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

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
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Department of Fish and Game, Helena  
Mr. Wesley N. Johnson, 2580 Lincoln Road East, Helena

A NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR THE  
WES JOHNSON DAIRY AND FEEDLOT

Pursuant to the Montana Environmental Policy Act, the following negative declaration has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning an existing animal confinement facility operated by Mr. Wesley N. Johnson of Helena, Montana. Mr. Johnson has made application for a waste discharge permit for his dairy and confined feeding operation located northeast of Helena.

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 regarding this animal confinement facility. This declaration will be circulated for a period of ten days following which a decision will be made as to whether or not a waste discharge permit should be issued. If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within that allotted time.

Mr. Johnson has operated since 1956 a dairy and confined feeding operation having capacity for approximately 900 animals. This facility is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 15, T. 11 N., R. 3 W., of Lewis and Clark County, approximately nine miles northeast of Helena. The location of this facility is indicated on the attached map.

Process generated wastewater consists of surface runoff from the approximately five acre open lot area and overflow of milk house washwater. Washwater approximating 1,000 gallons per day is discharged into a large septic tank and is periodically removed from that tank and disposed of on surrounding agricultural land. During periods of inclement weather the overflow from the septic tank will be discharged to the livestock waste control facilities. Likewise, surface runoff from the approximately five acre open lot feeding area during periods of heavy

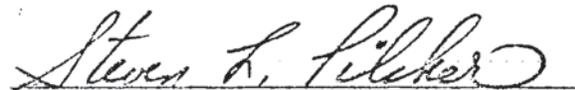
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precipitation will be discharged to the same livestock waste control facility. Extraneous drainage from above the animal confinement facility does not come in contact with livestock waste due to a diversion which has been constructed above the feeding area.

The process generated wastewater will be collected and transported via buried pipe to a two-cell retention pond capable of retaining all flow and providing for disposal of the liquid waste material through evaporation. There should be no discharge from this livestock waste control facility to state waters. Livestock waste accumulating on the surface of the feeding and holding area together with the solid waste material which accumulates in the collection basin, will be periodically removed and disposed of on surrounding agricultural land. Approximately 900 acres of such land is available for waste disposal.

Flies around this animal confinement are controlled through a combination baiting and spraying program. Dead animals are disposed of at the county sanitary landfill.

Any animal confinement facility such as this will have an effect on the environment. Adverse effects can, however, be minimized through location and a good waste management program. The animal confinement facility in question is quite well removed from any developed area, and as such odors from the animal confinement facility should not constitute a significant problem. Adherence to the waste management program which has been proposed should result in no discharge of pollutants to state waters and minimal nuisance conditions from this waste material. The only alternative that would be available to Mr. Johnson would be the relocation of the existing facility. The animal confinement facility is a part of an overall farming operation and livestock have been held in confinement at this location for quite some time. As long as the waste material is managed in such a manner that it does not create nuisance conditions and the process generated wastewater is contained in the proposed livestock waste control facilities, such relocation of this facility does not seem justifiable.



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

