

To: Livestock Technical Review Committee
Re: Public Response – Lifewind Farm expansion, R.M. of Rockwood
August 15, 2018

I would like to acknowledge and thank area residents for their letters of support and also the concerns raised regarding our proposed Lifewind Farm expansion project in the RM of Rockwood. We want to assure them that we respect their opinions. I would also like to respond to their concerns. As many of the comments raised common themes this is a response to all the concerns expressed.

To provide some background Lifewind Farm has existed since 1951 and been in our family at our present site since 1986 - for 42 years. During that time we have had no complaints regarding the operation of the farm and anticipate that the impact on the surrounding area will not substantially change with the proposed increase in herd size at our farm. We believe we are good stewards of the land.

Provincial Government requirements for new and expanding farms

Environmental issues that were raised are addressed in detail through a very rigorous approval process in Manitoba. Manitoba livestock producers are required to go through a provincial government approval process for developing or expanding operations. The process includes the preparation of a detailed site assessment, public review and a municipal conditional use hearing prior to receiving a permit to construct the facility. All aspects of the site assessment proposal including municipal siting requirements, manure management and potential environmental impacts are reviewed by the Provincial Government Technical Review Committee.

Manure Storage and application

In conjunction with an existing earthen manure storage (EMS) a new EMS is proposed to store liquid manure generated by the dairy operation

Earthen manure storages have been regulated by the Province of Manitoba since 1995. A permit to construct an EMS requires a detailed geotechnical assessment of soils; a design prepared by a professional engineer; review of the design and all relevant information by Manitoba Sustainable Development prior to issuing the permit; site supervision of the construction by the responsible engineer; and finally certification of the storage by the engineer when the work is completed.

Since this program originated, the Province annually conducts audits of manure storages. Any storages found to have experienced damage or deterioration are required to implement remedial repairs to ensure environmental safety. To date, no permitted storage in Manitoba has experienced an incident that has resulted in any significant environmental impact.

The above process is required for all manure storages constructed in Manitoba. Since the legislation was enacted in 1995 many hundreds of hog, poultry and dairy storages have been constructed. This is among the strongest legislation in Canada.

Manure application will be in accordance with a government approved annual manure management plan. All manure application will be applied at an agronomic rate and in locations that meet the

requirements of the Livestock Manure & Mortalities Regulation. Manure fertilizer application will also be GIS mapped and supervised by a professional agronomist.

Water Quality

Surface and groundwater protection is provided through environmental regulations and through monitoring and enforcement. Manure storages must be designed by a professional engineer and approved by Manitoba Sustainable Development.

Manure application is controlled by requiring manure management plans and soil, manure and source water testing. If an operation is over 300 animal units a manure management plan must be filed annually and approved by Manitoba Sustainable Development prior to manure application. Lifewind Farm will have sufficient land (acres) to inject/spread the manure for the proposed expansion. Solid manure generated by this facility will be stored on site and applied to the land during the spring/fall. All fields used for solid manure application will be part of the manure management plan.

The management of potential release and drainage of nutrients can be accomplished in several ways with best management practices for manure application.

- Ensuring crop rotation matches nutrient application (aggressive, high nutrient usage and deep-rooted crops following manure application)
- Nutrient application rates that are targeted for specific crops (rate of applied manure nutrients to match crop uptake requirements)
- Timing of nutrient application (best season) that meets highest or peak nutrient demand in crop utilization.
- Using good manure application technology with appropriate rate and placement of the nutrients.
- Implementation of annual 0"-24" soil testing to monitor residual nutrient levels
- Rotation of manure application fields.

Odours

Concerns were expressed about odours. Nearby residents should not experience any increase in odours with the expansion. By today's standards ours will not be a large farm and we will continue to use good farming practices as we have in the past 42 years of operation at this site. The expansion should have no impact on current or future residential property values.

As in the past, Lifewind Farm is committed to sustainable farming practices.

Sincerely

Chris and Monika Roulin

Lifewind Farm