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

John S. Anderson M.D.
DIRECTOR

June 13, 1975

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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✓ Environmental Quality Council, Helena

Department of Fish and Game, Helena

Department of Intergovernmental Relations, Division of Planning and
Economic Development, Helena

Billings Regional Office, Box 20296, Billings

Messrs. Robert and Edward Lenhardt, 4345 King Avenue West, Billings

Larry Stahly, Route 1, Billings

Harly O'Donnell, Route 4, Billings

Roy Zahn, Route 4, Billings

Martin Williams, Route 4, Billings

Jim Glenn, Route 4, Billings

Arthur Dyke, King Avenue West, Billings

Larry Cramer, King Avenue West, Billings

Gilbert Amen, King Avenue West, Billings

Dick Hardt, Route 4, Billings

Dave Bell, Route 4, Billings

A NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE
LENHARDT BROS. FEEDLOTS

Pursuant to the Montana Environmental Policy Act, the following negative declaration has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning the Lenhardt Bros. Feedlot and their request for a waste discharge permit for their operation located west of Billings, 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 declaration will be circulated for a period of ten days at which time a decision will be made as to whether or not the waste discharge permit should be issued. If you care to comment on this application for a permit, please do so within that allotted time.

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Robert and Edward Lenhardt currently operate animal confinement facilities at three locations, having a total capacity for approximately 1,675 head of cattle. These feeding operations cumulatively total approximately 7-3/4 acres. These animal confinement facilities are located as follows: Lot No. 1 - SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 13, T. 1 S., R. 24 E., Feedlots 2, 3 and 4 located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 13, T. 1 S., R. 24 E., and Feedlot No. 5 located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 10, T. 1 S., R. 24 E., all in Yellowstone County. The location of these animal confinement facilities is indicated on the attached map.

The topography of the feeding area for Lots No. 1 and 5 is relatively flat with slopes of less than 0.5%. As such, extraneous drainage is prevented from reaching the actual feeding area. Minimal runoff should result from the feeding area, and any runoff which would occur would be routed to adjacent agricultural land. This runoff should be contained on the applicant's property with little possibility of ever reaching state waters. The topography of the feeding area in Lots 2, 3 and 4 varies from 0 to a maximum of 25%. Extraneous drainage does not reach the confinement facility due to physical barriers and the generally flat topography. Surface runoff which is generated from precipitation falling within the animal confinement facility is contained in two retention ponds. Each pond is capable of retaining the runoff which can be expected from the contributing drainage area following a 10-year, 24-hour rainfall event. The waste material which accumulates in these retention ponds is periodically pumped onto adjacent agricultural land.

Manure is removed from the surface of the animal confinement facilities at least once per year and disposed of on surrounding agricultural land. Approximately 335 acres of such land is available for waste disposal.

Flies around the animal confinement facility are controlled through a routine spraying program and by keeping the pens as clean and dry as possible. No rodent problems have developed. Dead animals will be disposed of by the Billings Rendering Service.

Any livestock operation will have an effect on the surrounding environment, but adverse environmental effects can be minimized through a good waste management program. If the waste management program as outlined in this application is followed, environmental problems associated with these animal confinement facilities should be minimal. While odors cannot be totally eliminated from this type of operation, a good waste management program and good housekeeping can significantly reduce the duration and intensity of odors. Dust from these facilities is controlled through sprinkling.

The only alternative available to the Lenhardt Brothers would be the relocation of these existing facilities. These operations are all located

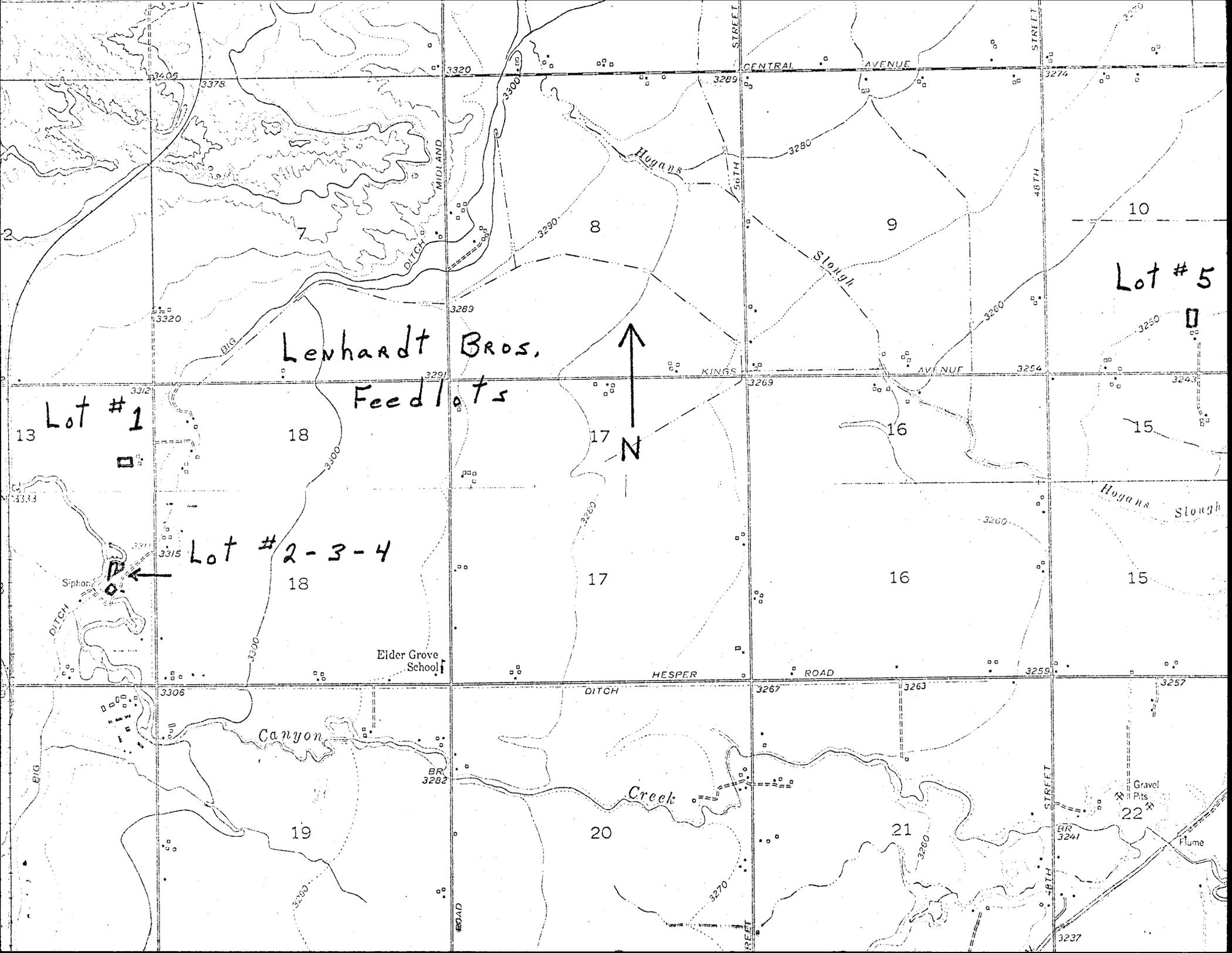
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in an agricultural area and are a part of an established farming operation. In view of such facts and the cost involved in relocation, such action does not appear warranted. Our office has never received complaints of either air or water pollution from these animal confinement facilities and it appears that the waste management program and waste control facilities currently provide adequate environmental protection.



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

SLP:vlf
Attachment
cc: Ben Wake
Air Quality Bureau

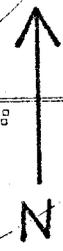


Lenhardt Bros.
Feedlots

Lot #1

Lot #2-3-4

Lot #5



Elder Grove
School

Canyon

Creek

Gravel
Pits

Flume