APR 1 0 1976

Department of Health and Environmental Sciences

STATE OF MONTANA HELENA, MONTANA 59601

April 7, 1976

[redacted]
A. C. Knight, M. D., F. C. C. P.
ACTING DIRECTOR

State Library, Helena
Board of County Commissioners, Flathead County Courthouse, Kalispell
City-County Planning Board, Room 3, the Ford Building, Kalispell
County Sanitarian's Office, Box 919, Kalispell
Mr. B. C. McIntyre, M.D., Co. Health Off., Box 427, Whitefish
Kalispell Branch Office, Box 1031, Kalispell
Environmental Quality Council, Helena
Department of Fish and Game, Helena
Mr. Robert Sutton, 405 Tetrault Road, Kalispell
Mr. Walter Zidack, Whitefish Stage, Kalispell
Mr. Karl Schrade, Tetrault Road, Kalispell
Mr. Richard Motichka, Trumble Creek Road, Kalispell
Mr. Mike A. Bolog, Tetrault Road, Kalispell

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR THE SUTTON 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 Sutton Ranch and a request by Mr. Robert J. Sutton for a waste discharge permit for that animal confinement facility located northwest of Kalispell, Montana.

The purpose of this preliminary environmental review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups, and interested citizens of the proposed action and to determine whether 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 this proposed action, please do so within that allotted time.

The Sutton Ranch includes the operation of a total confinement swine facility located in the NW¼NW¼, Sec. 34, T. 30 N., R. 21 W., of Flathead County. The site of this animal confinement facility is approximately two miles northwest of the Glacier International Airport and is indicated on the attached map.

The animal confinement facility was constructed in 1967 and currently has capacity for approximately ten sows with litters and 400 feeder pigs. Mr. Sutton proposes to expand this existing operation to provide capacity

for an additional 200 animals. These livestock are normally totally confined within the buildings. Waste material which is generated by the livestock in confinement drops through the slatted portion of the floor and into liquid manure pits beneath the buildings. The waste material which accumulates within these storage facilities is then periodically removed and disposed of in a liquid state on nearby agricultural land. Approximately 220 acres of adjacent agricultural land is available for waste disposal. The waste material will then be utilized for its nutrient value with little, if any, detrimental effects to soils or crops in that area.

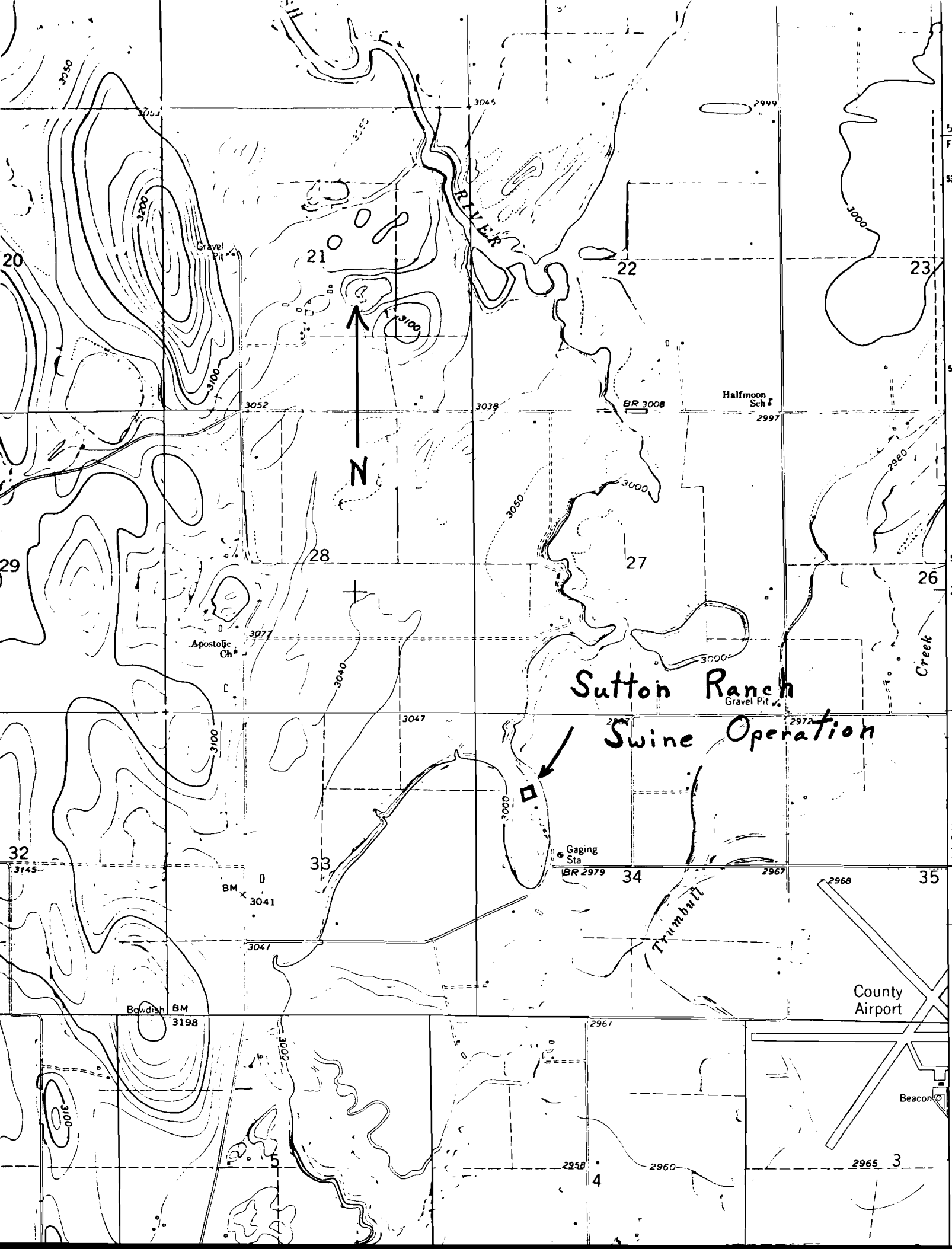
Flies around the animal confinement facility are controlled through a combination spraying and baiting program. Dead animals are disposed of at the county sanitary landfill.

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. Our office has never received complaints of odor problems associated with this animal confinement facility, and no increase in such problems would be anticipated with the proposed expansion.

The only alternatives available to Mr. Sutton would be to continue operating at existing capacity without expansion or total relocation of the existing animal confinement facility. The entire area surrounding the site of this facility is currently utilized primarily for agricultural production and the previously mentioned alternatives do not appear to be 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 strictly adhered to, the operation should result in minimal adverse environmental effects.

Steven L. Pilcher
Water Quality Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

SLP:vlf
Attachment
cc: Ben Wake
Air Quality Bureau


N
Sutton Ranch
Swine Operation
Gravel Pit
Halfmoon Sch
BR 3008
Apostolic Ch
Gaging Sta
BR 2979
BM 3041
Bowdish BM 3198
Trumbull
Creek
County Airport
Beacon
RIVER
20
21
22
23
26
27
28
29
32
33
34
35
5
4
3
3050
3045
2999
3200
3100
3052
3038
2997
2980
3000
3077
3040
3047
2972
2968
3145
2967
3041
2961
2958
2960
2965