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

April 16, 1975

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DIRECTOR

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Clyde Fisher
A NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE
FISHER BROS. HOG FARM

Pursuant to the Montana Environmental Policy Act, the following negative declaration has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning the Fisher Brothers hog farm and a request by Mr. Clyde Fisher for a waste discharge permit for his operation near Kalispell, 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 a waste discharge permit should be issued. If you care to comment on this application for a permit, please do so within that allotted time.

Mr. Clyde Fisher currently operates an animal confinement facility having capacity for approximately 600 head. The facility is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 20, T. 29 N., R. 20 W., of Flathead County, approximately eight miles northeast of Kalispell, Montana. The location of this operation is indicated on the attached map.

The existing facility consists of a farrowing shed, finishing shed, and drylot sow pastures. Mr. Fisher proposes to construct a nursery unit adjacent to the other building. The waste material which is produced by animals within the confinement buildings would be contained in liquid manure pits located beneath or adjacent to the confinement units. The

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waste material which accumulates in these pits will then be periodically removed and disposed of on adjacent agricultural land. This waste material is incorporated into the soil following application to reduce adverse environmental effects. Due to the flat topography of the dry lot area, there should be no surface runoff into state waters. Any waste material which accumulates within these areas is removed at least annually and likewise disposed of on surrounding agricultural land. Approximately 150 acres of agricultural land is available for waste disposal.

The applicant indicates that the direction of the prevailing wind is from the southwest and as such, should not directly affect any adjacent property owners. Odors are minimized by frequent removal of the manure, incorporation with the soil at the disposal site, and by periodic washing of the feeding area. Flies around the confinement facility will be controlled through a routine 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. The waste control facilities and the waste management program to be followed in conjunction with this animal confinement facility should result in minimal adverse environmental effects.

Our office has never received complaints of either air or water pollution from the existing animal confinement facility and since the operation is located in an agricultural area, it is doubtful that the proposed modification would have significant adverse effect on the surrounding environment. The only alternative available to Mr. Fisher would be the relocation of the existing facility which does not seem justifiable at this time.


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Water Quality Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

SLP:vlf
Attachment
cc: Ben Wake

