

Public Comments – Verbruggen Family Farms Ltd. R.M. of Oakview

(1)

To whom it may concern:

In response to the information in the Rivers Banner on July 15, 2016 on the proposal of: Verbruggen Prairie Farms Ltd. to establish a 6000 animal hog operation.

1. We are very concerned in regards to the smell that the hog operation will produce since our farm is located 4 miles north of the proposed building site. Especially during summer we have slow moving winds directly from the south, that will result in us having to live with the strong odour pollution for weeks.

2. 3 miles south and 2 miles west of our farm is already an existing hog barn, also initially ran by Verbruggen Prairie Farms and sold to Westview Pork two years ago.

This existing pig barn is taking up a big area of arable land to spread pig manure. Because of this the nutrient level provided by the pig manure is already high. The location of the proposed pig barn is too close to the existing barn. As a result of the additional manure will increase the nutrient level south of our farm, especially in lower areas to dangerous levels.

As a result of the conditions that a second hog barn would have on our area, the value of our quality of life and the value of our property will greatly decrease. Out of these reasons we are completely against the establishment of the hog barn.

Henry and Christine Raupers
SW6-15-20

(2)

To the Technical Review Co-ordination Unit.

As a land owner within the 3 kilometer zone I have no concerns about the construction of this livestock operation, provided that Verbruggen Prairie Farms Ltd. follows all regulations laid out by the Province of Manitoba.

Thank-you for the opportunity to share my views. Grant D. Gill R.M. Oakview.

(3)

August 5, 2016

From Chris and Lindsey Raupers

In response to the information in the Rivers Banner on July 15, 2016 on the proposal of Verbruggen Prairie Farms Ltd. to establish a 6000 animal hog operation.

We currently reside on SW 6-15-20w1 where we are only 3 miles north and 2 miles east of the existing Westview Pork operation which already pollutes the air with its smell for months out of the year.

My wife and I are possibly relocating to NE 35-14-21w1 which would put us a half mile closer to the proposed project. In this new location, we will be affected by the smell of the existing Westview Pork even more than we are used to now. The thought of another hog operation in even closer proximity is simply outrageous.

The value of our lives and our properties will certainly decrease with another hog operation.

(4)

AIKINS

LAW

August 9, 2016

Technical Review Co-ordination Unit
Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3G 0N4

VIA FACSIMILE [(204) 945-5059] AND EMAIL

**Re: Verbruggen Prairie Farms Ltd.
Proposed Establishment of Hog Operation at SW 13-14-21 WPM**

We are legal counsel for Newdale Farm Corporation (“Newdale”) which has significant farmland holdings in the near vicinity to the proposed hog operation. Newdale has instructed us to send this letter for the purpose of recording Newdale’s opposition to the proposed hog operation by Verbruggen Prairie Farms Ltd. The bases for Newdale’s opposition include the following:

- Odours from the proposed hog operation impacting residences on nearby properties owned by Newdale
- Possible impacts on ground water
- Methods used to disseminate manure from the proposed operation
- Whether the proposed operation will have an on-site owner/operator
- Possible negative impacts on property values

If possible, kindly place my name and contact information on the “Notice List” such that any future notifications concerning TRC Reports or other hearings are provided to my attention.

In addition, I understand from Newdale that it will be an interested party in any future reviews or hearings (such as the Conditional Use Public Hearing which is scheduled to follow the issuance of the TRC Report). It is possible that Newdale will be submitting additional written materials in opposition to the proposed hog operation at such times.

Yours truly,

AIKINS, MACAULAY & THORVALDSON LLP

Per:

JOHN R. BRAUN

JRB/dr

cc: Newdale Farm Corporation

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(5)

August 12 2016

Technical Review Co-ordination Unit

MB Indigenous and Municipal Relations

604-800 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, MB.

To Whom It May Concern

We received notice from the Mid-West Planning District regarding a Proposed Livestock Operation in the R. M. of Oakview. Our farm is located 2 and a quarter miles east of the Proposed Hog Barn. We are mixed farmers and have farmed at this location for 35 years. We have grain, cattle and a PMU operation. We grow all of our own feed and have been good stewards of the land taking care of the environment around us.

One of our biggest concerns with the new Hog barn is the availability of water for the size of this barn. And how is that going to effect the rest of us and our operations in the area? A Hog barn of that size will require a very large amount of water.

Also of concern is the spreading of the manure and how it will effect the ground water and run off? We live in an area where there are a lot of potholes and water runways. A portion of the spread fields will drain into the water basin that will flow into Lake Wahtopanah. How will this effect our water wells down stream from the Proposed Hog Barn?

The next concern is the increased traffic that will be on our local roads. When the road restrictions are placed on Highway 24 and Highway 250 feed must still be delivered to the Barn. Also finished Hogs must be removed from the barn. This will be done by very large Trucks. This will definitely impact our Roads. Gravel roads can be difficult to maintain with just regular normal sized traffic. Will the Municipality have to raise our taxes in order to be able to maintain the roads so they are safe for everyone to travel on?

We already have a large Hog Operation located 4 and a quarter miles west of our farm. Manure from this operation is already being spread on fields in the area. At certain times of the year large trucks heading to this barn are using our roads. Can our environment and water sustain Two large Hog Operations in our area.

Thank – you for the opportunity to comment on this Proposed Project. We hope that this Project will be reviewed with the best interests of the whole area concerned and the residents that live within this area. Not just the financial gain of Verbruggen Prairie Farms LTD.

Yours truly

Gail Bridgeman

Kirk Bridgeman

Bridgeman Land & Livestock LTD.

(6)

After reviewing the Development Proposal information regarding the proposed pig barn in the RM of Oakview, we do have some questions and concerns regarding this proposal.

1. The size of the facility is of concern. Does it have to be this big and can the size be changed?
2. Will the amount of water needed for this many animals affect the water table and in turn, the water supply to wells in the area? Would it be more feasible to hook into the pipeline water that runs along Highway 24? What will be the long term effect on the water table in our area with this amount of water being used? Will the volume of manure being injected into the ground year after year do anything to the water table?
3. For those of the neighbours that will be living downwind from the pig barn, how do you propose to help with odor control? Shelter belts are listed as dealing with this but shelter belts will be a long time in helping that as they are not even planted yet and take some time to be big enough to be of any use. What other methods are available to control this? We have heard that there is something that can be done with the fans that help with the odor control that may be useful.

4. Although the trucking route has been laid out in the proposal, we are wondering if the upkeep of this highway will be something that is important to the province/municipality. Highway 24 has a history of being poorly looked after. It has many potholes, uneven surfaces, dangerous drop offs that are occasionally and roughly patched. In the spring, there are many potholes that occur. With the added semi trucking of feed and live animals, this can make these things even worse and dangerous to drive on.

Also, when the spring weight restrictions are on, we are concerned that the drivers will not remain on the highway and take the connecting gravel roads to the new barn. This is often done by truckers and the result is having our gravel roads chewed up, rutted which makes them extremely dangerous for us and our children to drive on.

Though we are not opposed to our neighbour's farming, the size of this operation seems rather large which makes us have concerns that there may be long term effects because of the water usage, manure injecting and the odor to our environment and that it may affect our property value. Is the size negotiable and what will be the long term effects to the environment when dealing with this volume? It would be best if we could all work these things out as neighbours and be able to ask questions and get answers that will help with these concerns and the decisions being made.

Kelly & Myra Bridgeman

(7)

Through this letter, we would like to share our concerns as a close neighbour of Verbruggen Prairie Farms LTD.

We live just South of the proposed grow/finisher barn.

We found out about the barn just a few weeks ago through the Rivers Banner, as a close neighbour and former employee!

We like to have some more time and information on the proposed plan.

*Oder control?

*Lagoon cover?

*Shelterbelts?

There is a better way of controlling the odors and flies of a grow/finisher barn trough air cleaners.

*Trucking in spring time, when road restriction is on, what plan is there in place?

*Water use, is there an option for a dugout?

Since there is a close by ravine that runs South/West of the barn towards our property.

We are wondering, that if a water well is used with water treatment, is there going to be a waste water plan?

Where is it going, ravine or lagoon?

*Property value, how is this barn going to effect us?
Since it will probably go down in value for us close neighbours.

We understand we live in a agricultural zone and we are all for progress and family farms,
but lets build this barn the best way possible for us neighbours and for future generations.

This barn is a pilot project, so there must be a possibility to look into more/better options for now,
but also for future barns to be build in Manitoba.

Harm Deenen
Marieke Deenen

(8)

To Whom it may concern,

We live under a mile from the proposed site of a hog barn to be located on SW13-14-21 WPM in the RM of Oakview. It is our understanding that there is now a pilot project that has changed the manure management rules making it easier (less costly) for the barns to be built. We are opposed to this barn for several reasons.

To start with since this is a pilot project we would expect that there would be increased measures to improve on some of the shortcomings found in the barns already in existence, but it does not seem that this is the case. For instance there is no mention of covers for the lagoons, or air scrubbers to reduce the odour. The only measure they say they will implement for odour control is planting a shelter belt, but it likely won't be mature enough to provide odour control until the life of the barn is nearly over.

One of our main concerns, as we have young children, is the potential for disease transmission both through the water and flies. Being that there is no liner proposed for the earthen lagoons the potential exists for pathogens in the manure to leach into the groundwater. Open lagoons will make the fly population multiply and in turn they will be spreading disease to neighbouring residences. Antibiotic resistant organisms are already plaguing our health care system, and MRSA is known to be in the swine population.

They consider the proposed site to be "a significant distance to neighbouring residences", what constitutes a significant distance?, because there are ten residences within a three kilometre radius of the proposed site. Within those residences there are eight children five years and under. Children that will be exposed to increased pathogens, ammonia and hydrogen sulfide just by playing outside. The safety of our children will always be our chief concern and we could see an increased amount of truck traffic on our road should this barn be built, trucks that will be flying past our house as our kids stand at the end of the lane waiting for the school bus or ride their bikes. What will the trucks travelling to and from this barn do to our infrastructure? We've heard rumour that the smell of a hog barn can lower a residential property value up to 20%, if that's the case the municipality could see less taxes collected from the neighbouring residences. That combined with the increase in funding that will need to be put into our roads, will this barn even bring in any revenue for the municipality?

This hog barn will use over seven million gallons of water annually, all to be drawn from the underground aquifer. There is no way to know how long this source of water will last, and there is already a hog barn in this area. What does the future of farming in the area look like if the aquifer dries up?

What about the increased phosphorus and nitrate levels that hog operations can produce, Lake Winnipeg has been affected by intensive livestock operations to the point that this pilot project will only allow for new barns to be built if they are west of the Red River. Are we going to allow our local water sheds to fall to the same fate?

Simple things like opening our windows and drying our clothes on the line could be in jeopardy,

costing us more money by increasing our use of our air conditioner and dryer. We do not want to tell people what they can or cannot do with their property or how to make their money, but we do feel that we should have a say when it will directly affect how we live our lives and the health of our family. We are asking our municipal councillors to consider the physical, emotional and financial wellbeing of all of the residents of the RM of Oakview. Do the residents of Oakview want more hog barns?, if everyone in the RM was asked to vote on whether or not they would want a hog barn within three kilometres of their house what would they say? If this barn is allowed to be built, how many more will follow?

Sarah Clark, Derek Caldwell and family
Residing on NW 18-14-20 WPM in the RM of Oakview

(9)

From Courtney and Jan Raupers

In response to the information in the Rivers Banner on July 15, 2016

on the proposal of Verbruggen Prairie Farms Ltd.

To establish a 6000 animal hog operation.

1. We are very concerned in regards to the smell that the hog operations will produce since our yard is located 8 miles north of the proposed building site.

Especially during summer we have slow moving winds directly from the south, that will result in us having to live with the strong odour pollution for weeks.

2. 7 miles south and 2 miles west of our yard is already an existing hog barn, also ran by Verbruggen Prairie Farms and sold to Westview Pork two years ago. This existing pig barn is taking up a big area of arable land to spread pig manure. Because of this the nutrient level provided by the pig manure is too high.

The location of the proposed pig barn is too close to the existing barn and will increase the nutrient level south of our farm, especially in lower areas to dangerous levels.

As a result of the conditions that a second hog barn would have on our area, the value of our quality of life and the value of our property will decrease.

Because of these reasons we are completely against the establishment of a hog operation.

Jan Raupers

Courtney Raupers

(10)

This letter is sent in response to your notice in the local paper, and your letter with the invitation to share our view concerning the proposed **Verbruggen Prairie Farms Ltd. (TRC-12-020)** Intensive Livestock Operation (ILO). We definitely appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns, as it was a great shock to learn about this proposal. You would expect a good neighbour would show respect and inform the closest neighbours about his plan to build another huge pig barn. It's telling that Mr. Verbruggen didn't feel the need to do just that! The history of the Dutchbarn/Verbruggen shows that he doesn't respect the neighbours concerns. The Dutchbarn created so many problems, and neighbours of the Dutchbarn had to sell and move out because of the tremendous stink! After they sold the Dutchbarn to the Hutterites Mr. Verbruggen bought another pig barn. And now he is upsetting, and disappointing the neighbourhood with this proposal to build a second huge pig barn very close to the Dutchbarn (now known as Westview pork).

We would like to express our greatest possible opposition to this proposal and like to share several concerns we have.

SMELL/AIR QUALITY – As you can see on the map there are many neighbours living in close proximity to this proposed ILO. We are fortunate to see many young families with small children building their home in this area. The proposal doesn't show ANY odour control at all, none for the barn and none for the lagoon! 600,000 cubic feet liquid manure, in an uncovered lagoon, and probably without a fence! A row of trees has most definitely very little effective in odour control! What about the pathogens, flies and pests?

WATER – The proposed lagoon is too close to wetland and a ravine. This ravine goes through our land/wetland. We are concerned how this will affect our shallow well down stream. We have good and clean water (also for drinking), and this well is our only water source!

The spread areas of this proposed ILO all drain down streams into Rivers Lake (Lake Wahtopanah). This lake is the water reservoir for the town of Rivers, and the lake is already overloaded with nutrients as it is! No doubt this will have a negative impact.

What about the proposed well? Is there any proof that a well is possible? What if not? This ILO will need 19.800 imperial gallons (90.013 litre) of water every day, 7 Million gallons annually! How will this impact all the neighbours' water table? Will Mr. Verbruggen be held accountable?

LAND USE & SPREAD FIELD – It is important to note that Mr. Verbruggen doesn't own all the spread land shown in this proposal. There is NO signed agreement for the land he doesn't own, (but wants to use as spread land) attached to the proposal of this ILO! We own land right across the proposed ILO, and land beside some of the spread fields. We will not give permission to cross our fields to get to his spread fields. And we will not give permission, or sign an agreement for manure on any of our property.

ROAD – Our municipal roads are in bad shape already. Especially in spring and after rain they get soft and are full of ruts and potholes. During spring road restriction the steady flow of trucks coming and going to this proposed ILO would take these gravel roads and it will definitely have a negative impact on the road quality! Will Mr. Verbruggen be accountable for the deterioration caused by the additional traffic? Or will it be up to the taxpayer to pay? Another great concern is the safety of the people, especially the children. It is well known that these trucks don't slow down.

PROPERTY VALUE - We are also concerned about the property values dropping. Who wants to buy a yard/house with TWO big, stinking ILO's as neighbours!

Looking at this proposal it seems we are going back 15 years! Nothing in this proposal proves to us that Mr. Verbruggen has any good will and is respecting his neighbours. It doesn't show any plans to spend some money and use up-to-date odour control. It makes us wonder if the proponent is aware what kind of impact he is causing with this proposed ILO. Is he concerned about the stress he's causing, again? Is he aware of the impact he's making on the environment? Is he aware of the impact he's making on the lives of all families having a cherished home in this area? Our beautiful Moline area is very well populated, and it is very unique with so many lakes, ponds and wetlands - and all the Wildlife we are blessed to have. It cannot handle a second huge pig barn.

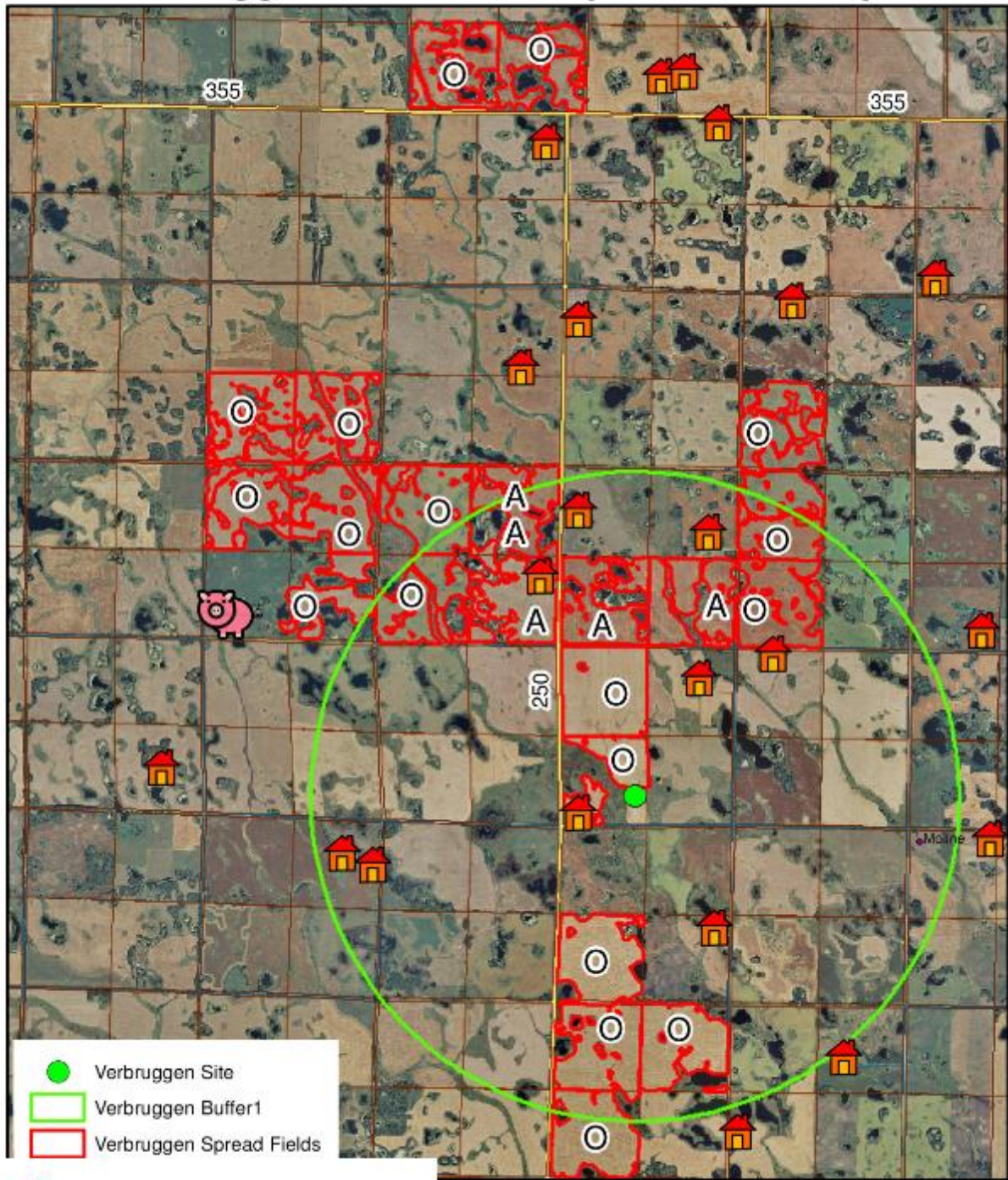
Thank you sincerely for giving us the opportunity to share our concerns.

Beat and Regine Gamper



SW 6-14-20

Attachment: 'Verbruggen Land Use & Spread Field Map' with the addition of occupied yard sites and Westview pork ILO

Verbruggen Land Use & Spread Field Map



-  Verbruggen Site
-  Verbruggen Buffer1
-  Verbruggen Spread Fields

-  people are living here
-  ILO (Dutchbarn, now Westview pork)



(11)

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August 15, 2016

Livestock Review Coordination Unit
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3G 0N4

RE: File No. TRC-12-020 Verbruggen Prairie Farms Ltd.

The Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District has reviewed the proposal (site assessment) for File No. TRC-12-020 Verbruggen Prairie Farms Ltd. within the context of the Little Saskatchewan River Integrated Watershed Management Plan. The Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District is not for or against any specific project. The integrated watershed management plan provides the direction from the residents, landowners, and stakeholders in our watershed.

The Little Saskatchewan River Integrated Watershed Management Plan contains a goal specific to drinking water and identified specific target areas including Lake Wahtopanah. The land involved in the project is located within the management and watershed zones for the Town of Rivers potable water utility. These zones encompass the drainage area upstream of Lake Wahtopanah, the source water for the Rivers utility. There is concern that water quality within Lake Wahtopanah may further deteriorate if the water flowing into the lake has increased nutrient levels. Past experience has shown that it is more economically feasible to protect the water source than to treat water at the tap.

Groundwater wells are present at individual yard sites on and adjacent to land involved in the project.

The Little Saskatchewan River Integrated Watershed Management Plan contains a goal specific to surface water quality. Lake Wahtopannah is identified as a target area for this goal. As a recreational destination for anglers and cottagers, deterioration of water quality in Lake Wahtopannah directly affects the local economy. This project is located in an area that drains into Lake Wahtopannah. There is concern that water quality within the lake may further deteriorate given the cumulative impacts of an existing hog operation combined with this proposed hog operation. The existing barn is also located within an area that drains into Lake Wahtopannah.

The LSRCD recommends the following to address these concerns.

- Applications to construct water control works on spread lands should not be considered. There should be no drainage allowed.
- Restore any drained wetlands

Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District

August 15, 2016

- Seal abandoned wells
- A vegetated buffer should be required on all water bodies including those that are classified as 'not major' and waterways that are smaller than Order 1. The buffer should extend a minimum of 3 metres from the edge of the existing feature's boundary.
- Recommend that the Province of Manitoba request the proponent to put a monitoring plan in place. The period of record for the monitoring plan needs to be longer than the time the business is in operation as cumulative effects may take years to be observable. The monitoring plan should include the following.
 - Groundwater monitoring of quantity and quality to protect landowners employing private groundwater wells as a potable water source
 - Surface water monitoring at mutually agreed upon locations downstream of the spread lands

The Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District recognizes that a shelterbelt will be established as an odour control measure.

Sincerely,



Ray Frey
Chairman

RF/cc