

August 7, 2019

**CERTIFIED MAIL 7007 3020 0000 0963 4128  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Ms. Renee Bjork, Petitioner's Representative  
20584 County Road 18  
Brooten, MN 56316

**CERTIFIED MAIL 7007 3020 0000 0963 4142  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. James R. Anderson  
Anderson Family Farms Partnership  
45086 Glendale Road  
Belgrade, MN 56312

**CERTIFIED MAIL 7007 3020 0000 0963 4135  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Ms. Barb Sogn-Frank, Petitioner's Representative  
Land Stewardship Project  
821 East 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

RE: Petition for Environmental Assessment Worksheet on the Proposed Anderson Family Farm  
Partnership in Crow Lake Township, Stearns County

Dear Ms. Bjork, Ms. Sogn-Frank, and Mr. Anderson:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has reviewed your July 10, 2019, transmittal letter, Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) petition request, and additional supporting documentation provided in your subsequent emails. Based upon our review of applicable Environmental Quality Board (EQB) rules, the MPCA is hereby notifying EQB, the Petitioner's Representative and Stearns County of our decision that the proposed Anderson Family Farms Partnership swine farrowing feedlot (Project) exceeds the Minn R. 4410.4300, subp. 29.A. **mandatory** threshold for Environmental Review. Therefore, an EAW must be prepared for the Project as proposed. Consequently, because the Project meets the mandatory threshold for Environmental Review, the MPCA will not conduct any further analysis of your EAW petition request and will not act to deny or approve the petition.

The following rule analysis of Minn. R. 4410.4300 Mandatory EAW categories supports our decision:

Minn. R. 4410.4600 subp 29. A. **Animal feedlots states the PCA is the RGU**, "For the construction of an animal feedlot facility with a capacity of 1,000 animal units or more or the expansion of an existing facility by 1,000 animal units or more if the facility is not in an area listed in item B."

From the floor plan provided by the Project proposer, MPCA feedlot staff determined:

The building layout show there are 448 crates and 2,060 stalls that would house sows. This is a total of 2,508 head and at 0.4 AU would be **1,003.2 AU**. In addition, there are 16 pens in the drawing that is assumed to be used for replacement gilts. It is estimated another 192 head would be housed in those pens, and at 0.3 AU that would equate to 57.6 AU (assuming they are not bred in those pens - otherwise 0.4 AU each). All totaled, that is 2,700 head and **1,060.8 AU** which exceeds the mandatory EAW threshold of 1,000 AUs.

Please note that under the applicable environmental review rules, government units are prohibited from issuing *any permits or approvals* for the project, nor may any construction activities, including ground preparation or infrastructure improvement, occur until a final decision on the Environmental Review process has been made by the MPCA for this project, as stated in Minn. R. 4410.3100, subp. 1.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Charles Peterson of the Environmental Review Unit at 651-757-2856.

Sincerely,



Dan R. Card, P.E.  
Supervisor  
Environmental Review Unit  
Resource Management and Assistance division

DRC:bt

cc: Dennis Weimerskirch, Crow Lake Township  
Chelle Benson, Stearns County  
Frank Karels  
Bobby King, Land Stewardship Project  
Lisa Scheirer, MPCA