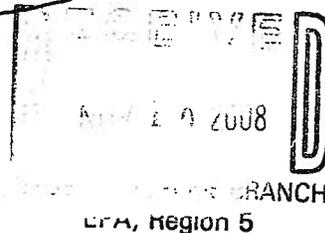




OHIO COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

P.O. Box 3160
Kent, OH 44240
330/673-1193



November 5, 2008

Mr. Matthew Gluckman
USEPA Region 5, NPDES Programs Branch, WN-16J
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman:

Regarding USEPA's Federal Register notice of the proposed approval and hearing on November 18, 2008 for Ohio's application to administer the NPDES program for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), the Ohio Coastal Resource Management Project urgently requests that USEPA Region 5 extend the public comment period for 60 to 90 days beyond the stated December 16, 2008 date, for the following reasons:

---Citizens will need more time to review the more than 1000 pages on EPA's website, in order to present comments pertinent to the issues.

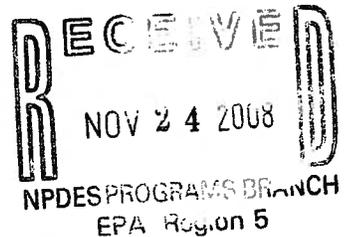
---Since EPA has revised portions of the NPDES permitting requirements and Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for CAFOs, in response to the order issued by the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals (according to the Federal Register), Ohio may need to further revise its NPDES program to implement these federal revisions. It would therefore simplify this entire process to delay final action on Ohio's application until at least February 27, 2009.

OCRMP also strongly recommends that a second public hearing be held in Lima or Bowling Green, where there actually are CAFOs. This will facilitate input from stakeholders and people who have first-hand knowledge of CAFO issues.

Your cooperation would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Edith Chase
President



November 19, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago IL 60604

**RE: [FRL-8728-5]
State Program Requirements; Application To Administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs); Ohio**

Extension of Comment Period

Additional Public Hearing

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

United Producers, Inc. sincerely appreciates U. S. EPA Region 5 completing its review of the state of Ohio's application to revise its NPDES program to allow the Ohio Department of Agriculture to administer parts of the program pertaining to concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and storm water associated with construction activity at animal feeding operations (AFOs) in Ohio.

In its public notice printed in the Federal Register on October 15, 2008, U. S. EPA announced that the comment period for this proposal for which it is seeking public comment would close on December 16, 2008, and that one public hearing would be held for the purpose of receiving public comment.

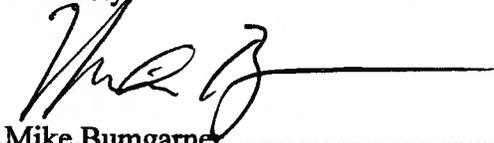
Given that this action has been on-going for a number of years, we believe that the originally announced 60-day comment period is more than sufficient for this process. We also wish to bring to your attention that several additional opportunities have been afforded to the public regarding this process, which include but are not limited to the Department of Agriculture's CAFF advisory committee meetings where proposed rules pertaining to the proposed transfer of delegation authority have been thoroughly discussed for the past several years, but also public hearings where all stakeholders have been provided with the opportunity to comment on rules proposed by the Department of Agriculture pertaining to this respective proposal.

Furthermore, we believe one public hearing, as was held in centrally-located Columbus, Ohio, on the evening of November 18th, is sufficient for this process. Those who wish to comment on the proposal but for some reason were unable to attend the November 18th public hearing can still file comments regarding the proposed transfer of NPDES authority from Ohio EPA to the Ohio Department of

Agriculture with US EPA in writing by December 16th, so an additional public hearing is not necessary. Upon reviewing the sign-in sheet from the November 18th public hearing, you will also learn that it was attended by citizens from all regions of the state, including farmers from as far away as northwest Ohio's Williams County. Please consider this is an issue that affects the entire state of Ohio, not just one particular area or region. There are nearly 170 livestock farms in Ohio that have state permits with the Department of Agriculture, and almost every region of the state has at least one permitted livestock farm. As far as we're concerned, if an additional public hearing is held, it should not result in the public comment period being extended, and it should be held in the west central area (Celina, Greenville, Wapakoneta or Sidney) of Ohio where an overwhelming majority of the state's permitted livestock farms are located.

We thank you for positively considering our input regarding this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bumgarner", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Bumgarner
VP – Marketing Services

COMMISSIONERS
John E. Love
Robert A. Riepenhoff
Vincent T. Schroeder

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF PUTNAM COUNTY**

245 E. MAIN STREET, SUITE 101
OTTAWA, OHIO 45875-1968
419/523-3656
FAX: 419/523-9213

PROJECTS DIRECTOR
Jessica L. Trinko
putcojtrinko@bright.net
CLERK/ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK
Betty I. Schroeder
GRANTS/WAGE COORDINATOR
Lisa A. Greear

October 31, 2008

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman:

We are writing this in response to your request for comment on the issue of giving Ohio Department of Agriculture the regulatory responsibility for C.A.F.O.'s. We have been hearing about this issue for months. Please get this done since by now you certainly have had enough time. Ohio Department of Agriculture has the technical and regulatory ability to do an excellent job of permitting and regulating C.A.F.O.'s.

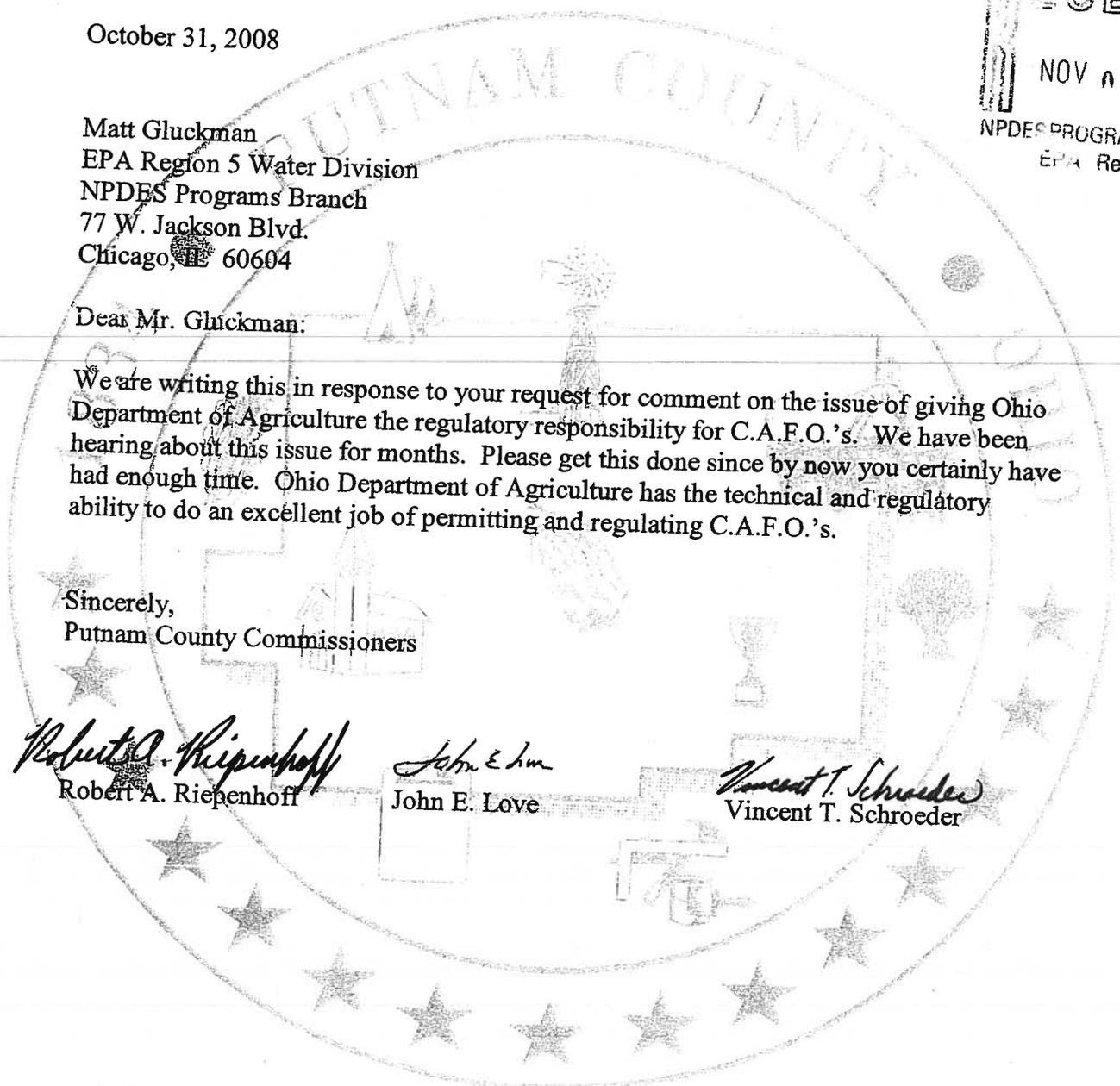
Sincerely,
Putnam County Commissioners

Robert A. Riepenhoff
Robert A. Riepenhoff

John E. Love
John E. Love

Vincent T. Schroeder
Vincent T. Schroeder

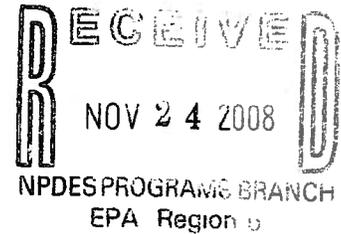
RECEIVED
NOV 14 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANC
EPA Region 5



United
Producers, Inc.

November 18, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago IL 60604



**RE: [FRL-8728-5]
State Program Requirements; Application To Administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs); Ohio**

Mr. Gluckman,

United Producers, Inc. appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed transfer of control of the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). United Producers, Inc. is a regional livestock marketing cooperative that represents more than 16,000 Ohio livestock producers. Our producers pride themselves in being stewards of our land and water resources. They work hard to be excellent environmentalists. To remain viable in animal agriculture production they must take excellent care of their environmental resources and pride themselves on this.

United Producers, Inc. does stay active and abreast of the happenings going on at ODA as they relate to permitted livestock facilities. We work with both permitted and non permitted farms throughout Ohio to promote good environmental stewardship. We have been impressed with ODA's activities since they have taken over the Livestock Environmental Permitting Program (LEPP). ODA positively works with farms as they apply for both permits to install and permits to operate to ensure that the farm is conducting itself in the best interest of the environment, the neighbors and the livestock industry as a whole.

For these reasons, United Producers, Inc. recommends Ohio EPA transfer the NPDES program for concentrated animal feeding operations to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Since the current LEPP is housed at ODA it seems a natural fit for the NPDES program to reside there also. This will make it easier for ODA to work with the livestock farmers in Ohio as they go through the permitting process.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed transfer of control of the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) to the Ohio

Department of Agriculture (ODA). If you have additional questions or concerns regarding these comments please feel free to contact me at (614) 433-2178.

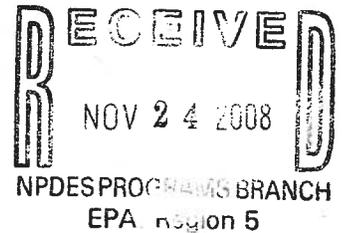
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bumgarner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Bumgarner
VP – Marketing Services



Forging a partnership between farmers and consumers
• Working together for Ohio's farmers •



November 19, 2008

Mr. Matthew Gluckman
US EPA Region 5
NPDES Programs Branch
WN-16J
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604

RE: [FRL-8728-5]
State Program Requirements; Application To Administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs); Ohio

Extension of Comment Period

Additional Public Hearing

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, the state of Ohio's largest general farm organization with more than 234,000 members, sincerely appreciates U. S. EPA Region 5 completing its review of the state of Ohio's application to revise its NPDES program to allow the Ohio Department of Agriculture to administer parts of the program pertaining to concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and storm water associated with construction activity at animal feeding operations (AFOs) in Ohio.

In its public notice printed in the Federal Register on October 15, 2008, U. S. EPA announced that the comment period for this proposal for which it is seeking public comment would close on December 16, 2008, and that one public hearing would be held for the purpose of receiving public comment.

Given that this action has been on-going for a number of years, we believe that the originally announced 60-day comment period is more than sufficient for this process. We also wish to bring to your attention that several additional opportunities have been afforded to the public regarding this process, which include but are not limited to the Department of Agriculture's CAFF advisory committee meetings where proposed rules pertaining to the proposed transfer of delegation authority have been thoroughly discussed for the past several years, but also public

hearings where all stakeholders have been provided with the opportunity to comment on rules proposed by the Department of Agriculture pertaining to this respective proposal.

Furthermore, we believe one public hearing, as was held in centrally-located Columbus, Ohio, on the evening of November 18th, is sufficient for this process. Those who wish to comment on the proposal but for some reason were unable to attend the November 18th public hearing can still file comments regarding the proposed transfer of NPDES authority from Ohio EPA to the Ohio Department of Agriculture with US EPA in writing by December 16th, so an additional public hearing is not necessary.

Upon reviewing the sign-in sheet from the November 18th public hearing, you will also learn that it was attended by citizens from all regions of the state, including farmers from as far away as northwest Ohio's Williams County. Please consider this is an issue that affects the entire state of Ohio, not just one particular area or region. There are nearly 170 livestock farms in Ohio that have state permits with the Department of Agriculture, and almost every region of the state has at least one permitted livestock farm. As far as we're concerned, if an additional public hearing is held, it should not result in the public comment period being extended, and it should be held in the west central area (Celina, Greenville, Wapakoneta or Sidney) of Ohio where an overwhelming majority of the state's permitted livestock farms are located.

We thank you for positively considering our input regarding this very important matter.

Sincerely,



John C. Fisher

Executive Vice-President

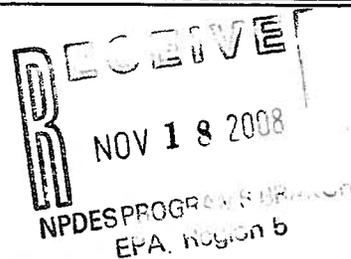
5930 Sharon Woods Blvd.
Suite 101
Columbus, OH 43229-2666



Phone: 614.882.5887
Fax: 614.882.6077
www.ohiopork.org

November 14, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
EPS Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604



RE: [FRL-8728-5]
State Program Requirements: Application To Administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs); Ohio

Mr. Gluckman,

The Ohio Pork Producers Council (OPPC) is very interested in the proposed transfer of control of the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program for concentrate animal feeding operations (CAFOs) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). OPPC is a statewide organization representing 3,900 pork producers in Ohio that work together for the pork industry.

OPPC has worked with ODA on environmental rules and regulation. OPPC representatives attend the Concentrated Animal Feeding Facility (CAFF) meetings to stay active in the process at ODA as it relates to the permitted livestock facilities. ODA works positively with farms as they apply for both permits to install and permits to operate to ensure that the farm is conducted in the best interest of the environment, the neighbors and the livestock industry as a whole.

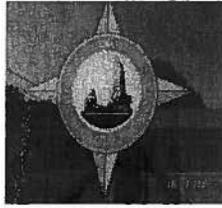
OPPC strongly recommends Ohio EPA transfer the NPDES program for concentrate animal feeding operations to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Since the current LEPP is housed at ODA it seems a natural fit for the NPDES program to reside there also. This will make it easier for ODA to work with the livestock farmers in Ohio as they go through the permitting process.

OPPC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed transfer of the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). For additional questions or concerns regarding these comments please feel free to contact me at 614-882-5887 or disler@ohiopork.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Isler".

Dick Isler
Executive Vice President



Village of Cygnet
P.O. Box 190
Cygnet, OH 43413
419-655-2715



Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman:

**EPA Accepting Public Comments for Public Hearing
On the Ohio Department of Agriculture Clean-Water Program for
Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation**

Nancy Myers, Mayor, Village of Cygnet (Wood County)
PO Box 190, Cygnet, OH 43413

As Mayor of the Village of Cygnet, I would like to voice our community's grave concern of giving transfer control of the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program for concentrated animal feeding operations from the Ohio EPA to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The Village of Cygnet (Wood County) is a perfect example of why the **power should not be** in the hands of the **Department of Agriculture** for feeding operations. The Department of Agriculture gives public hearings on each farm where your concerns are voiced. Many of those opposing these farms felt their comments were totally ignored. They were sent a packet of information for both the Green and Naomi Farms. After reviewing these documents, we found the items to be almost identical even though the farms had entirely different issues. If this is the case, why would they grant a permit for farms to operate that could completely destroy a village that has been in operation for over 100 years without even a heartbeat.

A sterling example is the proposed farm approved as Naomi Dairy (located on Solether Road between Jerry City and Bays Roads). The huge lagoon would be located on Jerry City Road which is one mile from the Village of Cygnet's water wells. This is Cygnet's only water source for our village. From all articles read on concentrated farms, it shows a

tremendous amount of water needed to run one farm. The farm would be using well water one mile from Cygnet's wells. Being this close in proximity, you can almost guarantee they will run the village well's dry or contaminate our water with their waste being applied to farm fields in our water protection area.

Why did the Department of Agriculture not require they connect to the Northwest Sewer and Water District for their water and sewage supply. This would give them the water they need and not compromise Cygnet's water supply. The manure waste would go through the sewer system that should be powerful enough to treat before reaching our water ways and polluting our water sources.

Cygnet more than likely will have their water wells drained or contaminated and the response we receive from Ohio Department of Agriculture from an open hearing report was we could file a civil suit in court to see if we could collect damages. How fair is this to people that founded this village and paid taxes all these years when you allow someone without citizenship to set up shop and provide them with all our tax dollars. Cygnet has a huge debt on our sewage and water systems that meets the state's requirements. **Why** were these farms given permission to operate any different than those required by our village or families living in the country. It appears they have excessive money to make it possible by not following the same rules as an entire village has to comply. Cygnet has approximately 600 people and cannot afford more debt to correct an injustice by the State Department of Agriculture's failure to address our concerns. If Cygnet runs dry or becomes contaminated, the Village will be required to take legal action against the farm as well as the State Department of Agriculture to recoup our losses and damage to homes in our village and residents. This will be a long drawn out time consuming case that will cost everyone hardships and a boatload of money that could have been solved with one denial. **Simply declare this farm's location has too many issues and concerns for human life and welfare and disapprove the permit.**

Other issues with this farm overlooked by Department of Agriculture was uncapped oil wells in this location. The dairy is in a flood plain where the creek has flooded four times since June of 2006. The creek flooded into the village. At the other end of town, water flows from a ditch which lies beside the farm and when heavy rains occur it dispenses water into yards where children play and live. This is the area our water wells are also located. The farm lagoon has a fault line running through the middle. The farms are required to have their lagoons going one way but since they did not have enough room they were allowed to run it the opposite way. The Village was informed that this farm has plans to place manure spreading in our water protection area. Neighbors will have decreased property values and quality of life will never again be normal.

To add more insult to our village, the original owner of the farm (Naomi) where the permit was approved decided to drop the farm and sold some of his land to Dekker. When this went to the Dept. of Agriculture, they approved the original permit even though the original number of acres were not sold with this land deal and it should have been. After hearings they were still granted a permit to proceed. From what I learned from realty transfer in the newspaper yet another party has become involved in buying

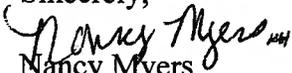
more acreage. **How can all these rules be broken and a permit still be allowed? Are you still not convinced powers should be placed in the EPA's hand to see that people's lives are not compromised?**

I must bring to your attention rules are in place to protect everyone's rights. Why are these rights being ignored over and over again? The Department of Agriculture chooses not to answer any responses to their office. They just simply ignore letters and never respond? Why in the world would the state even consider making them the authority over these farms. It is quite obvious from where our village is concerned, they do not care about who is hurt in these ventures. **Who in the world is going to put a stop to this injustice.**

The control must be left in the hands of the Ohio and County EPA Offices. They have established procedures and checks to test the land and water and address issues that can wipe out life. If you put control of these farms in the hands of the State Department of Agriculture, it will cost millions of dollars to clean up their mess. Ohio cannot afford this injustice and mistreatment of human life with all the other crisis that faces our state! Do your job now and stop this authority from going to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. They have shown our small village that due to all the above concerns they simply do not care about human life!

Over the past several years corruption in our state has risen and the influx of mega dairies are being allowed to turn Wood County into a wasteland. At an open hearing in Wood County visitors were given ample opportunity to voice their concerns. Three public speakers voiced grave concern for these farms: Ms. Anne Graves, a microbiologist from Bowling Green; Dr. Ted Bowlus, a physician who serves as president-elect of the Wood County Board of Health; and Howard Oestreich, farmer of Wayne. Dr. Graves stated the digesters are a middle road—better than nothing. She went on to state no one seems willing to take responsibility for the proliferation of the large-scale dairy farms and the problems they cause to communities. She point blanked asked “who is responsible? Where does the buck stop? Sadly, as in all meetings no one could answer or if they knew the answer avoided the question. Dr. Bowlus gave the strongest argument and expressed grave concerns about public health risks associated with manure stored in giant lagoons and with pathogens like E. coli that may not be broken down in a digester. It's going to cause Wood County to be a wasteland. And last Mr. Oestreich hit the nail on the head in asking why don't they have to tie into the county water system and pay for the water like other businesses and why not be tied into the county sewer system to have this manure treated. It simply does not make sense that someone living in the country in Wood County has to install an elaborate septic system beyond normal expenses and a huge mega dairy gets away with spreading this manure on everyone's land and exposing us to disease.

Sincerely,


Nancy Myers

Mayor, Village of Cygnet

RECEIVED
NOV 19 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS
EPA, Region 5

Dear Director Gluckman,

I was born and raised in Ohio and I am asking you to help our quality of life. We have a duty as citizens to protect the environment, not only for ourselves, for future generations as well. Please do not relinquish the control of the NPDES program for CAFOs to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The EPA is an agency that the citizens can depend on to protect them, the same cannot be said of the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has shown to be pro CAFO despite the overwhelming evidence of the negative effects they have on health and land. These effects have been studied by agencies such as: the CDC (Center for Disease Control), the GAO (Government Accounting Office), University of North Carolina Medical School, The University of Iowa Medical School and John Hopkins School Of Public Health. The Pew Charitable Trust funded a commission to look into CAFOs and in their 2008 report they confirmed: "The current industrial farm animal production system often poses unacceptable risks to public health, the environment and the welfare of the animals... the negative effects of the system are too great and the scientific evidence is too strong to ignore. Significant changes must be implemented and must start now."

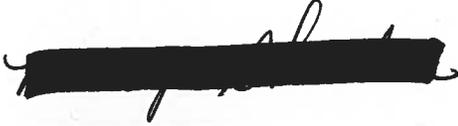
I know that living around or near a family farm is quite different than one that houses hundreds, if not thousands of animals that never get out to see the light of day. That is not farming, that is industry. These industries contaminate the land, air, food sources, water and those living near them experience quite a few health problems. These facts are documented.

The ODA has shown total disregard for residents best interests as they consistently impose CAFOs in areas where they are not wanted. The Ohio Department of Agriculture seems more interested in the CAFO operators and owners than to the citizens they are supposed to represent.

So, I am asking you to please take action to protect Ohio's citizens. Please do not let control of the NPDES program for CAFOs be transferred from the Ohio EPA to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Protect those of us that depend on you and look to you to protect our air, water, land, our general quality of life.

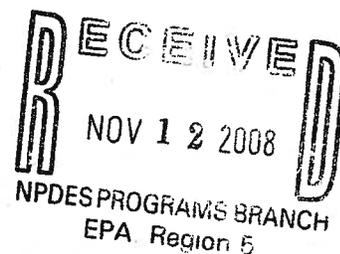
Thank you for the time you took to read my concerns. I look forward to hearing from you on how you plan to continue to protect the present and future citizens of Ohio.

Respectfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area. The word "Adams" is faintly visible through the redaction.A black rectangular redaction box covers the address area.

Ada, Ohio 45810

November 6, 2008



Dear Mr. Gluckman,

As a citizen of the state of Ohio I implore you to please help protect our quality of life in this fair state. To protect it not only for the present citizens, but also for the future citizens of our state, our children. Please do not let the control of the NPDES program for CAFOs be transferred from the Ohio EPA to the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

CAFOs are devastating the quality of life and rights to property for rural residents of the state of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Agriculture has shown itself to be pro CAFO at the expense of the local citizen's quality of life.

The negative effects of such operations, such as the contamination of air, water, soil, and foods with toxic chemicals, infectious diseases, antibiotic resistant bacteria, and E. coli 0157:h7 are well documented by such agencies as the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Government Accounting Office (GAO), University of North Carolina Medical School, The University of Iowa Medical School, and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, to list but a few. A prestigious commission funded by the Pew Charitable Trust concluded in their 2008 report, "The current industrial farm animal production system often poses unacceptable risks to public health, the environment and the welfare of the animals.... the negative effects of the system are too great and the scientific evidence is too strong to ignore. Significant changes must be implemented and must start now."

Living in the vicinity of an appropriately sized family farm is quite different than living near a CAFO with hundreds or thousands of animals. The odor, as well as the negative impact on rural quality of life, enjoyment of real property, rural economies, rural infrastructures, and appropriately sized family farms, is well documented.

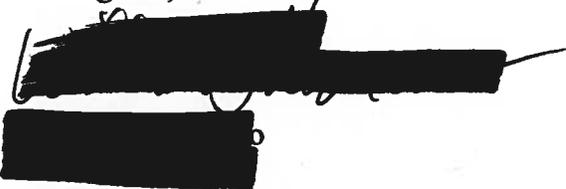
The Ohio Department of Agriculture has shown from its past actions that it does not have the best interests of the local rural citizens in mind when it has consistently imposed CAFOs in areas where the residents have shown themselves to not want them. The Ohio Department of Agriculture appears to prefer the interests of the CAFO operators and the industrial nature of these operations, to the well being of the citizens of Ohio.

Please take immediate action to protect the health and welfare of the present and future citizens of Ohio. Please do not let the control of the NPDES program for CAFOs be transferred from the Ohio EPA to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Please protect our rural communities. Protect Ohio's family farmers, their farmland, and the water and air quality of the state of Ohio.

What will you do to protect the present and future citizens of this fair state? What will you do to protect the children and future children of this state? What will you do to protect my children? Your prompt attention, concern, and action, will be greatly appreciated by citizens of Ohio and their children's children.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you about what actions you will implement for the protection of our children's future.

Best regards,

A large black rectangular redaction covers the signature and name of the sender. The redaction is composed of two overlapping horizontal bars.

Ada, OH 45810

Clifford Smith, Ph.D.
5615 Starr Avenue
Oregon, OH 43616
419-693-3939

November 23, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
EPA Region V
Water Division (WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Transfer of CAFO NPDES permitting from OEPA to ODA

Dear Mr. Gluckman:

I would not like to be in your shoes. This is a decision between the lesser of two BIG evils!

Over the years the OEPA has done little to protect the citizens of Ohio from toxins of any kind. This has also been evident in their "we really don't care attitude" about the CAFOs. On the other hand almost everyone in Ohio knows that the ODA is "in the pocket" of big agriculture.

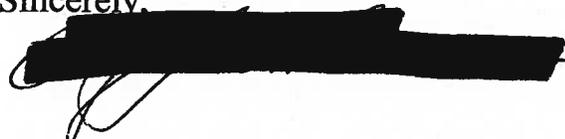
I guess if it were my choice I'd keep with the OEPA as they don't have a direct vested interest in seeing the growth of polluting megafarms in Ohio.

If we must have these terrible megafarms in Ohio I don't see why the State leadership does not push for extensive waste digesting systems like is being done in Vermont by Vermont Power.

Good luck with your decision but I hope it is with OEPA and that for the protection of the citizens of Ohio you encourage them to seriously tighten up their enforcement of the megafarms.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



---The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way in which its animals are treated. Mohandas Gandhi---

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protect[ing] the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship." The ODA has as its primary mission to help the Agriculture Industry and has not directive to protect the environment. Giving them oversight into the Clean Water Act through movement of permitting and oversight is in direct contrast to their directive of protection and promotion of the Ag industry here in Ohio.

I do not believe that the ODA should have environmental regulatory oversight of CAFOS, particularly when it comes to protecting our waterways. I do not believe that granting water permitting of CAFOs to ODA oversight will provide the appropriate level of scrutiny or protection of our waters. The Ohio EPA is an independent source of oversight that is sorely needed. My reasons include:

- ODA has little experience in managing water quality,
- With the brokerage of manure, there is little ability to go back to the CAFOs when there is a spill,
- Where will the additional funding come from for the ODA to manage this process?
- Once you move NPDES permits to ODA, what industry will next want to manage their permitting processes from the EPA to their organization?

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources, and I believe that agency is the EPA.

Sincerely,


Hilliard, OH 43026

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604

RECEIVED
DEC 02 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA Region 5

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protect[ing] the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship." The ODA has as its primary mission to help the Agriculture Industry and has not directive to protect the environment. Giving them oversight into the Clean Water Act through movement of permitting and oversight is in direct contrast to their directive of protection and promotion of the Ag industry here in Ohio.

I do not believe that the ODA should have environmental regulatory oversight of CAFOs, particularly when it comes to protecting our waterways. I do not believe that granting water permitting of CAFOs to ODA oversight will provide the appropriate level of scrutiny or protection of our waters. The Ohio EPA is an independent source of oversight that is sorely needed. My reasons include:

- ODA has little experience in managing water quality,
- With the brokerage of manure, there is little ability to go back to the CAFOs when there is a spill,
- Where will the additional funding come from for the ODA to manage this process?
- Once you move NPDES permits to ODA, what industry will next want to manage their permitting processes from the EPA to their organization?

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources, and I believe that agency is the EPA.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

London, OH 43140

*Thank you
for listening to
our concerns in this
matter.*

[Redacted Signature]

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protect[ing] the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship." The ODA has as its primary mission to help the Agriculture Industry and has not directive to protect the environment. Giving them oversight into the Clean Water Act through movement of permitting and oversight is in direct contrast to their directive of protection and promotion of the Ag industry here in Ohio.

I do not believe that the ODA should have environmental regulatory oversight of CAFOS, particularly when it comes to protecting our waterways. I do not believe that granting water permitting of CAFOS to ODA oversight will provide the appropriate level of scrutiny or protection of our waters. The Ohio EPA is an independent source of oversight that is sorely needed. My reasons include:

- ODA has little experience in managing water quality,
- With the brokerage of manure, there is little ability to go back to the CAFOS when there is a spill,
- Where will the additional funding come from for the ODA to manage this process?
- Once you move NPDES permits to ODA, what industry will next want to manage their permitting processes from the EPA to their organization?

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist. In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources, and I believe that agency is the EPA.

Sincerely,

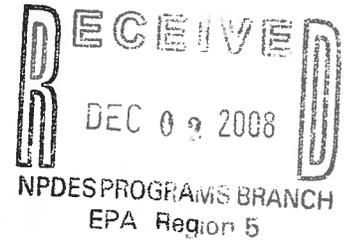
[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State ZIP]



London OH 43140

(over)

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protect[ing] the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship." The ODA has as its primary mission to help the Agriculture Industry and has not directive to protect the environment. Giving them oversight into the Clean Water Act through movement of permitting and oversight is in direct contrast to their directive of protection and promotion of the Ag industry here in Ohio.

I do not believe that the ODA should have environmental regulatory oversight of CAFOS, particularly when it comes to protecting our waterways. I do not believe that granting water permitting of CAFOs to ODA oversight will provide the appropriate level of scrutiny or protection of our waters. The Ohio EPA is an independent source of oversight that is sorely needed. My reasons include:

- ODA has little experience in managing water quality,
- With the brokerage of manure, there is little ability to go back to the CAFOs when there is a spill,
- Where will the additional funding come from for the ODA to manage this process?
- Once you move NPDES permits to ODA, what industry will next want to manage their permitting processes from the EPA to their organization?

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources, and I believe that agency is the EPA.

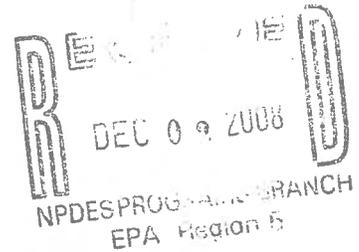
Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State ZIP]



London OH 43140

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protect[ing] the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship." The ODA has as its primary mission to help the Agriculture Industry and has not directive to protect the environment. Giving them oversight into the Clean Water Act through movement of permitting and oversight is in direct contrast to their directive of protection and promotion of the Ag industry here in Ohio.

I do not believe that the ODA should have environmental regulatory oversight of CAFOS, particularly when it comes to protecting our waterways. I do not believe that granting water permitting of CAFOs to ODA oversight will provide the appropriate level of scrutiny or protection of our waters. The Ohio EPA is an independent source of oversight that is sorely needed. My reasons include:

- ODA has little experience in managing water quality,
- With the brokerage of manure, there is little ability to go back to the CAFOs when there is a spill,
- Where will the additional funding come from for the ODA to manage this process?
- Once you move NPDES permits to ODA, what industry will next want to manage their permitting processes from the EPA to their organization?

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist. In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources, and I believe that agency is the EPA.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]

London, Ohio 43140

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protect[ing] the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship." The ODA has as its primary mission to help the Agriculture Industry and has not directive to protect the environment. Giving them oversight into the Clean Water Act through movement of permitting and oversight is in direct contrast to their directive of protection and promotion of the Ag industry here in Ohio.

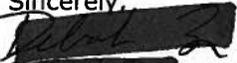
I do not believe that the ODA should have environmental regulatory oversight of CAFOS, particularly when it comes to protecting our waterways. I do not believe that granting water permitting of CAFOS to ODA oversight will provide the appropriate level of scrutiny or protection of our waters. The Ohio EPA is an independent source of oversight that is sorely needed. My reasons include:

- ODA has little experience in managing water quality,
- With the brokerage of manure, there is little ability to go back to the CAFOS when there is a spill,
- Where will the additional funding come from for the ODA to manage this process?
- Once you move NPDES permits to ODA, what industry will next want to manage their permitting processes from the EPA to their organization?

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources, and I believe that agency is the EPA.

Sincerely,


Debra Zink
841 Shoshone Drive
London, Ohio 43140]

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protect[ing] the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship." The ODA has as its primary mission to help the Agriculture Industry and has no directive to protect the environment. Giving them oversight into the Clean Water Act through movement of permitting and oversight is in direct contrast to their directive of protection and promotion of the Ag industry here in Ohio.

I do not believe that the ODA should have environmental regulatory oversight of CAFOs, particularly when it comes to protecting our waterways. I do not believe that granting water permitting of CAFOs to ODA oversight will provide the appropriate level of scrutiny or protection of our waters. The Ohio EPA is an independent source of oversight that is sorely needed. My reasons include:

- ODA has little experience in managing water quality,
- With the brokerage of manure, there is little ability to go back to the CAFOs when there is a spill,
- Where will the additional funding come from for the ODA to manage this process?
- Once you move NPDES permits to ODA, what industry will next want to manage their permitting processes from the EPA to their organization?

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

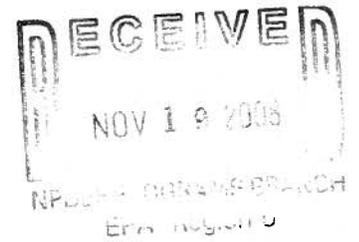
In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources, and I believe that agency is the EPA.

Sincerely,

Patricia and B. Scott Carpenter
1940 Cherokee Dr.
London, OH 43140



Nov 15, 2008
Mr. Matt Gluckman
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
Dear Mr. Gluckman,



I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry.

It is the OEPA, not the ODA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment...and for good reason.

The most pressing public issues regarding factory farms concern public health and environmental impact. The best interests of Ohio's citizenry will NOT be served by OEPA abdicating responsibility regarding factory farms.

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better-equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Chardon, OH 44024-9421

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protect[ing] the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship." The ODA has as its primary mission to help the Agriculture Industry and has not directive to protect the environment. Giving them oversight into the Clean Water Act through movement of permitting and oversight is in direct contrast to their directive of protection and promotion of the Ag industry here in Ohio.

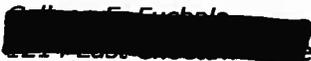
I do not believe that the ODA should have environmental regulatory oversight of CAFOS, particularly when it comes to protecting our waterways. I do not believe that granting water permitting of CAFOs to ODA oversight will provide the appropriate level of scrutiny or protection of our waters. The Ohio EPA is an independent source of oversight that is sorely needed. My reasons include:

- ODA has little experience in managing water quality,
- With the brokerage of manure, there is little ability to go back to the CAFOs when there is a spill,
- Where will the additional funding come from for the ODA to manage this process?
- Once you move NPDES permits to ODA, what industry will next want to manage their permitting processes from the EPA to their organization?

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources, and I believe that agency is the EPA.

Sincerely,

London, OH 43140

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protect[ing] the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship." The ODA has as its primary mission to help the Agriculture Industry and has not directive to protect the environment. Giving them oversight into the Clean Water Act through movement of permitting and oversight is in direct contrast to their directive of protection and promotion of the Ag industry here in Ohio.

I do not believe that the ODA should have environmental regulatory oversight of CAFOs, particularly when it comes to protecting our waterways. I do not believe that granting water permitting of CAFOs to ODA oversight will provide the appropriate level of scrutiny or protection of our waters. The Ohio EPA is an independent source of oversight that is sorely needed. My reasons include:

- ODA has little experience in managing water quality,
- With the brokerage of manure, there is little ability to go back to the CAFOs when there is a spill,
- Where will the additional funding come from for the ODA to manage this process?
- Once you move NPDES permits to ODA, what industry will next want to manage their permitting processes from the EPA to their organization?

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources, and I believe that agency is the EPA.

Sincerely,


[Redacted Name]
114 East Choctaw Drive

London, OH 43140

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,



W. MANSFIELD OH 43358

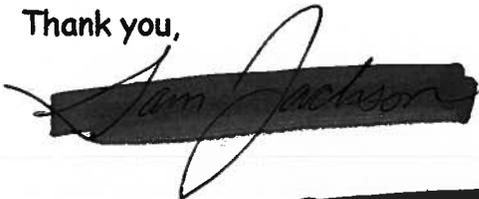
RECEIVED
OCT 27 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

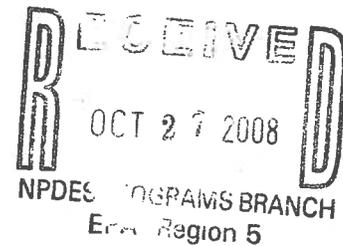
Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature, possibly "Sam Jackson", is written over a thick black redaction bar.

A thick black redaction bar covers several lines of text.
Raymond Ohio 43067



October 20, 2008

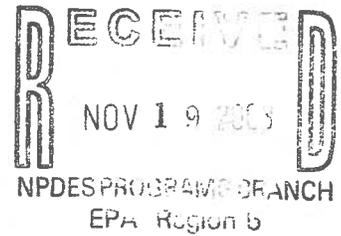
Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

Jean Thornton
[Redacted]
25516 Cedar Holloway Rd
Raymond, OH 43067



11/15/08

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

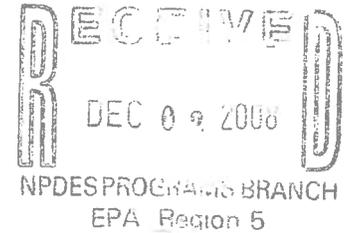
Thank you,

[Redacted signature block]

Columbus, Ohio 43229

November 24, 2008

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protect[ing] the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship." The ODA has as its primary mission to help the Agriculture Industry and has not directive to protect the environment. Giving them oversight into the Clean Water Act through movement of permitting and oversight is in direct contrast to their directive of protection and promotion of the Ag industry here in Ohio.

I do not believe that the ODA should have environmental regulatory oversight of CAFOS, particularly when it comes to protecting our waterways. I do not believe that granting water permitting of CAFOS to ODA oversight will provide the appropriate level of scrutiny or protection of our waters. The Ohio EPA is an independent source of oversight that is sorely needed. My reasons include:

- ODA has little experience in managing water quality,
- With the brokerage of manure, there is little ability to go back to the CAFOs when there is a spill,
- Where will the additional funding come from for the ODA to manage this process?
- Once you move NPDES permits to ODA, what industry will next want to manage their permitting processes from the EPA to their organization?

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist. In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources, and I believe that agency is the EPA.

Sincerely,


Judy D. Smith
265 West Choctaw Drive
London, OH 43140

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protect[ing] the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship.

But lets put all the above aside, and ponder an event that has been planned for years, and will be executed before you and your associates can blink an eye. Orleton Farms from Maumee are just waiting for this change.

IN MADISON COUNTY, OHIO, AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE LAND IS ALREADY PURCHASED, AND THE PLANS IN PLACE, FOR A 5000 Acre, 5000 DAIRY COW FARM. TWO MILES OR SO DOWN WIND OF THE VAST FIELDS FOR MANURE SPRAYING, AND SEVERAL LARGE CEMENT MANURE HOLDING TANKS, IS MONROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

I can understand large scale farming, if done correctly. Having worked in hot classrooms for over 30 years, I know how on a bad air day, no matter how wide you open the windows, no matter how many fans, it stinks just on its own. Even with air conditioning - kids have to walk to school, run on the field, be outside.

THANKS FOR NOT LEAVING ANY KIDS BEHIND. IT IS CLEAR WHICH MIND SET YOU BELONG TO -WHO YOU WERE, AND ARE, ALLIGNED WITH. ALL IN THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HEALTH OF THESE KIDS. WOULD YOU PUT YOUR DAUGHTER IN MONROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WITH A MEGA DAIRY FARM NEXT TO THE PLAYGROUND? PLEASE DO ALL YOU CAN TO PREVENT THE TRANSFER FROM EPA TO THE ODA.

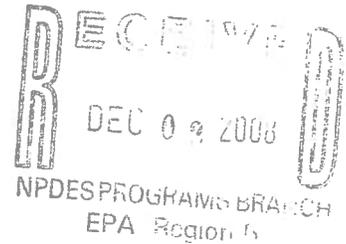
WE ALL CHERISH OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE:


Michael Zaborowski
895 Yuma Drive
London, Ohio 43140

11/27/08

November 24, 2008

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

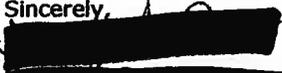
The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protecting the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship." The ODA has as its primary mission to help the Agriculture Industry and has not directive to protect the environment. Giving them oversight into the Clean Water Act through movement of permitting and oversight is in direct contrast to their directive of protection and promotion of the Ag industry here in Ohio.

I do not believe that the ODA should have environmental regulatory oversight of CAFOS, particularly when it comes to protecting our waterways. I do not believe that granting water permitting of CAFOs to ODA oversight will provide the appropriate level of scrutiny or protection of our waters. The Ohio EPA is an independent source of oversight that is sorely needed. My reasons include:

- ODA has little experience in managing water quality,
- With the brokerage of manure, there is little ability to go back to the CAFOs when there is a spill,
- Where will the additional funding come from for the ODA to manage this process?
- Once you move NPDES permits to ODA, what industry will next want to manage their permitting processes from the EPA to their organization?

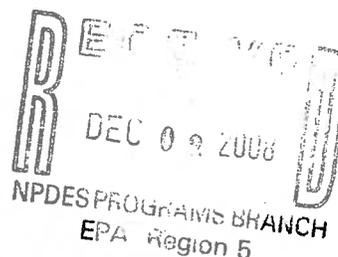
I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist. In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources, and I believe that agency is the EPA.

Sincerely,



London, OH 43140

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protect[ing] the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship." The ODA has as its primary mission to help the Agriculture Industry and has not directive to protect the environment. Giving them oversight into the Clean Water Act through movement of permitting and oversight is in direct contrast to their directive of protection and promotion of the Ag industry here in Ohio.

I do not believe that the ODA should have environmental regulatory oversight of CAFOS, particularly when it comes to protecting our waterways. I do not believe that granting water permitting of CAFOs to ODA oversight will provide the appropriate level of scrutiny or protection of our waters. The Ohio EPA is an independent source of oversight that is sorely needed. My reasons include:

- ODA has little experience in managing water quality,
- With the brokerage of manure, there is little ability to go back to the CAFOs when there is a spill,
- Where will the additional funding come from for the ODA to manage this process?
- Once you move NPDES permits to ODA, what industry will next want to manage their permitting processes from the EPA to their organization?

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources, and I believe that agency is the EPA.

Sincerely,


Kenneth M. Williams
390 San Chez Trail

London, OH 43140-9006

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W Jackson BLVD
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

Factory farms produce an estimated 500 million tons of manure every year - three times the amount of waste the human population of the U.S. produces. In Ohio, CAFOs generate over 10.5 million tons of manure per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. According to the EPA, hog, chicken and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

The ODA's mission is "to provide regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses, and the consuming public; to promote Ohio agricultural products in domestic and international markets". The Ohio EPA has as its mission listed as "protect[ing] the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws and demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship." The ODA has as its primary mission to help the Agriculture Industry and has not directive to protect the environment. Giving them oversight into the Clean Water Act through movement of permitting and oversight is in direct contrast to their directive of protection and promotion of the Ag industry here in Ohio.

I do not believe that the ODA should have environmental regulatory oversight of CAFOS, particularly when it comes to protecting our waterways. I do not believe that granting water permitting of CAFOS to ODA oversight will provide the appropriate level of scrutiny or protection of our waters. The Ohio EPA is an independent source of oversight that is sorely needed. My reasons include:

- ODA has little experience in managing water quality,
- With the brokerage of manure, there is little ability to go back to the CAFOS when there is a spill,
- Where will the additional funding come*from for the ODA to manage this process?
- Once you move NPDES permits to ODA, what industry will next want to manage their permitting processes from the EPA to their organization?

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources, and I believe that agency is the EPA.

Sincerely,




London, Ohio 43140

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

October 27, 2008

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,






POWELL OH 43065

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,



WEST MANSFIELD, OHIO 43358

YORK TWP. UNION CO.

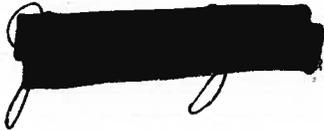
RECEIVED
NOV 03 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area. The box is slightly irregular and has some white marks on its left and right sides, possibly from staples or the scanning process.

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Oct 20, 2008
Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Raymond, OH 43067

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2005
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA REGION 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Raymond Ohio 43067

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

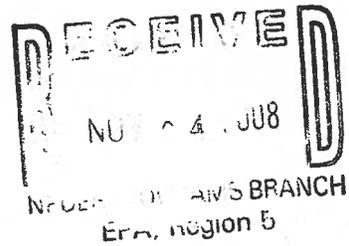
I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

W. MANSFIELD, OH. 43358



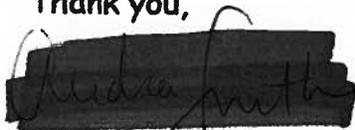
10/27/2008

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,





Dublin, OH 43017

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]

West Mansfield, Ohio
43358-9629

RECEIVED
NOV 18 2008
PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

11/10/08

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Columbus, OH 43220

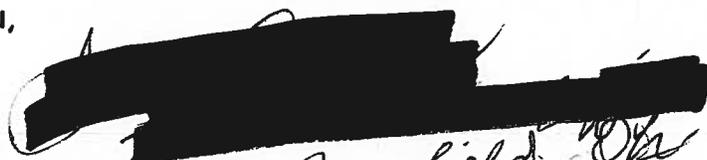
RECEIVED
OCT 27 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,


Walt Mansfield, Ok
42358

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

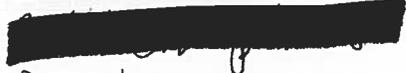
Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,




Dublin, Oh
43017

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

Elaine Boudier

28299 51 RT 739

W. MANSFIELD, OH. 43358

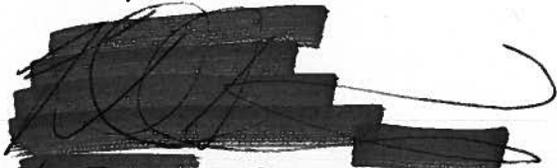
RECEIVED
OCT 27 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

A large, dark, irregular redaction covering the signature area of the letter.

K. Dan Davis
P.O. Box 29

Institute, WV
25112

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,





Richwood, OH 43344

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Raymond Ohio 43067

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, region 5

11/10/08

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address line]

5353 N High St Apt 704

Columbus OH 43214

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

~~_____~~
~~13400 ST RT 41~~
Richwood Ohio
43344

RECEIVED
NOV 18 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA. Region 5

Monday, November 10, 2008

I am writing concerning the proposed rule changes to the ODA Livestock Environmental Permitting Program in order to transfer authority for the NPDES Permitting Program from the Ohio EPA to the ODA.

It is my understanding that revisions are being proposed involving O.A.C. 901:10-2-02 and OAC 901:10-2-06 (A)(10). These amendments/rescissions would be unreasonable. The LEPP rules were originally developed, reviewed and recommended by a diverse group of scientific professionals, including representatives from the ODNR, USGS, NRCS, and Ohio EPA. Unfortunately, many of these important regulations have been rescinded or revised to include "Director's discretion" over the past few years.

The ODA should not reduce or rescind any of their current regulations which protect our aquifers and floodplains in the process of attempting to obtain authority for NPDES permits.

*We are neighboring property owners (1/4 mile)
our son lives there
and we need to protect our water & air.*

~~Bob + Bob Benschober~~

~~949 Country Club Drive~~

Bowling Green; OH

43402

11/14/08

RECEIVED
NOV 18 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA REGION 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature is present, but the name is obscured by a thick black redaction bar.

RECEIVED
NOV 18 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA REGION 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,




Galloways Ohio 43119

RECEIVED
NOV 18 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

11/14/08

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonnie Hamby". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Thank you," text.

RECEIVED
NOV 18 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,


[Redacted signature]


[Redacted text]

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

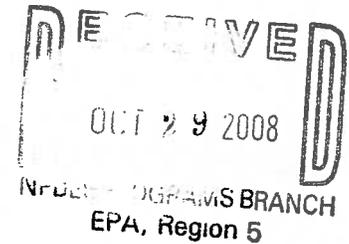
Thank you,

A handwritten signature is present, but it is almost entirely obscured by a thick black horizontal redaction bar. Only the top and bottom strokes of the signature are visible above and below the bar.



October 23, 2008

Matt Gluckman
EPA Region 5 NPDES Program Division
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604



Re: Application to Administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in Ohio

Dear Mr. Gluckman:

The Sierra Club Ohio Chapter, on behalf of our 18,000 members, respectfully submits this letter to EPA Region 5 concerning the revision of Ohio's NPDES program for CAFOs. We join the Ohio Environmental Council in their request to 1) Extend the public comment period from the current 60 days (concluding December 16, 2008) to a total of 90 days (concluding no earlier than January 15, 2009); 2) and holding at least one additional public hearing in Northwest Ohio to supplement the open house and hearing to be held in Columbus in November.

Ohio is the only state to request the transfer of NPDES permitting authority over CAFOs to the agricultural department. We request that Region 5 strongly consider the precedence of this decision before moving forward and provide additional time and opportunities for the public to weigh in on such an important decision.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture's application contains thousands of legal and technical documents, and this vast amount of information must be reviewed and understood in order for the public and interested parties to provide meaningful comments. We believe that an additional 30 days for public comment is reasonable and appropriate for this reason.

It would also benefit the public to hold an additional public meeting and hearing in Northwest Ohio, where a majority of the currently sited and proposed CAFOs exist. Columbus is an appropriate location for an initial meeting and hearing, but most of the people who live and work near CAFOs will not have the opportunity to attend a meeting in Columbus. It is beneficial to extend public meeting opportunities beyond Columbus in order to make the most informed decision. We request at least one additional public hearing following the November 18 meeting in Columbus, which could be held in either Bowling Green, OH or Lima, OH.

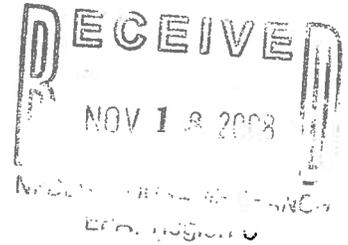
Thank you for your time and consideration. Please call 614-461-0734 x311 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Brandi Whetstone, Conservation Program Coordinator

█ Columbus, OH 43215 · (614) 461-0734 · www.ohio.sierraclub.org

November 3, 2008



Dear Environmental Protection Agency:

We, the concerned citizens of Hardin and Hancock Counties of Ohio, and other areas similarly situated, hereby formally petition and request that you participate in bringing a Moratorium to the building and installation of factory/industrial farms in the State of Ohio.

The negative effect of such operations, such as the contamination of air, water, soil, and foods with toxic chemicals, infectious diseases, antibiotic resistant bacteria, and E. coli 0157:h7 are well documented by such agencies as the Center of Disease Control (CDC), the Government Accounting Office (GAO), University of North Carolina Medical School, The University of Iowa Medical School, and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, to list but a few. A prestigious commission funded by the Pew Charitable Trust concluded in their 2008 report, "The current industrial farm animal production system often poses unacceptable risks to public health, the environment and the welfare of the animals.... The negative effects of the system are too great and the scientific evidence is too strong to ignore. Significant changes must be implemented and must start now."

Please take immediate action to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of Ohio, to protect the children of Ohio, to protect rural communities, to protect Ohio's family farmers, their farmland, and the water and air quality of Ohio by helping to bring a Moratorium to the building and installation of large animal feeding operations in the state of Ohio. Your prompt attention, concern and action will be greatly appreciated by the citizens of Ohio and their children's children.

Respectfully submitted,



Keris and Nancy Wright



wrights@wcoil.com

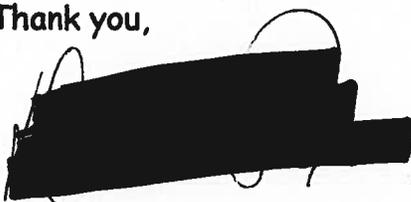
RECEIVED
NOV 13 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

A large black rectangular redaction covers the signature area. The redaction is positioned below the text "Thank you," and above the rest of the page.

RECEIVED
NOV 03 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

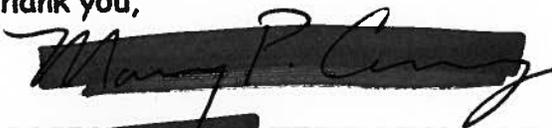
10/28/08

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,



MARY CZERNY
179 ARDEN RD.
COLUMBUS, OH 43214

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

11/8/08

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,



Michelle Cochran

925 Dennison Ave.

Columbus, OH 43201

October 23, 2008

[REDACTED]
West Mansfield, Ohio 43358

RECEIVED
OCT 29 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



James B. Elliott

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

~~Shirley A. Brangan~~

~~28353 ST. A. 139~~

West Mansfield Ohio 4335

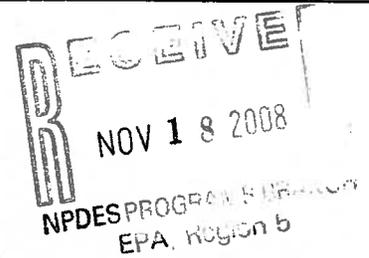
5930 Sharon Woods Blvd.
Suite 101
Columbus, OH 43229-2666



Phone: 614.882.5887
Fax: 614.882.6077
www.ohiopork.org

November 14, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
EPS Region 5 Water Division
NPDES Programs Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604



RE: [FRL-8728-5]
State Program Requirements: Application To Administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs); Ohio

Mr. Gluckman,

The Ohio Pork Producers Council (OPPC) is very interested in the proposed transfer of control of the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program for concentrate animal feeding operations (CAFOs) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). OPPC is a statewide organization representing 3,900 pork producers in Ohio that work together for the pork industry.

OPPC has worked with ODA on environmental rules and regulation. OPPC representatives attend the Concentrated Animal Feeding Facility (CAFF) meetings to stay active in the process at ODA as it relates to the permitted livestock facilities. ODA works positively with farms as they apply for both permits to install and permits to operate to ensure that the farm is conducted in the best interest of the environment, the neighbors and the livestock industry as a whole.

OPPC strongly recommends Ohio EPA transfer the NPDES program for concentrate animal feeding operations to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Since the current LEPP is housed at ODA it seems a natural fit for the NPDES program to reside there also. This will make it easier for ODA to work with the livestock farmers in Ohio as they go through the permitting process.

OPPC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed transfer of the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). For additional questions or concerns regarding these comments please feel free to contact me at 614-882-5887 or disler@ohiopork.org.

Sincerely,

A blacked-out signature, likely of the sender, covering the name and possibly the title.

Executive Vice President

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA, Region 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

[Redacted Signature]
[Redacted Address]

Raymond, Oh 43067

Our Creeks have been polluted in the past
We need the EPA to stay on top of
this matter. We need to protect our
air, water, and quality of life.
Thank you



OHIO COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

P.O. Box 3160
Kent, OH 44240
330/673-1193

RECEIVED
NOV 20 2008
EPA, Region 5

November 5, 2008

Mr. Matthew Gluckman
USEPA Region 5, NPDES Programs Branch, WN-16J
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman:

Regarding USEPA's Federal Register notice of the proposed approval and hearing on November 18, 2008 for Ohio's application to administer the NPDES program for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), the Ohio Coastal Resource Management Project urgently requests that USEPA Region 5 extend the public comment period for 60 to 90 days beyond the stated December 16, 2008 date, for the following reasons:

---Citizens will need more time to review the more than 1000 pages on EPA's website, in order to present comments pertinent to the issues.

---Since EPA has revised portions of the NPDES permitting requirements and Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for CAFOs, in response to the order issued by the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals (according to the Federal Register), Ohio may need to further revise its NPDES program to implement these federal revisions. It would therefore simplify this entire process to delay final action on Ohio's application until at least February 27, 2009.

OCRMP also strongly recommends that a second public hearing be held in Lima or Bowling Green, where there actually are CAFOs. This will facilitate input from stakeholders and people who have first-hand knowledge of CAFO issues.

Your cooperation would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

President

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2008
NPD... ANCH

November 8, 2008

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]

Grove City, OH 43123

Dec 2, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

In Ohio, factory farms generate over 10.5 million tons of animal waste per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. Rich in phosphorus and nitrogen, animal waste is a major source of water pollution in Ohio. These chemicals enter waterways, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating our drinking water.

The environmental and public health impacts of factory farms are

tremendous. The EPA must consider the Ohio Department of Agriculture's dismal track record before handing over authority to regulate water pollution. For example, ODA's enforcement is lax and does little to promote compliance with the law. Ohio Fresh Eggs, formerly Buckeye Egg, has amassed 36 notices without a single fine levied against it since 2003.

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where these farms are controversial.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources.

Sincerely,


Cleveland, OH 44101

Dec 2, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

In Ohio, factory farms generate over 10.5 million tons of animal waste per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. Rich in phosphorus and nitrogen, animal waste is a major source of water pollution in Ohio. These chemicals enter waterways, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating our drinking water.

The environmental and public health impacts of factory farms are

tremendous. The EPA must consider the Ohio Department of Agriculture's dismal track record before handing over authority to regulate water pollution. For example, ODA's enforcement is lax and does little to promote compliance with the law. Ohio Fresh Eggs, formerly Buckeye Egg, has amassed 36 notices without a single fine levied against it since 2003.

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where these farms are controversial.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources.

Sincerely,


Columbus, OH 43202-1232

Dec 2, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

In Ohio, factory farms generate over 10.5 million tons of animal waste per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. Rich in phosphorus and nitrogen, animal waste is a major source of water pollution in Ohio. These chemicals enter waterways, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating our drinking water.

The environmental and public health impacts of factory farms are

tremendous. The EPA must consider the Ohio Department of Agriculture's dismal track record before handing over authority to regulate water pollution. For example, ODA's enforcement is lax and does little to promote compliance with the law. Ohio Fresh Eggs, formerly Buckeye Egg, has amassed 36 notices without a single fine levied against it since 2003.

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where these farms are controversial.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources.

Sincerely,


Worthington, OH 43085-2229

Dec 2, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

In Ohio, factory farms generate over 10.5 million tons of animal waste per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. Rich in phosphorus and nitrogen, animal waste is a major source of water pollution in Ohio. These chemicals enter waterways, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating our drinking water.

The environmental and public health impacts of factory farms are tremendous. The EPA must consider the Ohio Department of Agriculture's dismal track record before handing over authority to regulate water pollution. For example, ODA's enforcement is lax and does little to promote compliance with the law. Ohio Fresh Eggs, formerly Buckeye Egg, has amassed 36 notices without a single fine levied against it since 2003.

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where these farms are controversial.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources.

Sincerely,


ADA, OH 45810-1634

Nov 28, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

In Ohio, factory farms generate over 10.5 million tons of animal waste per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. Rich in phosphorus and nitrogen, animal waste is a major source of water pollution in Ohio. These chemicals enter waterways, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating our drinking water.

The environmental and public health impacts of factory farms are tremendous. The EPA must consider the Ohio Department of Agriculture's dismal track record before handing over authority to regulate water pollution. For example, ODA's enforcement is lax and does little to promote compliance with the law. Ohio Fresh Eggs, formerly Buckeye Egg, has amassed 36 notices without a single fine levied against it since 2003.

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources.

Sincerely,



London, OH 43140-9034

Nov 27, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

In Ohio, factory farms generate over 10.5 million tons of animal waste per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. Rich in phosphorus and nitrogen, animal waste is a major source of water pollution in Ohio. These chemicals enter waterways, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating our drinking water.

The environmental and public health impacts of factory farms are tremendous. The EPA must consider the Ohio Department of Agriculture's dismal track record before handing over authority to regulate water pollution. For example, ODA's enforcement is lax and does little to promote compliance with the law. Ohio Fresh Eggs, formerly Buckeye Egg, has amassed 36 notices without a single fine levied against it since 2003.

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources.

Sincerely,


w Dr
Cincinnati, OH 45232-1627

Nov 27, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

In Ohio, factory farms generate over 10.5 million tons of animal waste per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. Rich in phosphorus and nitrogen, animal waste is a major source of water pollution in Ohio. These chemicals enter waterways, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating our drinking water.

The environmental and public health impacts of factory farms are

tremendous. The EPA must consider the Ohio Department of Agriculture's dismal track record before handing over authority to regulate water pollution. For example, ODA's enforcement is lax and does little to promote compliance with the law. Ohio Fresh Eggs, formerly Buckeye Egg, has amassed 36 notices without a single fine levied against it since 2003.

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Cincinnati, OH 45213-1771

Nov 27, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

In Ohio, factory farms generate over 10.5 million tons of animal waste per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. Rich in phosphorus and nitrogen, animal waste is a major source of water pollution in Ohio. These chemicals enter waterways, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating our drinking water.

The environmental and public health impacts of factory farms are tremendous. The EPA must consider the Ohio Department of Agriculture's dismal track record before handing over authority to regulate water pollution. For example, ODA's enforcement is lax and does little to promote compliance with the law. Ohio Fresh Eggs, formerly Buckeye Egg, has amassed 36 notices without a single fine levied against it since 2003.

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources.

Sincerely,


Columbus, OH 43214-1967

Nov 26, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

In Ohio, factory farms generate over 10.5 million tons of animal waste per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. Rich in phosphorus and nitrogen, animal waste is a major source of water pollution in Ohio. These chemicals enter waterways, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating our drinking water.

The environmental and public health impacts of factory farms are tremendous. The EPA must consider the Ohio Department of Agriculture's dismal track record before handing over authority to regulate water pollution. For example, ODA's enforcement is lax and does little to promote compliance with the law. Ohio Fresh Eggs, formerly Buckeye Egg, has amassed 36 notices without a single fine levied against it since 2003.

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources.

Sincerely,


London, OH 43140-9007

Dec 1, 2008

Mr. Matt Gluckman
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I am very concerned about the potential transfer of oversight for factory farm water pollution permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The proposal effectively transfers control of factory farm water pollution to an administrative body that is biased in favor of the agricultural industry. Furthermore, it is an abdication of responsibility from OEPA, which is legally mandated to protect public health and the environment.

In Ohio, factory farms generate over 10.5 million tons of animal waste per year, with some individual facilities creating more waste than medium-sized cities. Rich in phosphorus and nitrogen, animal waste is a major source of water pollution in Ohio. These chemicals enter waterways, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating our drinking water.

The environmental and public health impacts of factory farms are

tremendous. The EPA must consider the Ohio Department of Agriculture's dismal track record before handing over authority to regulate water pollution. For example, ODA's enforcement is lax and does little to promote compliance with the law. Ohio Fresh Eggs, formerly Buckeye Egg, has amassed 36 notices without a single fine levied against it since 2003.

I urge you to deny the transfer water pollution permit authority to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In addition, Ohioans should have at least 30 more days to review and comment on this important decision. At least one additional hearing should also be held in Northwest Ohio where the majority of these facilities exist.

In light of Ohio Department of Agriculture's weak track record, Ohioans deserve a better equipped agency to protect our drinking water, our quality of life and the state's natural resources.

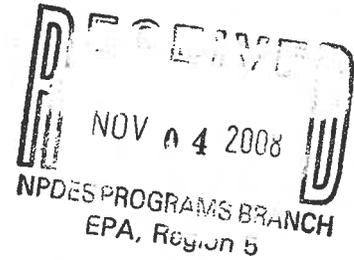
Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

London, OH 43140-9018

October 23, 2008

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
West Mansfield, Ohio 43358



Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Wyla A. Elliott

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA Region 5

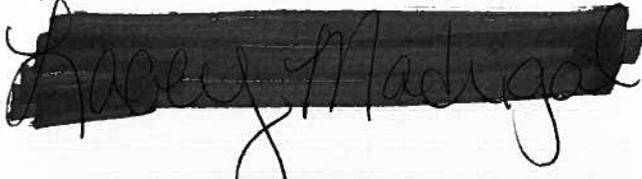
11/8/08

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

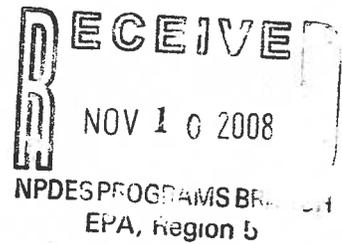
Thank you,

 Ashley Madrigal

 2013 A Goddard Rd

Columbus, OH 43220

Nov. 4, 2008



Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature that has been completely redacted with a thick black marker.

A redacted name, likely the first name of the sender, obscured by a thick black marker.

A redacted address line, likely the street name, obscured by a thick black marker.

Blacklick OH 43004

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2008
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA REGION 5

Matthew Gluckman
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Gluckman,

I would like to request an extension to the public comment period regarding the transfer of Clean Water Act permitting to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This decision is without precedent and demands a most thorough study of the details involved in this transfer. I would also ask that there be an additional public hearing in the northwestern part of Ohio, since this area is home to the majority of current and proposed CAFOs in Ohio.

Thank you,

[Redacted signature]

West Mansfield Ohio
43368