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Sunny Side Farms Draft Permit to Operate Renewal

General overview of the farm

Sunny Side Farms is located at 374 New Weston-Ft. Loramie Road, Ft. Recovery, Ohio, which is in Darke County, Mississinawa Township, situated in the Wabash River Watershed. The facility is owned and operated by Midwest Poultry Services, LP. The permitted design capacity at the facility is 480,000 laying hens housed in four belt battery barns. Manure from each barn is conveyed and stored in two separate manure storage barns, which provide approximately 218,000 cubic feet or about 256 days of storage. There are also two egg wash ponds which provide about 1.1 million gallons of storage or about 229 days of storage.

Overview of Draft Permit to Operate

Within the draft Permit to Operate (PTO), a complete Manure Management Plan is provided, which outlines inspections and monitoring that must be completed by the facility. The estimated manure production for the entire facility is about 7,900 tons of solid poultry manure and about 1.8 million gallons of egg wash water annually. The manure and egg wash is distributed to other farmers for application on crop land as an organic replacement for commercial, synthetic fertilizers.

An Insect and Rodent Control Plan is included to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents. The plan includes methods to control flies, beetles and mice. The plan identifies requirements for regular inspections throughout the buildings for flies, larvae and beetles, as well as daily water leak inspections. The results of regular inspections are used to determine if the facility is required to perform treatment for insects or rodents based on the criteria set forth in the permit.

A Mortality Management Plan is required for disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering and composting. Sunny Side Farms will continue to use rendering as their primary method for mortality disposal.

An Emergency Response Plan is required to ensure accidents or emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies. In case of an emergency or accident, the names and phone numbers of contact personnel and equipment are listed in the permit.

Finally, an Operating Record is included that provides all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to demonstrate compliance with ODA's rules and the permit. These records include inspection of the manure storage structures, manure characterization, land application, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. The facility and these records are inspected by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to ensure compliance.

