

Beau Richardson

PO Box 293 Elm Creek,

March 8, 2018

Technical Review Co-ordination Unit

Municipal Relations

604-800 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

RE: TRC-12-038

Dear Technical Review Co-ordination Unit:

We received a share your views in concern to the proposed modernization of a dairy operation reference TRC-12-038 in the mail and we would like to respond with our concerns.

One of our major concerns is in regards to the modernization, does this mean that the existing barn will be removed or used in order to handle more animal units. In the latter case, we are concerned. Right now as residents of the area, we have to be extremely careful driving at any intersection because most times the drivers do not even see us on the road. There have been numerous times that I have had the right of way but if I did not slam on my breaks, I would have been hit in the intersection. Just this fall I met a manure semi who would not slow down on a gravel road, causing me to pull off the road as far as I was able and come to a complete stop. They stayed in the middle of the road going so fast I could not see for dust and stones for a few seconds after it had past. Then only minutes later semi roll into the ditch.

If they are keeping the old building and eventually expanding their animal units, the roads will have heavy traffic on them making it unsafe and wrecked in both the spring and fall. Aside from the traffic, where would all their manure go? If there was another barn added, their land quantity is not any larger, so does that mean that even more manure would be spread all around our homes laying there untouched. When they are applying the fall manure it sits there from the day they spread until they work the fields in the spring; is not there a period as to how long it can sit before it must be worked in? Manure is being spread through natural waterways and drainage ditches. It says in the letter that the number of animal units are staying the same but I believe the ratio of dairy and beef manure output is different. Who's to say that all the animal units are staying status quo and not transferring into all dairy?

With the dairy farm modernizing, they will need to meet more needs, especially if their units are changing. This affects those who live in the area as far as acquiring land, land prices, and new and upcoming farmers. No one can compete with the two feuding dairy farmers who already reside in the area snatching up all the land.

To summarize our thoughts, we are concerned about this proposal because we are concerned about the safety of our roads and their condition, the manure issues, and the expansion.

Sincerely,

Beau Richardson

From: Bert van der Steen <bvdsteen@hotmail.com>
Sent: March-09-18 2:21 PM
To: +WPG139 - TRC (MR)
Subject: TRC-12-038

To the Technical Review Coordination Unit

I want to start off by saying that I am not against the business expansion/modernization that Halarda Farms is proposing. I am a close neighbour and the farm has been a land tenant of our family for many years. I have had recent conversations with the applicant and have been able to express my concerns to them in person. I would like to however have my concerns be voiced and considered to aid in the correct decision in this manner.

A large concern I have, as many area residents, is the manure created by the business and how it will be dealt with in the future. I would like to know if there is any further action that can be made to mitigate the odour when application is being made? Can there be shorter window for incorporation when it is doable? If not, can precautions be made with regards to weather forecast (ie. prevailing winds and warm weather spells) that will increase volatilization of the manure? Can tree lines be made around the manure storage to block some of the odor coming off the pits at mixing and application time?

Another impact I have seen in the past is the deterioration of the roads in the area during certain times of the year. From the large amount of truck and tractor traffic that need to be made to haul both feed into and by-products off the farm there is at times where the roads are in poor condition. Can the RM of Grey (if they support this proposal for modernization) be asked to increase road maintenance on these roads at these times and increase the amount of gravel that is being used on the road to provide a bigger base for the traffic to run on? Can dust prevention be implemented near yards or key intersections to bring down the dust and potentially keep roads in better conditions?

Lastly a large concern I have in this area is water runoff during spring thaws and large rainfall events, because as the manure/field activities/feed production continues or increases, I believe water runoff should always be considered and kept in check. The operation of Halarda Farms, as well as my own residence, are in an area that has a strong natural slope gradient and we are seeing more and more water runoff every year. In fact there is roughly 10 ft of slope per mile between my residence and that of Halarda farms and this has created chronic flooding issues in our area that many area residents believe need to be properly addressed. As operations get larger and ask for more productivity out of the land, the risk of water pollution and flooding increases. The water from the west side of this RM is coming at a faster pace each year and I would like to know if there is more consultation that can be given to this problem as it passes by this operation? Can drainage plans or licenses be properly implemented and considered as part of a long term plan for both upstream and downstream area?

I have always been hearing that we need to slow the water near my residence for the sake down stream water issues, but I don't clearly see that being a concern from where the water is coming from upstream as producers continue to get more productivity out of their land/operations. Large operations have been able to complete significant drainage to address their concerns but I think that has come at the expense of smaller operations down streams who are not able to for many reasons. Can the RM, water stewardship and the environmental agencies be asked to consider the water drainage issues around this operation's yard site and

its surrounding area, as well the land used for manure application and feed production, to improve the water movement to mitigate the current problems we have? Can a proper long term drainage plan be made that mitigates the risk of larger operations like this but also address those risks to residences in the immediate area?

As I said in the start of this letter, I am not against the business expansion or modernization that Halarda Farms is proposing. I do however have the above mentioned concerns that I would like to see considered and acted on if they are deemed necessary as part of this proposal.

Sincerely,
Bert van der Steen.