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

April 7, 1976

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PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW  
FOR THE  
SPRING CREEK RANCH

Pursuant to the Montana Administrative Code, Section 16-2.2(2)-P2030 (Rule IV), the following preliminary environmental review has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning the Spring Creek Ranch and a request by Mr. H. H. Normandeau for a waste discharge permit for that animal confinement facility located north of Ronan, Montana.

The purpose of this preliminary environmental review is to inform all interested governmental agencies and public groups of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This preliminary environmental review 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 our proposed action, please do so within that allotted time.

Spring Creek Ranch, operated by Mr. Normandeau, includes a small animal confinement facility located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , T. 21 N., R. 20 W., of Lake County. The site of this animal confinement facility is approximately one and one-half miles north of Ronan, Montana and is indicated on the attached map.

This animal confinement facility has capacity for approximately 100 to 150 animals, but rarely contains in excess of 50 animals. Waste material which is generated by the livestock accumulates on the surface of the feeding area and is periodically carried off in the form of surface runoff following major precipitation events. To prevent this waste material from entering state waters, a dike has been constructed along the lower side creating a retention pond. This pond is capable of retaining the runoff

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which can be expected from the drainage area following a 10-year, 24-hour rainfall event. The waste material which accumulates on the surface of the feeding area and in the retention pond is periodically removed and disposed of on adjacent agricultural land. The waste material will then be utilized for its nutrient value with little, if any, detrimental effects to soil or crops.

Flies around the animal confinement facility are controlled through a waste management program and a spraying program. Dead animals are disposed of through burial. Odors and dust from this animal confinement facility are minimized through the use of straw and wood shavings as bedding material and frequent removal of the waste material.

Any animal confinement facility will have an effect on the surrounding environment, but adverse environmental effects can be minimized through adherence to a good waste management program.

The only alternative available to Mr. Normandeau would be relocation of the existing animal confinement facility. The entire area surrounding the site is currently utilized primarily for agricultural production and such relocation does not appear economically justifiable. There are no known historical or archaeological sites which would in any way be affected by the existing facility and due to the fact that it is an existing facility, it should not place unusual demands on additional environmental resources. If the waste management program as outlined in the permit application is adhered to, the operation should result in minimal adverse environmental effects.



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Attachment  
cc: Ben Wake  
Air Quality Bureau

