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Vrieco Farms LTD Draft Permit to Operate

General overview of the farm

Vrieco Farms LTD is located in Hardin County, Pleasant Township, at 12464 Township Road 100, Kenton, Ohio in the Blanchard River watershed. The facility is owned and operated by Dooitsen De Vries. The dairy has a design capacity of 825 mature dairy cows housed in two freestall barns. There is one existing earthen manure storage pond with a design capacity of 9.96 million gallons that provides about 347 days' worth of storage. A storm water pond with 1.33 million gallons of storage capacity provides about 6 months' worth of storage for collected storm water runoff. There is also a concrete sand separation pit that provides an additional 727,000 gallons of manure storage capacity.

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 facility will generate an estimated 10.43 million gallons annually of liquid manure and milking center wastewater. In addition the facility will collect an estimated 1.33 million gallons of collected storm water runoff and generate 5,372 tons of sand-laden manure solids. The liquid manure and sand-laden manure solids will be distributed to area farmers and applied on 2,986 acres of crop land to recycle nutrients as a replacement for imported commercial synthetic fertilizers. The planned crops for these acres include corn silage, corn grain, wheat, and soybeans. The low-nutrient storm water will be applied to about 30 acres of hay under the control of the facility.

An Insect and Rodent Control Plan is included to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents.

A Mortality Management Plan is required for disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering and composting. Vrieco Farms LTD plans to mortality composting as the primary method of 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.

Finally, an Operating Record is included that provides all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to show compliance with ODA's rules and the permit. These records include inspection of the manure storage structures, manure characterization, 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.

