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STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

IN RE:

THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF
LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT FACILITY

Public Informational Meeting held, on July
6, 2015, at the Ford County Sheriff's Office,
Board Meeting Room, 235 North American, Paxton,
Illinois, scheduled for the hour of 6:00 P.M.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

- Mr. Scott Frank, Hearing Officer
- Mr. Warren Goetsch, Bureau Chief
- Mr. Brad A. Beaver, Manager

FOR THE FACILITY:

- Mr. Colin Steidinger, Owner
- Mr. Clint Steidinger, Owner
- Mr. Nic Anderson, Illinois Livestock
Development Group

Court Reporter:
Robin A. Enstrom, RPR, CSR
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Midwest Litigation Services
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800.280.3376

1 (Meeting began at 6:00 P.M.)

2 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: We'll go
3 ahead and get started.

4 Before we begin tonight, I would ask
5 that everyone please turn your cell phones to
6 silent. Thank you.

7 Good evening. On behalf of Philip
8 Nelson, director of the Illinois Department of
9 Agriculture, we thank you very much for the
10 invitation to come to Ford County today. My name
11 is Scott Frank. I'm with the Illinois Department
12 of Agriculture, and I'll be serving as the
13 hearing officer for tonight's public
14 informational meeting.

15 Also with me on behalf of the
16 Department are Warren Goetsch, bureau chief of
17 the Bureau of Environmental Programs, and Brad
18 Beaver in the back, manager of the Bureau's
19 livestock program.

20 This meeting is being conducted
21 pursuant to Section 12 of the Livestock
22 Management Facilities Act. The informational
23 meeting is being held at the request of the Ford
24 County Board and is to afford members of the

1 public an opportunity to ask questions and
2 present oral and written testimony regarding the
3 proposed construction of a 960-animal-unit
4 expansion to an existing 960-animal-unit swine-
5 finishing facility by Clint and Colin Steidinger.

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

10 Tonight's meeting is being
11 transcribed. The transcript of the meeting will
12 be sent to the Ford County Board as well as used
13 by the Department of Agriculture in making its
14 determination regarding the proposed construction
15 of this facility.

16 In order to ensure that we have an
17 orderly process, I will quickly explain how the
18 meeting will proceed this evening. Following my
19 comments, Warren Goetsch will provide an overview
20 of the provisions of the Livestock Management
21 Facilities Act as it relates to this particular
22 project, specifically outlining the current
23 status of the project and how the process will
24 proceed following this meeting.

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

7 After their presentation, I will open
8 the meeting to questions. Anyone wishing to ask
9 questions of the facility representatives or the
10 Department will be given an opportunity to do so.
11 During the question-and-answer session, I will
12 ask that you state your name and spell your last
13 name. You then may ask your question. Depending
14 upon the number of people who wish to testify in
15 the oral testimony phase of the meeting which is
16 right after the question phase, there may be a
17 time limit placed on this questioning phase.

18 Following the question-and-answer
19 phase, I will ask for written testimony. If
20 anyone has written testimony that is not part of
21 your oral testimony, I will accept it and enter
22 it into the record for this proceeding. If you
23 have written material that you will be using as
24 part of your oral testimony, it can be entered

1 into the record following your oral testimony.
2 Depending upon the amount of time that has
3 elapsed at this point, we may take a short break.

4 Following the written testimony, I
5 will ask for oral testimony from the public.
6 Sign-in sheets were placed in the hall as you
7 came in -- one sheet for attendance and a second
8 sheet for testimony. People who wish to provide
9 comments during this oral testimony phase are
10 asked to sign the oral testimony sheet.

11 People providing oral comments will
12 be sworn in and will be subject to questioning
13 from the public. Each person will be given three
14 minutes to provide his or her comments. Legal
15 counsel speaking on behalf of multiple clients
16 will be given a total of 15 minutes for all
17 clients and will be asked to state the names of
18 all the persons on whose behalf he or she is
19 speaking.

20 Deferring time to other speakers will
21 not be allowed. If you signed the oral testimony
22 sheet, you may either speak or, if you have
23 changed your mind, you may pass. You may not
24 give your time to someone else. Also, please

1 keep in mind that, if you do not wish to be asked
2 questions after your oral testimony, do not sign
3 the sheet. Or if you have signed it already,
4 indicate you would like to pass when I call your
5 name.

6 The meeting will then conclude with
7 closing comments from the facility and the
8 Department of Agriculture.

9 So to quickly summarize the procedure
10 tonight, we will have comments from the
11 Department, comments from the facility, questions
12 directed to the Department and the facility --
13 remember to state your name and spell your
14 name -- written testimony accepted, oral
15 testimony from the public, and closing comments.

16 Please keep in mind that we are not
17 here this evening to discuss or debate the merits
18 or perceived inadequacies of the existing
19 regulations or laws. We are here tonight to
20 receive information on this particular proposed
21 livestock facility to assist with determining
22 compliance with the existing regulations.

23 This is a public informational
24 meeting, not a court proceeding. The purpose is

1 to share information and provide an opportunity
2 for the Department, members of the County Board,
3 and you the public to learn about this proposed
4 facility.

5 Again, we very much appreciate your
6 hospitality for inviting us here tonight to
7 consider the proposed construction of the Clint
8 and Colin Steidinger swine-finishing facility.
9 Please remember to confine your comments and
10 questions to that subject as we continue.

11 Before we move to the Department's
12 remarks, the chairman of the County Board, Randy
13 Berger, would like to say a couple words.

14 Mr. Berger.

15 MR. BERGER: I'd just like to thank
16 all of you representatives for coming and all of
17 you with the public.

18 Also, there are several County Board
19 members here. Just put up your hand quickly.
20 That way, if anybody in the -- thank you -- in
21 the audience here would like to ask questions,
22 you know who to find.

23 So thanks again, everybody, and
24 please respect the rules.

1 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank you,
2 Mr. Berger.

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

6 MR. GOETSCH: Good evening. My name
7 is Warren Goetsch. I currently serve as the
8 bureau chief of Environmental Programs as well as
9 the chief of staff of the Illinois Department of
10 Agriculture.

11 One of our responsibilities at the
12 Department is the administration of the various
13 provisions of the Livestock Management Facilities
14 Act. On behalf of the Department, let me welcome
15 you to this public informational meeting.

16 Before we hear from the proposed
17 facility's representatives, I'd like to say a few
18 words regarding the applicable provisions of the
19 Livestock Management Facilities Act and the
20 current status of the proposed project.

21 The Livestock Management Facilities
22 Act was originally passed and became law on May
23 21st of 1996. Since that time, the Act has been
24 amended three times: first during the General

1 Assembly's 1997 fall veto session, second during
2 the General Assembly's 1999 spring session, and
3 most recently during the 2007 General Assembly's
4 spring session.

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

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

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

1 Now, regarding the current status of
2 this project, the Department received a formal
3 Notice of Intent to Construct application for the
4 proposed expansion to an existing swine facility
5 on April 21st of 2015. The proposed project
6 expansion is to consist of the construction of
7 one 101'10" x 196' swine-finishing building with
8 an 8' underbuilding livestock waste-handling
9 facility. The project is proposed to be located
10 approximately 4.2 miles northwest of Gibson City,
11 Illinois, in southwestern Ford County.

12 The application was submitted by
13 Frank and West Environmental Engineers, on behalf
14 of Colin and Clint Steidinger -- and I apologize
15 if I didn't pronounce the name correctly -- of
16 Gibson City, Illinois. The maximum design
17 capacity of the proposed facility expansion is
18 960 animal units or 2,400 head of swine greater
19 than 55 pounds, for an overall facility total of
20 1,920 animal units or 4,800 head greater than 55
21 pounds.

22 As I mentioned earlier, the
23 Department received the Notice of Intent to
24 Construct application on April 21st and reviewed

1 it for compliance with the applicable provisions
2 of the Act. On May 27th, the Department
3 determined that the Notice was complete and
4 forwarded a copy to the -- of the completed
5 application to the Ford County Board. Notice of
6 that application was also published in the
7 appropriate newspapers.

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

13 On June 23rd, the Department received
14 official notice from the Ford County Board
15 requesting that a public informational meeting be
16 scheduled regarding the proposal. After further
17 consultation with the County Board, the
18 Department scheduled this meeting and caused
19 notice of the meeting to be published in the
20 appropriate newspapers.

21 An additional requirement of the
22 Livestock Management Facilities Act deals with
23 the design and construction plans of the
24 livestock waste-handling facility. The

1 Department has received a formal submittal of
2 detailed engineering design plans and
3 specifications for the proposed project's
4 underbuilding livestock waste-handling facility.
5 The submittal is currently under review by the
6 Department. As such, we are unable to comment on
7 its compliance with the statutory provisions of
8 the Act at this time.

9 We are here this evening to receive
10 testimony regarding the proposed livestock
11 management facility's compliance with the eight
12 siting criteria as defined in Section 12,
13 paragraph (d), of the Livestock Management
14 Facilities Act. In general, information
15 regarding the following would be appropriate for
16 this evening's meeting: information regarding
17 manure management planning, potential impact of
18 the proposed facility on the surrounding area's
19 character, whether the proposed facility is
20 located within any floodplains or other sensitive
21 areas, odor control plans of the facility,
22 possible impact of the proposed facility on
23 existing area traffic patterns, and possible
24 impact of the proposed facility on community

1 growth, tourism and recreation, or economic
2 development of the area.

3 Copies of the specific criteria were
4 available on the table in the hallway with the
5 sign-in sheets as you entered the room. If
6 anyone would like to have a copy of the criteria
7 but didn't pick one up, if you'd identify
8 yourself, Brad can make sure that you've got a
9 copy.

10 Finally, the process that will be
11 followed after this evening's meeting is as
12 follows: The County Board will have up to 30
13 business days from today's meeting to submit to
14 the Department a non-binding recommendation
15 relative to the proposed siting of this facility.
16 Thus a recommendation from the Ford County Board
17 is due at the Department on or before August 17,
18 2015.

19 After the close of the county's
20 30-business-day comment period, the Department
21 will have 15 calendar days or until September 1,
22 2015, to review all the information submitted to
23 date, including the Notice of Intent to
24 Construct, construction plans, transcripts from

1 this evening's meeting, the County Board's
2 recommendation, and any other additional
3 information submitted by the owners at the
4 request of the Department. Based on that review,
5 the Department will determine whether the eight
6 siting criteria have been meet.

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

11 Mr. Hearing Officer, at this time I
12 would like to submit the -- a copy of the
13 complete Notice of Intent to Construct
14 application and its associated correspondence
15 file for formal entry into the record as Exhibit
16 1, if I can find it. Here you go.

17 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Entered into
18 the record as Exhibit No. 1 is a completed Notice
19 of Intent to Construct, including correspondence
20 between the Department and the applicant, notices
21 of this public informational meeting, and
22 correspondence with Ford County officials.

23 MR. GOETSCH: And with that, that
24 concludes my formal remarks. If -- I look --

1 again, I thank you for your attention, and I look
2 forward to any comments or questions that you may
3 have as we go through the meeting. Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank you,
5 Mr. Goetsch.

6 Entered into the record as Exhibit
7 No. 2 is a copy of the Department's PowerPoint
8 presentation.

9 At this time we will hear comments
10 from the facility. Before you begin, for those
11 who will be presenting information, please state
12 your name and spell your last name, and I will
13 then swear you in.

14 MR. COLIN STEIDINGER: My name is
15 Colin Steidinger, S-t-e-i-d-i-n-g-e-r.

16 MR. ANDERSON: Nic Anderson,
17 A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.

18 MR. CLINT STEIDINGER: Clint
19 Steidinger, S-t-e-i-d-i-n-g-e-r.

20 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Please raise
21 your right hand.

22 (Colin Steidinger, Nic Anderson,
23 and Clint Steidinger were duly
24 sworn or affirmed.)

1 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: You may
2 proceed.

3 MR. COLIN STEIDINGER: My name is
4 Colin Steidinger.

5 Along with my two brothers, we are
6 sixth generation farmers. My twin brother,
7 Clint, and I started farming full time out of
8 high school in 2008. As a family farm, we have
9 mainly been focused on a grain operation. This
10 spring my youngest brother, Chad, graduated from
11 high school. He too has plans to come back to
12 the family farm.

13 Last spring we made the decision to
14 diversify our family farm and begin raising hogs.
15 This past January, we started raising pigs in our
16 first wean-to-finish barn.

17 Hog production allows us the
18 opportunity to grow equity, generate cash flow,
19 and establish business assets while producing a
20 product that will reduce our input costs in our
21 grain operation, and in the end provide a safe,
22 abundant, and affordable pork product to the
23 consuming public.

24 We have tried our best to locate this

1 barn on a site that we could best utilize the
2 manure, minimize the odor to the surrounding
3 area. I also live on the site with my family.

4 While working closely with the
5 Department of Ag to follow the Livestock Waste
6 Management Facility Act, we will adhere to the
7 best management practices in the pork production
8 to minimize the impact on the surrounding areas.
9 We have hired Frank and West Engineering to help
10 us best design a building that will meet all
11 eight siting criterias. Due to a scheduling
12 conflict, our engineers, Frank and West, could
13 not be here, but asked I've Nic Anderson to help
14 our farm give an overview of the project and
15 present how we will meet all eight siting
16 requirements prepared by Frank and West
17 Engineering.

18 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Colin.

19 Again, my name is Nic Anderson, and
20 Colin and Clint did ask me to come and help fill
21 in with the absence of Frank and West
22 Engineering. I'm not an engineer. I've
23 participated in these meetings over the years.
24 Whether I'm the best qualified or not, I'll let

1 you be the judge of that. But our goal is to
2 tell you how the farm is going to meet the eight
3 siting criteria.

4 Some of the presentation tonight will
5 overlap with what Ag already presented because it
6 is part of the requirement, and what I'll tell
7 you -- the sheets that you got in the hallway of
8 the eight siting criteria and this pamphlet on
9 how the farm responds to the Livestock Management
10 Facilities Act is really an overview that I want
11 to try to present so you can understand what
12 they're going to try to do to fulfill that
13 requirement under the review of the Department of
14 Agriculture.

15 So anything that comes up tonight,
16 whether it's questions for us or the farm or
17 Department of Agriculture, we sure want to do our
18 due diligence to make sure we fulfill the
19 requirements of the Act and provide that to you
20 so you understand what's going to happen out
21 there.

22 So some of this will be overcrossing
23 and some of the eight siting criteria overlap
24 with responsibility. So I will try to explain

1 the process there. But we'll go ahead and get
2 started.

3 The introduction, a site overview and
4 layout, and conformance with the Livestock
5 Management Facilities Act.

6 The light's not real great here, but
7 you can see the outline of Ford County, and the
8 arrow down into the general location of the farm.

9 This is its distance from Watseka,
10 much like -- or from Gibson City, much like the
11 Department of Agriculture stated.

12 And this is the actual farm site with
13 the existing barn in blue and then, to the south
14 of that, the proposed barn. So the barn that
15 sits there today -- the new barn will be an
16 identical footprint of that just on the other
17 side of the property there.

18 That's a basic outline of
19 measurements. Like Department of Ag said, 196 x
20 101.10. So both those barns will be identical.

21 This is an abbreviated portion of the
22 eight siting criteria. I will go through each
23 one of those, and as we get down to number eight,
24 hopefully I can express to you how the farm is

1 going to meet that, and I think, since the farm
2 has already gone through the procedure with the
3 first building, there will be similar
4 qualifications that they're really just going to
5 duplicate and fulfill the LMFA.

6 As Ag mentioned, in Criteria 1, the
7 certification requirement. These dates should
8 match up with the Department on when the Notice
9 was applied for, when it was deemed complete,
10 much like they expressed.

11 According to the Livestock Management
12 Facilities Act, a facility that exceeds 1,000
13 animal units but less than 5,000 shall prepare
14 and maintain a waste management plan within 60
15 working days of commencement of operation.

16 So, those of you that aren't familiar
17 with the Act, that thousand animal units -- it
18 takes four pigs to equal one animal unit. So
19 that 2,400 head in finisher comes up with 960
20 animal units. And we will talk about that later
21 in the process when we talk about meeting the
22 distance and location setbacks of the Act.

23 Since this farm is going to exceed
24 that number, they will develop a comprehensive

1 nutrient management plan. That is prepared by
2 their engineer by a technical service provider.
3 For those of you that don't know what
4 comprehensive nutrient management is, it's a much
5 more detailed, much more record keeping process.
6 It's -- I'll attribute it to precision farming
7 where they'll go out and grid map farms in
8 two-acre sections, collect the data, so they can
9 more accurately plan their nutrient management
10 with that manure out there in the fields that
11 they're going to provide it to to grow the
12 growing crops.

13 So much more detail and much more
14 record keeping, and as farms get bigger, that
15 requirement makes sense because we're dealing
16 with more material, and it shows diligence that
17 we are following a certain plan that can be
18 reviewed by and looked at at the Department of
19 Agriculture, and then more often, if there are
20 issues out there, that we have a record of what
21 took place, when it took place, and how we
22 handled that. So, really, that's what the
23 comprehensive nutrient management plan does.
24 They will keep that on site. They will also

1 send -- provide that to the Department of
2 Agriculture to do with -- to meet that
3 requirement.

4 Outside of that, that plan becomes
5 really the footprint for that farm when it talks
6 about nutrients, and if there should be an issue
7 outside of the Department's regulations, the
8 Clean Water Act, the EPA all have access to that
9 if needed. And, really, it's a resource for the
10 farm to make sure they're managing those
11 nutrients the right way, and they will learn from
12 that plan and that plan may change in the future
13 depending on their crop needs and what their
14 management is of that farm. It's kind of a
15 living document as that farm continues into the
16 future.

17 So the goal of that plan is to
18 utilize manure produced on the farm, put it out
19 into the growing crop fields at an agronomic
20 rate, and for those of you that don't know, what
21 is an agronomic rate? University of Illinois,
22 the agronomic handbook, talks about it takes so
23 many units of nitrogen to grow a bushel of corn.
24 It takes so much phosphorous and potassium. So

1 the manure is tested. We find out what the
2 nutrient content is of that manure, and we
3 provide that to our crop based on the agronomic
4 rate. So, really, that's what that plan is --
5 know what we're growing, know what we have to put
6 out there, and then manage it the right way.

7 The waste management plan, these are
8 some of the goals: Total annual manure volume.
9 So we want to know how much manure we produce.
10 We want to know what our historical records of
11 the crops that we're going to grow. More than
12 likely, corn on corn is best suited for manure
13 application. But in a corn-bean rotation or
14 corn-corn-bean rotation, manure does have some
15 benefits for other crops. Also wheat. So that
16 would be dictated in that nutrient management
17 plan.

18 The other thing is we need to take an
19 analysis of that manure so we know how much N, P,
20 and K are there. Not all hog farms are equal,
21 but we have a pretty good idea what typical
22 55-pound finishing pigs and up produce, and some
23 of it has to do with the diet they're fed or
24 DDGs, other products that are out there, of what

1 the output is. But to ensure that, we're going
2 to analyze that manure so we know what we're
3 taking out so we can calculate what goes out into
4 that agronomic rate as manure.

5 There are rules and regulations for
6 land application and setbacks and to incorporate
7 those protocols in the plan and then
8 documentation of all phases of that process. So
9 that will be included in that nutrient management
10 plan.

11 Whether the design, location, and
12 proposed operation will protect the environment
13 by being consistent with the Livestock Management
14 Facilities Act.

15 This will be picked up in some other
16 criteria, but typically there are standards that
17 the LMFA follows -- whether it's a construction
18 standard, a nutrient management standard, a
19 design standard -- that this farm has to meet,
20 and the Department of Agriculture will review
21 those building and design plans. The concrete
22 consistency, the waterstop issues for cracks and
23 crevices and joint junctures. So that is all
24 provided in those plans for the Department to

1 make sure how it complies with the Act.

2 Midwest Plan Service is a standard
3 that Ag uses for concrete manure storage handling
4 handbook. So those data and those requirements
5 are in that publication. That is the publication
6 of land-grant schools that have designed
7 standards that -- for concrete for manure
8 holding. One of the issues that come up of
9 cement thickness and porosity is 10-6. As a
10 layman, I don't quite understand that completely,
11 but 10-6 is the standard that the cement concrete
12 needs to meet for porosity. And so water moves
13 through that at a certain rate, and you have to
14 meet that maximum standard to meet the
15 requirements of the Act. You can go more, but
16 you can't go less than that. So that standard is
17 established in publications like Midwest Plan
18 Service.

19 So concrete specification,
20 reinforcement specifications, and waterstop
21 requirements -- we'll address this a little later
22 in some other criteria so we can show you kind of
23 how they're going to implement that.

24 So, basically, the design proposed

1 will consist of construction plans for two
2 finishing barns. One is already completed and
3 met those requirements and went through the
4 process. So, really, tonight is the addition of
5 that 196 x 101.10 feet barn that we saw on one of
6 the earlier slides.

7 This is typically what a finishing
8 barn looks like. For those that might see them
9 out in the countryside, this is a tunnel-
10 ventilated barn where Ag is -- or air is pushed
11 through that building through those large fans,
12 and on the side there are portals for pit
13 ventilation. So those pigs sit on top of slated
14 floors in the above structure, and below
15 structure is the waste-handling facility and the
16 storage capacity that the farm and their
17 engineers have designed.

18 This is typically what an inside of a
19 barn looks like with the slated floor, a feeding
20 type system throughout the whole barn. This barn
21 has curtains on the side for natural air flow.
22 So there are elements of those barns that combine
23 mechanical and natural air flow through those
24 barns.

1 Siting criteria is location.

2 Location and setback distances have been met.

3 The Department of Agriculture noted that in their
4 compliance of the Notice of Intent to Construct
5 back in May.

6 Also, another requirement is the
7 manager of the farm will be a certified livestock
8 manager. So that thousand-animal-unit threshold
9 requires the farm to have an on-site livestock
10 manager certified. Both Colin and Clint are
11 going to process that. Today, as they stand with
12 the animals they have, they are not required, but
13 they will both go through that process and get
14 the certification needed, and then also the
15 livestock waste management plan that we've
16 already spent some time on.

17 Criteria 3: Whether the location
18 minimizes any incompatibility with the
19 surrounding area's character by being zoned for
20 agriculture where the county has zoning, or where
21 the county is not zoned, the setback requirements
22 established by the Act are complied with.

23 The proposed building is zoned in
24 agriculture. The Department deemed that back in

1 May. And the farm is compatible with surrounding
2 area in that it is agriculture area.

3 They also mentioned these numbers:
4 4,800 animal units greater than 55 pounds equals
5 1,920. The occupied residential setback is 1,320
6 feet, a quarter mile. A populated area is 2,640
7 feet, the half mile.

8 And on this slide you can see where
9 the existing barn is, the distance between the
10 barns, and the proposed barn. The darker gray
11 area is the quarter mile. The farm where Colin
12 lives is on -- in that setback, and he lives
13 there with his family. So when you go out to
14 that quarter mile, no one lives in that quarter-
15 mile setback. In the populated area setback,
16 there is Norman Ashley kind of to the north and
17 east there a little bit. You can see a farmstead
18 down in the corner -- right-hand corner there.
19 That's just a barn location. There's no house
20 there. It's tough to put all those on one slide,
21 but if you go to Google or something like that,
22 you can see that.

23 Outside that half mile, that doesn't
24 fall into the setback requirements, there are

1 minimal houses. If you look due east, there's a
2 house about a mile and a quarter across the way
3 on the next section road. So if sections are in
4 miles, right there at the Road 200 that's running
5 north and south there in front of the farm, to
6 the next road -- it's Road 300 -- that's a mile.
7 And that lane back to their farm is about a
8 quarter mile. There are some properties to the
9 west outside that setback requirement, and if we
10 had a bigger map, we could probably look into
11 those a little closer.

12 But that's the requirement of the
13 Act -- to meet those setbacks that are
14 established there on this slide. Shows Gibson
15 City as a place of business and Birkey's farm
16 store and St. John's Lutheran Church off to the
17 west.

18 Floodplain and aquifer is Criteria
19 Number 4. Whether the farm is located in a
20 100-year floodplain and/or otherwise
21 environmentally sensitive area, defined as
22 karst -- a karst area with aquifer material
23 within five feet of the planned bottom of the
24 manure-holding facility, and whether the

1 construction standards set forth in the notice
2 are consistent with the goal in protecting the
3 safety of the area.

4 Long definition, and we'll try to go
5 into that, but this is the floodplain map in
6 Illinois that Department of Agriculture uses as a
7 resource, and the next slide is a little tough to
8 read, but when I go down into Ford County and
9 zoom down, floodplain areas are denoted by blue
10 streams when I go to my floodplain map on the
11 Internet. And over on the side there you can see
12 where the farm is located. There are no
13 floodplain areas within proximity to this farm.
14 I did -- I'll back up a couple slides here.

15 The nearest stream is 3,800 feet to
16 the south of that. Actually, there's not a
17 floodplain there. There is a stream. The
18 nearest floodplain is over on Drummer Creek clear
19 off to the east probably two miles,
20 two-and-a-half miles or so. So they really have
21 some decent distance from bodies of water or
22 streams.

23 So this is the map that would be
24 submitted to the Department to look at that

1 floodplain map, and they will do their own
2 diligence on that.

3 A karst area. A karst area is
4 defined of land surfaces containing sinkholes,
5 large springs, disrupted land drainage,
6 underground system associated with karstified
7 carbonate bedrock, limestone or dolomite, and
8 caves or a land surface without these features
9 but containing a karstified bedrock unit
10 generally overlain by 60 feet of unconsolidated
11 materials.

12 Another long definition, but
13 typically there are karst areas in the State of
14 Illinois, and it's that unconsolidated type
15 limestone system. It's very porous to water. So
16 there is an I-8 map that is referenced in the
17 LMFA that the farm's engineers will go look at
18 and look at those karst areas and see if this
19 farm is located in one of those. That would be a
20 denote to say, "Hey, we need to look at this a
21 little closer," and then, secondly, to make sure
22 that there aren't features in that area that
23 would have karst characteristics.

24 So the engineers go to the karst map.

1 So up in northern Illinois and kind of north
2 central there south of Rockford, there is some
3 karst areas. Down along the river, if you think
4 about the river bluffs and cliffs and rock
5 formations, there is some there. And in this
6 area there aren't, but through the site
7 investigation that the engineers do and submit to
8 the Department, they look for those types of
9 things in that investigation.

10 And then the other resource is the
11 farm itself. You farm that ground. What can we
12 learn from the farmer or other people in the area
13 to make sure that those types of things don't
14 exist and we can meet the requirements of the
15 Act.

16 So a lot of investigation into that
17 to make sure that we can meet that requirement,
18 and Ag is there to verify that information that's
19 provided to meet the requirement. So we not only
20 rely on our engineers, but we rely on their due
21 diligence to make sure that all those
22 requirements in this criteria are met, as all of
23 them.

24 Continuing in the Criteria Number 4,

1 the farm is not located in a karst area,
2 indicated by the Department of Natural Resources,
3 the State Geology with this map, and the bedrock
4 map in Illinois as a potential karst area. So
5 they -- they feel that they've met that
6 requirement.

7 Another requirement is sandstone
8 that's five feet or more thickness or fractured
9 carbonate that is ten feet or more in thickness
10 or sand, gravel, or sand and gravel such that
11 there's at least two feet or more present with
12 any five-foot section.

13 So, basically, they're going to go
14 down and take a soil boring and find out what's
15 under there. They have already done that on the
16 existing barn and met the requirement. Their
17 indication is this barn will also probably
18 produce similar investigation. That has not been
19 done yet, mostly because of the weather. So you
20 got to dig a hole and get some equipment in. So
21 if you follow the weather patterns here lately,
22 that hasn't been real easy to do. But before
23 they can go any further with the Department, they
24 will provide that. So what -- it looks like the

1 weather's going to play a pretty big role that
2 that can be done shortly and submitted to the
3 Department so they can review that process. But
4 that's yet to be done.

5 Hopefully, this diagram kind of
6 explains what a soil boring does. You can see
7 the -- an outline of the walls of the pit. That
8 one -- it's just an example. It happens to be
9 ten feet. But you can see that the grade -- that
10 solid line is the grade, and when they go in to
11 take a soil boring, they will have to go below
12 the planned bottom of that location. This is
13 just a diagram to show you that they have to go
14 that deep to get that information and collect it
15 and provide it to the Department, and they are
16 anticipating that will come in the days to come.

17 Criteria Number 5: Minimize
18 environmental impact. Whether the owner or
19 operator has submitted plans for operation that
20 minimize the likelihood of any environmental
21 damage to the surrounding area from spills,
22 runoff, or leaching.

23 The Department noted that they have
24 submitted their building plans. That is one way

1 that the farm will meet that requirement to
2 contain that manure as a nutrient so that they
3 have enough storage. It gives them longer-term
4 windows to work on manure management, and they're
5 not day-to-day operations. So it is also
6 designed for -- with waterstops and concrete
7 reinforcement to avoid leaching and capacity
8 challenges.

9 Proper sizing, adequate storage
10 capacity. The LMFA requires 150 days of storage.
11 This farm will have a year of storage, and why so
12 much? We tend to farm in seasons in Illinois,
13 and it's great to put our nutrients on in the
14 fall. And they have the ability to put nutrients
15 on this fall and retain manure until they're
16 ready to put it on next fall. There might be a
17 case that they do apply in the spring, but what
18 it shows is they have the capacity to hold that
19 nutrient so they can get around Mother Nature.
20 They're not dependent on Mother Nature. They're
21 dependent on their farming practices so they can
22 utilize that at the right time, the right place,
23 and the right amount.

24 So we call this a closed system that

1 they control, that there is no discharge from
2 that. They are able to apply agronomically and
3 meet crop demands at an agronomic rate. So that
4 manure management becomes part of the Criteria 5
5 to how do we minimize issues, and through
6 nutrient management, we can sure provide that.

7 Clean water diversion is a big part
8 of it. Stormwater is free. So we don't always
9 want stormwater. So we want to divert that
10 through gutters and tiles that don't come access
11 to manure. Once it becomes to access with
12 manure, then we have to manage it. But
13 stormwater is free. So they've implemented a
14 stormwater system to redirect that stormwater
15 away from the farm so it doesn't come in contact.
16 And it's good water management.

17 Another segment is farm designed to
18 prevent release of livestock. Solid concrete
19 construction with reinforced grade 60 steel
20 rebar. Waterstops in place in all construction
21 and stoppage joints. All surfaces in contact
22 with manure -- or concrete -- will be required
23 permeability standard, and that's that 10-6. It's
24 got to meet that permeability standard. It can

1 exceed it, but it can't be anything less than
2 that.

3 So here's a slide that kind of breaks
4 that down. Rigorous concrete construction is
5 provided to the Department to review. Waterstops
6 at all concrete joints. This farm will have a
7 perimeter tile drain with a sampling port.

8 So when you put a concrete structure
9 in the ground and the soil types -- unless the
10 soil boring comes out different than the first
11 building, water can move in the soil. So that
12 sampling port -- we want to know what moves in
13 and about down there at the bottom of those
14 footings, not only for manure coming out of the
15 system but water coming into the system. We
16 don't want extra water in that system. So that
17 sampling port is there that can be monitored and
18 sent into the Department on a quarterly basis.

19 Colin has told me that their first
20 quarterly process, they couldn't pull a sample.
21 So there was no water in that perimeter tile
22 drain. Oftentimes that's the case. But that's a
23 way to monitor to see what moves there, and it's
24 a requirement of the LMFA based on other data

1 that's says you need a perimeter tile drain in.

2 This is the reinforced wall
3 enforcement. Hopefully, it describes -- it shows
4 you that rebar that's in there and how that
5 cement's going to conform. The big thing is
6 waterstops, to understand that there's a
7 waterstop, and cement will be poured over the top
8 of that to make the seal. That's a requirement
9 of the Act. In all those joints and wall
10 connections, that needs to be provided.

11 The Department of Agriculture has a
12 process to inspect that, not only from the
13 contractor providing the right concentration of
14 concrete and how many bags of cement are in a
15 load -- they need to provide that type of
16 information -- but through an inspection process
17 throughout the process, not only documentation
18 from the farm but from the Department, to go find
19 those key spots and investigate that these are
20 installed the right way and permeability is
21 maintained throughout that whole system as a
22 closed system.

23 This is just a another example of
24 some pictures, if you're not familiar with it.

1 Cement floor -- concrete floor, walls, pillars
2 that hold up the slats, and an installation
3 process when those slats go on top before the
4 structure comes on top of the building. So,
5 really, that containment is what we're holding
6 that year's worth of manure for so we can use it
7 at the right place out in our cropping systems.
8 Just one more example of that system.

9 Odor control in Criteria Number 6.
10 Whether odor control plans are reasonable and
11 incorporate reasonable or innovative odor
12 reduction technologies given the current state of
13 affairs.

14 There's several ways we can address
15 that. Controlled land application, and we'll go
16 into that a little bit later.

17 Routine maintenance, keeping things
18 clean. This system is build as an all in/all
19 out. So after each production cycle, they can
20 clean and maintain. Fan management. Dust can be
21 collected on fans. They can reduce a lot of
22 odors. Dust is transferred by -- odor is
23 transferred by dust. So anytime that they can
24 minimize dust collection through maintenance,

1 cleaning, they can reduce those things.

2 Feed management is another way to
3 address that, and we'll go into a couple other
4 points there.

5 And location of setbacks, meaning the
6 setbacks can reduce some of that odor issue that
7 might come with the farm.

8 Steidingers have chosen to
9 incorporate their manure. There's two ways.
10 They'll take a look that, and we'll show some
11 slides here. Really, through a knife injection
12 system that takes manure down into the root zone,
13 6 to 12 inches. Eight is a pretty good average,
14 but their goal is -- much like anhydrous ammonia
15 that we do with regular farming, that we get that
16 nutrient into the soil zone so we can maintain it
17 and preserve it, and when we mix that, we can
18 reduce some odors. And injection is a widely
19 acceptable practice to reduce odor, and it can be
20 very effective. We don't always get rid of all
21 the odor, but that's the best practice we have at
22 our tools to address that issue.

23 All manure will be supervised by the
24 farm. They're still in the growth process here.

1 They will look at tankers, or they'll look at
2 injection. So there are safety issues that come
3 with manure application. It's always good to
4 have a team of people there. So when you think
5 about manure application with a tanker, that's a
6 tractor with a big tank behind it with shovels
7 behind it to put the manure in the ground.
8 That's a simple PTO takeoff type of system that
9 applies manure.

10 The dragline system -- and we have
11 some photos of that. This is the tanker that all
12 the controls are in the cab. They will go back
13 to the farm and reload that at the farm out of
14 the pit with a pump and proceed to go back out to
15 the field in a rotational system, but that's an
16 example. This is another example of
17 incorporation through injection.

18 And then the dragline. The dragline
19 is more economical. You can cover more ground.
20 It's pretty efficient. Does have a little more
21 added cost with equipment, but when it comes to
22 that -- not that Steidinger's will own that
23 equipment, but there are companies out there that
24 will come in and custom apply under their

1 supervision under their nutrient management plan.

2 So if they do choose this at some time in the

3 future, there's a lot of benefits for it --

4 reduction of odor. A lot of things come with

5 that, but it will all be under their -- their

6 wing of the farm to make sure this is done, and

7 that responsibility always comes back to them.

8 They have access to appropriate land

9 base to encompass the nutrient management plan.

10 So, in general -- and this will all be played out

11 in the nutrient management plan -- utilizing the

12 local yields that they have with soil types, it's

13 anticipated that they'll need about 550 acres of

14 a corn-corn rotation. When that plan finally

15 gets together, that number could fluctuate, but

16 of a farm of this size, that's a pretty good

17 number to anticipate. But that will be submitted

18 to the Department -- that they have an adequate

19 nutrient management plan to address the animal

20 units that they have on the farm. So, for

21 today's example, that's where we -- where we

22 stand. So that could change a little bit, but

23 that's kind of the anticipation.

24 The farm will utilize regular

1 maintenance to reduce odors generated by the
2 facility and manage dust from the buildings.
3 That's probably the biggest key. All in/all out
4 helps a lot because we -- they will power wash
5 after every production cycle. That will be
6 contained in the pit until they're ready to take
7 that out to the field. But not only for the
8 pigs' health benefit but also for odor and dust
9 reduction that those buildings will be cleaned.

10 Regular maintenance, as I said
11 earlier, is a big key -- to make sure manure is
12 underneath the slats. That's done by a daily
13 feed/chore/inspection process. Managing your
14 feeders to make sure they're not open too much
15 and feed wastage, but that's also a big part of
16 dust and odor control inside the building and
17 making sure the equipment's working properly.

18 We talked about pressure washing,
19 making sure fans are dust free and operate
20 efficiently, and barn maintenance.

21 The farm will incorporate an animal
22 diet formulated to allow the most efficient
23 utilization of proteins and nutrients. If you
24 haven't been around pork production, phase

1 feeding is a terminology that the industry uses
2 in hog farms around the country. So a 10-pound
3 pig has a different diet than a 25-pound pig.

4 When I was a kid, we kind of feed the
5 same diet until we got -- refilled the feeder.
6 So by phase feeding and bringing pigs up to make
7 sure they have the right energy, the right
8 nutrients at the right time, we can better manage
9 our input into animals. That also helps us
10 manage the output as manure. So we're getting
11 really good about efficiencies, and the numbers
12 are reflected by performance.

13 And through their feed company that
14 they work with locally, Zimmerman, they work on
15 diets. Pig health is a big part of that too.
16 They have a consulting veterinarian to address
17 those issues. So health not only from the
18 veterinarian side but from the feed side to make
19 sure they're fed efficiently. That all returns
20 back to the farm to make sure that we can do all
21 the things we can to reduce odor. Feed's part of
22 that, but also pig and animal health.

23 The farm complies and exceeds with
24 farm -- all setback distances established by the

1 Livestock Management Facilities Act. The
2 residential setback is exceeded by 680 feet.
3 That farm we talked about being outside that
4 quarter mile is to the north. The other
5 populated area setback is the Lutheran Church and
6 Birkey's seed store. So a lot of good setback on
7 that farm. Great to see that. They've picked a
8 great location to make sure that they can meet
9 those requirements, and I think they've showed
10 with their siting investigation that they can do
11 that, and I think the barn that's already there
12 is indicative that they can manage that system,
13 and the new building will be an asset to that
14 farm.

15 Comprehensive odor control, and this
16 is just a combination of location, proper
17 nutrition, injection of manure. Those are all
18 great techniques. Sure, it has to be done with
19 the best management practice and they have to
20 implement it, but the plan that they've set in
21 place is going to allow those three components to
22 work together to make sure they address the
23 issues that they need.

24 Also, to reiterate, the odor control

1 plan is Siting Criteria 6. Farm has diligently
2 planned this. They're working with their
3 engineer to do these things, and they're going to
4 provide that information to the Department, and
5 they feel that they can operate with minimal
6 odor.

7 I have talked to Colin. When they
8 built their first barn, we had a discussion about
9 where that barn was going and what they're going
10 to do, and as that barn's been up, he's there.
11 He lives there. And he's portrayed it to me --
12 and we can sure ask him openly -- he doesn't have
13 a lot of odors there. I think he's the first guy
14 on the spot to know, if there's an odor issue,
15 that he can address it and make sure that things
16 are handled the right way because he and his
17 family live there. So feel really comfortable
18 with that odor control plan and how it exists and
19 how it will meet the requirements of the Act.

20 Criteria Number 7: Traffic patterns.
21 Whether traffic patterns minimize the effect on
22 existing traffic flows.

23 So the earlier slide we showed of the
24 farm, and there it is. We go down that quarter-

1 mile lane, and then we're going to take 200
2 south. That's about a mile or so down to the 800
3 road, and out to Route 47 on 800. That's about
4 two-and-a-quarter miles. That is our best route.
5 Even though 900 exists, it's not as good a road.
6 There's less impact this direction, and Colin has
7 worked in the past with his -- with his township
8 road commissioner, and they've talked this over
9 to address that issue with traffic.

10 Here are some traffic stats. So if
11 you think about Route 47 -- I'm not sure. I
12 thought I had a couple more pieces of data on
13 here. Oh, there it is. This is Route 47 with
14 daily and weekly averages. If I go down -- drill
15 down on that a little bit, it does show Route 47,
16 but 800 Road North, that's that east-west road
17 there, 150 daily traffic average, over a thousand
18 a week. Their farm anticipates on an average of
19 four trucks a week. Now, knowing that, when we
20 bring little pigs in or take big pigs out, there
21 will be days that there are more trucks than four
22 a week. But on average, that's the number.
23 There will be some days and some weeks that
24 there's very minimal traffic out there. They

1 will probably operate much like other
2 agricultural areas do, but working with their
3 road commissioner like they have on this first
4 building, they think they can work through any
5 issues that come up.

6 And, really, impact looks pretty
7 minimal when you look at those numbers at the
8 very bottom of less than 2/10ths of a percent
9 from Route 47 and really less than 1% of the
10 traffic on 800. And if you look at the daily
11 traffic -- I didn't put 200 up there -- it is
12 about half the traffic of 800. So really less
13 than 2% of Road 200. So not a lot of impact
14 there. We know that there's trucks there, but
15 they live there, and they use the roads. It's
16 important to them to address that, and working
17 with their local road commissioner, they think
18 they can address that. So mostly feed
19 transportation. Animal transportation comes
20 seasonally. Loading the building and unloading
21 the building. And then feed is more on a weekly
22 basis as those pigs grow.

23 This is their statement about working
24 with the road commissioner. They've had a good

1 relationship, not only before this as this
2 building -- new building got built, but before
3 that also because they are grain farmers too.
4 Like a lot of grain farmers, we use those
5 township roads, and we need to respect them and
6 make sure that they maintain because that's how
7 we get our goods and services to market. It's
8 important to us as farmers.

9 Criteria 8 is another long
10 definition. I'm not going to beat the record on
11 time on my presentation tonight.

12 But whether the construction of the
13 new facility is consistent with existing
14 community growth, tourism, recreation, economic
15 development, or specific projects involving
16 community growth or tourism or economic
17 development that have been identified by local
18 government or action or development within one
19 year of compliance with the applicable zoning and
20 setback requirements for populated areas as
21 established by the LMFA.

22 Longwinded, but typically that area
23 is zoned agriculture. We don't know that the
24 county has denoted any other purpose for that or

1 zoned it differently or economic development has
2 set forth any new planes. It is agriculture, and
3 this farm fits nicely into that, and they can
4 meet that criteria based on the Act. So the farm
5 is consistent with any of that community
6 development as it complies with zoning, and the
7 farm will meet all the requirements of the
8 Livestock Management Facilities Act.

9 This brings us to an end. Hopefully,
10 we didn't go too fast through that, but this is a
11 synopsis of what the farm is developing,
12 providing to the Department for their review and
13 approval.

14 Want to thank you for coming out
15 tonight. We think agriculture and animal
16 agriculture can be a big part of Ford County.
17 There's a lot of benefits that go with it.

18 And from my standpoint -- and I don't
19 say this lightly -- it's great to see an
20 opportunity for young people to be able to come
21 back to the farm and get involved in hog
22 production. We know that land prices have gone.
23 It's not an easy entry into agriculture these
24 days, and my hats are off to them for stepping up

1 to the plate to participate. Apparently, their
2 family has initiated that in them, and dad's here
3 tonight and other relatives, but hopefully we can
4 support them in this project and they can meet
5 the requirements of the Act and really be an
6 asset to not only that local area but this county
7 as a whole.

8 So at that time I'd like to submit
9 that to the Department for an exhibit, and I'll
10 turn it back over to Mr. Frank.

11 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank you
12 very much.

13 Brad, you want to get the lights,
14 please.

15 Do you have a printed copy?

16 MR. ANDERSON: Brad's got it on the
17 computer.

18 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Okay. All
19 right.

20 MR. ANDERSON: I did not bring a hard
21 copy. Sorry about that.

22 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: We will now
23 open the meeting for any questions that you may
24 have of the facility or the Department of

1 Agriculture.

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

7 I will remind you that this portion
8 of the meeting will be limited to questions only.
9 After this question-and-answer session, there
10 will be a session dedicated to public testimony
11 where you can provide your oral comments. So
12 please limit this session to questions only.

13 Are there any questions?

14 Yes, sir.

15 MR. BRUMLEVE: My name is Will
16 Brumleve, B-r-u-m-l-e-v-e. My question is for
17 Steidinger; is that right?

18 Okay. What's the address of the
19 facility or the farm, I guess?

20 MR. COLIN STEIDINGER: 881 North 200
21 East Road.

22 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Other
23 questions?

24 Yes, sir.

1 MR. BERGER: Randy Berger,
2 B-e-r-g-e-r, to the Steidingers.

3 I'm just curious. Are you going to,
4 like, overlap? Have one group of hogs, say, you
5 know, halfway to maturing and then start the next
6 bunch, or are you going to run both facilities,
7 like, you know, all the same? Bring all in --

8 MR. COLIN STEIDINGER: The facilities
9 will be ran basically as one -- all in, all out,
10 washed, sanitized, and then bring the next group
11 in.

12 MR. BERGER: Okay.

13 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Another
14 question?

15 Yes, sir.

16 MR. VAN NESS: Yeah. My name is Phil
17 Van Ness. I'm an attorney from Urbana. I'm
18 actually --

19 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry? I'm
20 sorry?

21 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Sir, could
22 you repeat that please. Introduce yourself again
23 and spell your last name.

24 MR. VAN NESS: Phillip Van Ness,

1 V-a-n N-e-s-s. And I'm representing Norman
2 Ashley tonight who could not be here,
3 unfortunately; so I'm here on his behalf.

4 I have a couple questions. I will
5 direct them, I think, primarily to the
6 Department, possibly also to Mr. Steidinger,
7 either one.

8 First of all, I would like to request
9 at some point that the engineering drawings be
10 made available. Will those be available from the
11 Department once they are submitted via FOIA or
12 otherwise?

13 MR. GOETSCH: Yes.

14 MR. VAN NESS: Okay. Will those be
15 routinely provided to the people who are signed
16 on as attendees tonight, or should we request
17 those plans through FOIA?

18 MR. GOETSCH: You need to request
19 them through FOIA, and they will be available,
20 yes.

21 MR. VAN NESS: All right. I'm going
22 to ask the Steidingers now.

23 Is it your intention to continue to
24 expand this way? You've built one unit. You're

1 about to -- propose to build another. Is it your
2 intention to continue developing the farm this
3 way?

4 MR. COLIN STEIDINGER: We don't have
5 any plans at this point to expand the farm
6 anymore.

7 MR. ANDERSON: If I could also, when
8 you think about expansion and how farms sit, at
9 some point manure application becomes costly. So
10 a site of this size is going to fertilize the
11 crops that they have there. It would make more
12 sense, if they wanted to build more, is to go to
13 a different location where there's more ground.
14 So that's the general thinking of the industry.

15 MR. VAN NESS: As a general
16 proposition, I would agree with you on that.
17 Obviously, soil incorporation at agronomic rates
18 factors into that, which brings me to my next
19 question which I will, I guess, address to you.

20 The plan for waste storage once it's
21 removed from the pit -- is it to be straight away
22 taken out and land applicated? Is that the plan?

23 MR. CLINT STEIDINGER: Yes.

24 MR. VAN NESS: There's no storage

1 then involved post removal from the pit; is that
2 correct?

3 MR. CLINT STEIDINGER: Yep.

4 MR. VAN NESS: And you indicated the
5 waste storage capacity is going to be roughly one
6 year capacity. And that is premised based on the
7 current plan of 2,400 animals or something under
8 a thousand animal units per barn. Is that also
9 correct?

10 MR. ANDERSON: Typically, there's a
11 calculation that hogs will produce so much volume
12 if they each so much. So each barn will hold a
13 year's storage. Each one of those barns will
14 have similar capacity. So they can go for a
15 whole season, typically. So eight feet by the
16 dimensions that were on the site will hold that
17 capacity for a year.

18 MR. VAN NESS: Okay. One last
19 question.

20 You indicated this is going to be an
21 all in/all out design, and I believe you answered
22 one of the previous questions that you were
23 planning on each of these buildings operating in
24 tandem with the other so that it's going to be

1 all in/all out for both barns at the same time;
2 is that correct?

3 MR. COLIN STEIDINGER: Correct.

4 MR. VAN NESS: Okay. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Question from
6 someone else?

7 (No response.)

8 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: I see no more
9 questions. That concludes the question-and-
10 answer phase.

11 I will now accept written testimony.
12 If you have written testimony that is not
13 referred to in your oral testimony, I will accept
14 it now and enter it into the record.

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

19 Is there any written testimony to be
20 offered at this time?

21 (No response.)

22 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: I see none.

23 I have the oral testimony sign-in
24 sheet in front of me, and we have no names signed

1 up for the oral testimony. So this concludes the
2 oral testimony phase.

3 Entered into the record as Exhibit
4 No. 3 is the oral testimony sign-in sheet.

5 Also entered into the record as
6 Exhibit No. 4 is the attendance sign-in sheet.

7 Are there any closing comments from
8 the facility?

9 MR. COLIN STEIDINGER: Just like to
10 thank everybody for coming out and showing your
11 support and interest in our operation.

12 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank you.

13 Are there closing comments from the
14 Department?

15 MR. GOETSCH: I would just like to
16 thank -- also thank everyone for coming this
17 evening and wanted to assure you that the
18 information that we received tonight will be
19 reviewed carefully, along with all the other
20 submittals, and we certainly look forward to the
21 recommendation from the County Board. It will be
22 very important to receive that as part of our
23 overall evaluation of this proposal.

24 Again, thank you for coming and have

1 a safe trip home.

2 HEARING OFFICER FRANK: Thank you.

3 As I mentioned earlier, a copy of the
4 transcript will be provided to the County Board.
5 For others desiring a copy, you may contact the
6 court reporter.

7 Thank you for your attendance here
8 this evening. This public informational meeting
9 is hereby closed.

10 (Meeting closed at 7:07 P.M.)

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