

Dare Farms LLP

Property Identification Number

09-08-13-100-001

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FEB 13 2020

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

This correspondence is in reference to our request to petition with the Board to contest the recommendation by the Illinois EPA to deny tax certification on a portion of our cattle facilities.

In this correspondence I will try to explain why we feel these facilities are critical to our success in complying with the EPA in regards to not polluting area waters.

As stated in section 501.315 of the environmental protection rules and regulations, manure storage is any permanent area which is impermeable and is used for stacking, storing or containment of livestock waste.

Dare Farms wishes to contest the agency's recommendation to deny a tax certificate for the following facilities.

- 1) The 80x150 covered feed storage building was built at the request of the Illinois EPA for the purpose of controlling the potential contamination of surface and ground water. Ethanol by-products and corn silage are stored and contained in this building. If feed is not covered and stored on concrete, rain water leaches through the feed and runs out of it, then runs into the nearby surface waters. Feed has to be stored on the farm for future use. This building prevents polluted water from running into the surface waters on the farm. In 2019 this building diverted 366,000 gallons of rain water that remained clean, from being contaminated and running off the farm.

- 2) The 50x96 solid bedding pack building stores manure under roof with concrete walls on the back side as well as two ends, and concrete floor. Feed bunks provide manure containment on the front of this building. Currently 300 tons of manure is being stored in this building, waiting for field application in the spring. This building diverted 146,000 gallons of clean rain water in 2019.
- 3) The 30x72 cattle building has a concrete floor and curb. Solid manure can be stored in it and in 2019 it diverted 66,000 gallons of clean rain water.
- 4) The 33x108 cattle building has a concrete floor. Solid manure can be stored in it and in 2019 it diverted 109,000 gallons of clean rain water.
- 5) The 100x200 solid bedding pack building contains manure storage areas within the building. The curbing has been approved, but without the roof over 600,000 gallons of contaminated water would have been washed into nearby creeks and streams. The roof prevented this runoff from occurring. As much as 600 tons of manure has been stored in this building awaiting proper field application.

2019 was an extremely wet year. In total our farm received 48.3 inches of rain. That is an abundant amount but that's what Mother Nature provided. These buildings provide an incredible amount of protection from the huge amount of contamination that would be present without them.

In the filing we received, the reference materials discussed how the facilities were being used for feeding, keeping animals clean, shelter, bedding reduction, and not pollution control. We fully recognize and agree with the benefits economically and in terms of animal husbandry, however to say these

facilities are not for pollution control is not at all accurate. As discussed in the proceeding paragraphs, this past year the buildings in question kept approximately 1,287,000 gallons of water from coming in contact with manure. Again we recognize these buildings are great for the cattle, but they are doing an excellent job of keeping literally tons of water clean.

In reference to the covered feed area. In 2011 Illinois EPA discussed with us the need to immediately begin to cover our feed supply. At first we used tarps and tire sidewalls in a terrible attempt to comply. After failed efforts and further water pollution we decided to build the 80x150 foot roof that now covers our feed storage area. This roof was constructed exclusively to prevent water pollution from all the rain leaching through the stored feed. Again last year this roof kept 366,000 gallons of water clean.

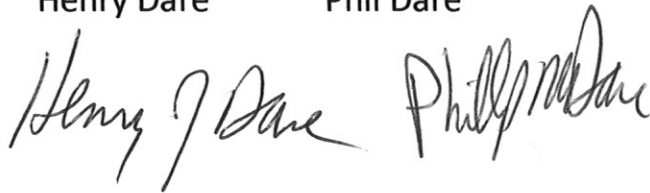
We hope this will provide more insight to the extreme usefulness of these structures to contain and control livestock waste and pollution on our farm.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. We feel these structures are critically important to our pollution control and we sincerely hope you do also.

Dare Farms LLP

Henry Dare

Phil Dare

Handwritten signatures of Henry J. Dare and Phil Dare. The signature for Henry J. Dare is written in cursive and is positioned to the left of the signature for Phil Dare, which is also in cursive.

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