



Department of Health and Environmental Sciences
STATE OF MONTANA HELENA, MONTANA 59601

January 6, 1975

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DIRECTOR

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Mr. Ralph J. Anderson, Vita-Rich Dairy, Inc., Box 790, Havre

A NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE
VITA-RICH DAIRY, INC. FARM

Pursuant to the Montana Environmental Policy Act, the following negative declaration has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning the Vita-Rich Dairy and their request for a waste discharge permit for their animal confinement facility located east of Havre, Montana.

The purpose of this negative declaration is to inform all interested governmental agencies and public groups of the Water Quality Bureau's intent not to write an environmental impact statement. This negative declaration will be circulated for a period of ten days at which time a decision will be made as to whether or not a waste discharge permit should be issued. If you care to comment on this application for a permit, please do so within that allotted time.

The Vita-Rich Dairy, Inc. currently maintains a dairy operation with approximately 220 cows at a site approximately eight miles east of Havre, Montana on U. S. Highway No. 2. The animal confinement facility is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 3, T. 32 N., R. 17 E., of Hill County. This location is indicated on the attached map.

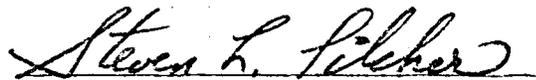
Most of the livestock at the dairy are held within a recently constructed controlled environment building. Within this building, waste material which is produced drops through slatted floors and is contained in a concrete pit located below. This waste material is then periodically removed and disposed of on adjacent agricultural land. Some replacement cattle are held in open lots in that same area. In the past, surface runoff from these open lots has been allowed to flow directly into the Milk River. Effective May 1, 1975, that area will be modified so that any surface runoff would be contained on the applicant's property rather than being discharged to the river. The waste material which accumulates on the feedlot surface is removed at least once per year and again disposed

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of on adjacent agricultural land. Precautions will be taken to insure that the waste material which is being applied to this land is not carried by irrigation return flow into that same river.

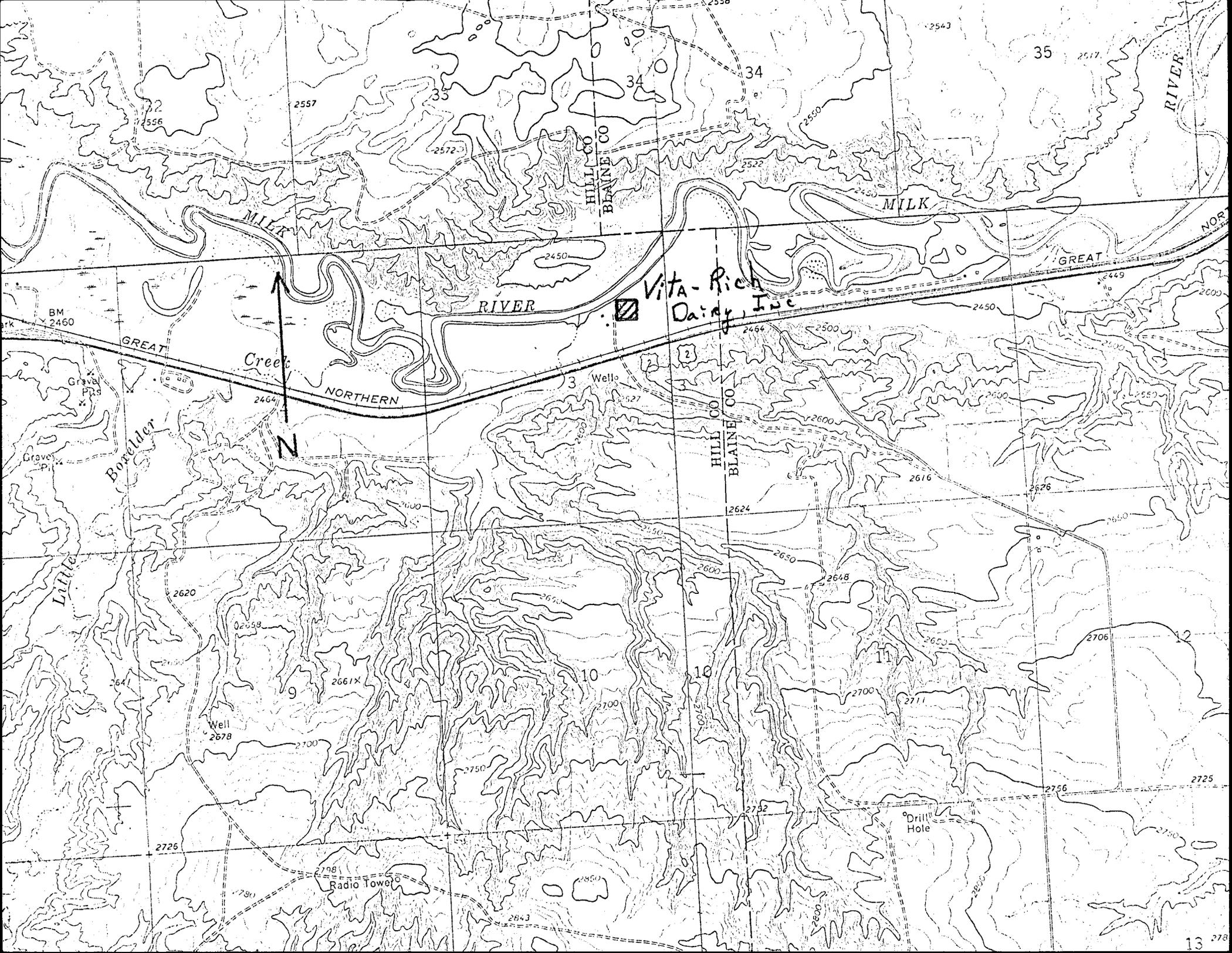
Flies and odors should not constitute a problem for the surrounding environment due to the type of animal confinement facility and the fly control program that is followed. While any livestock operation may have an effect on the surrounding environment, the adverse environmental effects can be minimized through an effective waste management program. The waste control facilities and waste management program outlined for this animal confinement facility should provide adequate environmental protection.

The only alternative that would be available to the applicant in this situation would be to relocate the existing operation. The recently constructed controlled environment building represents a substantial investment, and represents one of the best types of animal confinement facilities currently available. Relocation of such an operation does not, therefore, seem justifiable.



Steven L. Pilcher
Agricultural Wastewater Specialist
Water Quality Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

SLP:vlf
Attachment
cc: Ben Wake
Dan Vichorek
Air Quality Bureau



Vita-Rich Dairy, Inc.

Radio Tower

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