

NEWS | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | July 17, 2026

Department of Environmental Quality Approves Permit for Dakota SAO II, LLP, near Wolford

BISMARCK, N.D. – Following a comprehensive application review and careful consideration of public comments, the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) is reissuing a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation permit to Dakota SAO II, LLP, for Hexagon II, a proposed large swine operation near Wolford in Pierce County.

The NDDEQ reviewed and responded to all comments received during the public comment period. The responses and a detailed information package, including a fact sheet outlining key permit requirements, are available at [deq.nd.gov/WQ/2_NDPDES_Permits/].

Dakota SAO II identified sufficient cropland for applying manure as fertilizer in accordance with North Dakota nutrient management requirements. In response to public comments, the NDDEQ reevaluated the setback analysis. As an additional precaution, fields near Hurricane Lake were removed from the nutrient management plan and additional setbacks were established while maintaining the acreage required under the plan.

Some concerns raised during the public comment period, including the facility's water source and location, fall outside the NDDEQ's permitting authority and therefore are not addressed through this permit.

NDDEQ staff will regularly inspect the facility during construction to verify compliance with permit conditions. Once the facility begins operating, inspections will occur at least annually.

"We appreciate the public comments received during this process," said Marty Haroldson, Division of Water Quality Director. "Following a thorough review, Dakota SAO II addressed concerns raised and made adjustments that strengthened protections for public health and the environment."

For more information about the permit, public comments and NDDEQ responses, visit [deq.nd.gov/WQ/2_NDPDES_Permits/].

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