

Department of Environmental Quality Approves Permit for Riverview Farms in Abercrombie

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ), based on careful consideration of public comments and a comprehensive application review, is issuing a state animal feeding Operation permit to Riverview ND LLP, for Abercrombie Dairy, a large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation proposed in Richland County.

The NDDEQ has reviewed and responded to all public comments, and those responses are now available at https://deq.nd.gov/WQ/2_NDPDES_Permits/, alongside a detailed information package. This package includes a fact sheet outlining key permit features such the inclusion of a clay liner for manure storage areas.

In response to public feedback, the NDDEQ reevaluated the permit application, particularly the facility's proximity to a proposed well-head protection area. As a result, the permit was updated to include new groundwater monitoring requirements. These monitoring wells will provide additional protections to ensure groundwater resources are safeguarded.

Riverview identified sufficient cropland acreage to apply the manure produced as fertilizer, aligning with North Dakota nutrient management requirements. However, based on public concerns, the NDDEQ revisited the 100-year floodplain analysis. As a precautionary measure, three fields in the floodplain were removed, while maintaining the required minimum acres for the nutrient management plan.

While many issues raised during the public comment period were addressed, it is important to note that certain concerns, such as the facility's water source and the operation's location, fall outside the NDDEQ's jurisdiction and are not subject to review under the permit process.

The NDDEQ remains committed to ensuring the protection of the environment and public health. During the construction phase, staff will conduct regular facility inspections to ensure full compliance with all permit conditions. Once the operation begins, inspections will occur at least annually to verify continued adherence to permit requirements.

"We greatly appreciate the feedback provided by the public and the care taken to submit thoughtful comments," said Marty Haroldson, Permits Program Manager. "We also acknowledge the flexibility of Riverview in addressing these concerns and incorporating adjustments to the permit. This collaborative approach helps ensure environmental and public health protections are robust and effective."

For more information on the permit, public comments, and NDDEQ responses, please visit https://deq.nd.gov/WQ/2_NDPDES_Permits/.

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