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

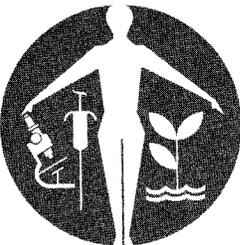
John S. Anderson M.D.
DIRECTOR

August 27, 1975

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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Mr. Greg Gardner, Gardner's LAZW Ranch, Hammond, Montana 59332

A NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
GARDNER'S LAZW RANCH

Pursuant to the Montana Environmental Policy Act, the following negative declaration has been prepared for the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning the Gardner's LAZW Ranch and a request by Mr. Greg Gardner for a waste discharge permit for this operation near Hammond, 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 permit should be issued. If you care to comment on this application for a waste discharge permit, please do so within that allotted time.

Gardner's LAZW Ranch currently operates a confined swine operation having a total capacity for approximately 800 head. This operation is located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 27, T. 6 S., R. 56 E., of Carter County approximately six miles north of Hammond, Montana.

All livestock at this facility are contained in a confinement barn. Waste material which is produced by livestock within this building drops through slatted floors into a liquid manure pit beneath the building and from there it is transported to an earthen retention lagoon. The waste material which accumulates within the pit and the retention lagoon will be periodically removed by a high-pressure pump and piped into an irrigation system. The waste material will then be disposed of on approximately 80 acres of adjacent agricultural land.

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Flies around this animal confinement facility will be controlled as necessary with a spraying or baiting program. Odors around this facility will be minimized through good housekeeping practices and adherence to the proposed waste management program. Dead animals from this operation will be disposed of through burial at an acceptable location.

Any animal confinement facility will have an effect on the surrounding environment, but adverse environmental effects can be minimized through the adherence to a good waste management program. The waste control facilities and waste management program proposed in this application for a waste discharge permit should provide adequate protection to the environment.

The only alternative available to the operators would be relocation of an existing facility. Our office has never received complaints of either air or water pollution from this existing animal confinement facility and it appears to be located in an agricultural area. As long as the waste management program is followed, relocation of this facility does not seem justifiable.

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

SLP:vlf

cc: Ben Wake
Air Quality Bureau