I'm going to put my business and my family
in line to operate this farm.
And to me to look at Ragan, he's got experience in
operating these types of farms.

Ragan has never, never had an environmental issue on
any farms that he has operated or owned, or on any farms where
he's applied manure.

So he's been applying manure for many years on different farms. Never had an environmental issue on that.

To me that shows that he can do the right thing, he can be trusted to do the right thing, and he's demonstrated that he has done the right thing; and that that will carry through with the proposed County Line Swine Farm.

We must also remember that this is not the last time that this farm will have to deal with any regulations. Once the Department of Ag approves the farm, seeing that it meets all the eight siting criteria, the farm will have to comply with the Il1inois Environmental Protection Act which requires all livestock farms, regardless of their size, to operate in a manner that does not cause any air or water pollution. That's just -that's -- that's what we operate under.

And the overwhelming majority of Adams County and Illinois livestock farms operate year round without any environmenta1 impact.

According to Illinois EPA data, this comes from the 2 agency themself, the number of environmental complaints submitted
3 to the Illinois EPA regarding livestock farms, this is both odor

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$\square$
Zanger.

## Zanger.

And final person to offer oral testimony is Nic
Anderson who's on deck.
NICK ZANGER: Nick Zanger, Z-a-n-g-e-r. NICK ZANGER,
having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: You may proceed.
NICK ZANGER: I -- both my grandparents -- both my grandpas are farmers. One was a beef farmer. One was a dairy farmer.

I decided I wanted to be a farmer years ago and I went and bought a piece of ground. I bought some cows to put it on. Then I bought another piece of ground. And things were getting tight. And I took a position of managing three, at that time it was one, now it's three, hog facilities, hog barns.

I get the manure from the barns on my ground. And I've seen probably a twenty to thirty bushel increase on my corn, and ten to fifteen bushels on my beans. And these prices, that is one of the few things that has been able for me to keep this farm on account of the uptick in yield.

And the extra money that I make taking care of the hogs is what's keeping me where I live and not in town on account

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of I'm not making enough money on my limited resource farm.
I was -- I'm not -- my dad's not a farmer and I'm -unfortunately I'm not going to -- I don't have anything coming to me. Everything that I have I'm going to have to get myself.

And these hog barns are allowing me to raise more
having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says: not going to lie to you; I can smell it at times, but it's not really constant. It comes and goes. The wind shifts every day.

I stand outside just fine. My wife does. My two
year old daughter does. My two month old daughter does not stand yet, but she will.

My two year old daughter goes to the barns with me all the time. She loves the hogs. She loves the cows, she loves the hogs, she loves life.

And there's no reason why Mr. Peter shouldn't be
allowed to build this building if he's within the legal limits.
Thank you.
MR. GOETSCH: The final person tonight to provide oral testimony is Nic Anderson.

NIC ANDERSON: Nic Anderson. N-i-c A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. NIC ANDERSON,
points that I would like to correct. One of the reasons North
Carolina might have challenges is they have open lagoons. They
don't have a floodplain permit like the Department of Agriculture
does in Illinois.

So when you want to use them as an example to condemn
Illinois' industry, it's not fair. We can compare apples to apples. That's what I'll end this speech tonight on.

Let's go back in Adams County history. Is MRSA a problem in this county? You have direct contact with the health department. If MRSA was an issue and was going to affect people on a daily basis and the pork industry was involved in that, or any livestock, we would know about it and we could address it.

And maybe it will come or not, but to put the fear in folks that they're going to be contaminated by something that doesn't exist; that we've been raising hogs and livestock in this

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country for generations.
I have organic farms that I work with that have commercial farms right next door to them. They operate just fine. And basically their organic farm might have a difficulty and their -- and their commercial farm can pick up those losses and they can transfer cattle or pigs that don't meet that organic standard right next door.

So to say that organic and commercial or modern pork production can't live next to each other, it's not -- simply not true. There's lots of examples out there.

So I'll leave you with this: The next generation, like Darren Sims talked about, he is that generation, if I go back in the permit process in Adams County and look at who's participated in projects across the state, unanimously majority-wise it's young people either continuing the farm operation to the next generation or new people coming into the industry.

This past year hog production has put in five new barns. Over six million dollars worth of infrastructure income.

If I go back to the LMFA and total up, we have over forty-five farms. Permit with the Department of Ag for livestock production, which is over thirty-five million dollars that livestock has brought into this state in rural communities that not only support that infrastructure income, but eat the grain that we grow.

## age

## And really what it comes down to is those pigs, those

 cattle, those whatever it might be, are producing food for the world. Millions of pork chops are made in Adams County every year. Adams County's resources permit the world to feed. And that's really what farmers are about.I encourage the County Board to hopefully have a unanimous ballot for this farm. I think it's needed in this case.

And thank you for your time.
And thank you for the farm for taking our questions tonight.

Thanks.
HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Entered into the record as Exhibit Number 15 will be oral testimony sign-up sheet.

And also entered into the record as Exhibit Number 16 is the attendance sign-in sheet, which is actually two separate documents, but one exhibit.

Are there any closing remarks from the Facility?
Seeing none: Are there any closing remarks from the

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certainly appreciates the time and the effort that you put forth
    to be with us tonight and to give us this information.
    I'm sure that the Adams County Board certainly feels
    the same way and will considered your comments as they develop
    their recommendations for the Department. And we certain1y wil1
    consider them as we move forward in this process.
        Thank you.
        HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Thank you, Warren.
        As I mentioned earlier, a copy of the transcript will
        be provided to the County Board. Others desiring a copy of the
        transcript can be available by contacting the court reporter.
            I want to thank you for your attendance tonight. I
apologize it if was a little warm in here. We set it as cool as
we could, but the temperatures are not ideal.
            With that, this public informational meeting is
    closed.
        Thank you.
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                            I, Randall W. Wells, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
    Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the proceedings
had in the matter set forth in the caption page hereon were
reported in shorthand by me, afterwards transcribed, and the
foregoing is a true and complete transcript of said shorthand
notes.
Randall W. Wells
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[^0]:    injection manure eight inches below the surface.

[^1]:    he does not have the information that he needs, then he will be -- he will go through review with the Illinois EPA and possibly undergo more rigorous observations.

    CATHY CAMPBELL: And please define "routine" for me.

    ## How often?

    MS. BAKER: They do five year inspections. And if --
    if they receive a complaint they will come more often.
    CATHY CAMPBELL: Five --
    MS. BAKER: In the past.
    CATHY CAMPBELL: Five years you said?
    HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Hold on, ma'am.
    CATHY CAMPBELL: Yes.
    HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: She did --
    CATHY CAMPBELL: I'm sorry. I didn't just didn't
    hear.
    HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: She did say five years.
    CATHY CAMPBELL: Okay.
    HEARING OFFICER SONDGEROTH: Let her finish her

