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

May 21, 1976

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PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
FOR THE
GEOMIKE ENTERPRISES, INC.

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 Geomike Enterprises, Inc. and a request by Mr. George Michels for a waste discharge permit for the proposed dairy operation located southwest of Glendive, Montana.

The purpose of this preliminary environmental review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups, or individuals 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 our further action. If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within that allotted time.

The proposed animal confinement facility around which this action is centered is located in Sec. 33, T. 16 N., R. 55 E., of Dawson County. This site was at one time utilized for a dairy operation but has not been active for about 10 years.

Geomike Enterprises, Inc. proposes to operate a dairy facility having capacity for a total of approximately 60 cows. The livestock associated

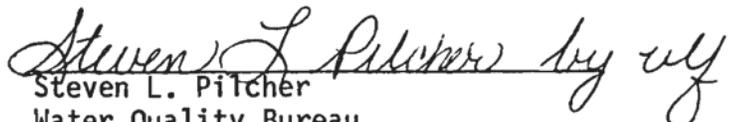
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with this operation would be totally confined within an enclosed building. The waste material which would be generated by the livestock held in confinement will drop through slatted floors into a concrete liquid manure pit. This liquid manure pit will have capacity for approximately 400,000 gallons of waste material which constitutes approximately 6 months wastewater production including livestock waste and water used in flushing. The waste material which accumulates within this waste control facility will be removed at least twice each year and disposed of on adjacent agricultural land. Mr. Michels owns approximately 40 acres of such land, but should waste disposal not coincide with cropping practices on that property, adjacent landowners have indicated an interest in obtaining this waste material. The material would then be utilized for its nutrient value by the crops that are grown with little, if any, detrimental effects to either the soil or the growing crops.

Any animal confinement facility such as this will have an effect on the surrounding environment, but adverse environmental effects can be minimized through adherence to a good waste management program. As previously stated, all wastewater will be contained in the liquid manure pit and should be, therefore, prevented from reaching state waters. If the waste control facilities proposed in the application for permit are constructed and the waste management program strictly adhered to, the problems of environmental degradation should be minimal. Short periods of odor could occur during times when the waste material is removed from the liquid manure pit and disposed of on the agricultural land. The extent and duration of those odors can be minimized through proper application by spreading in a thin layer on the land and by incorporation with the soil whenever cropping practices will allow.

Flies around the animal confinement facility will be controlled through the use of electrocuters. Dead animals will be disposed of through local rendering services. There are no known historical or archaeological sites which would in any way be adversely affected by the proposed animal confinement facility. Likewise, there should be no unusual demands on other environmental resources. If the waste management program as outlined in this preliminary environmental review is adhered to, the problems associated with animal confinement facilities should be eliminated or significantly minimized. Secondary and social impact due to the proposed action is somewhat difficult to determine. A dairy operation of this size should generate additional revenue for the area; the exact amount of such an increase is difficult to predict. While the proposed action would not have a significant impact on the transportation network, it is possible that traffic flows in and around the animal confinement facility would increase slightly as raw materials are periodically hauled into the site and milk hauled to market.

In summary, the overall impact of the proposed action should be significantly minimized due to the waste management program.


Steven L. Pitcher
Water Quality Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

cc: Ben Wake
Air Quality Bureau

FOREST PARK QUADRANGLE
MONTANA—DAWSON CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

14 R. 55 E. 15 47'30" 16 17 3 180 000 FEET 104° 4'

