

Decision Summary LA24010A

This document summarizes my reasons for issuing Approval LA24010A, an amended version of Approval LA24010. This amended approval is issued on my own motion, under section 23 of the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* (AOPA). My decision is based on the Act and its regulations, the policies of the NRCB, and all other material in the permit file.

1. Background

The Hutterian Brethren of Waterton (Waterton Colony) owns and operates an existing mixed livestock confined feeding operation (CFO) on S ½ 3-4-28 W4M in the Municipal District (MD) of Pincher Creek, roughly 12 km east of the Hamlet of Twin Butte, Alberta, on the southwest end of Waterton reservoir. The Topography of the area is hummocky and terraced towards the flood plain of the Waterton River. The Waterton River runs along the southside of the CFO. The closest facility to the Waterton River is a feedlot, located approximately 100 m north of the Waterton River.

On May 24, 2024, Hutterian Brethren Church of Waterton (Waterton Colony) received Approval LA24010, permitting the construction of a new chicken layer barn (21 m x 76 m) with (attached) solid manure storage (21 m x 11 m), and an increase in animal numbers from 80 to 140 milking cows (plus associated dries and replacements), chicken layer numbers from 6,000 to 25,000, chicken pullet numbers from 1,500 to 15,000, and a decrease in swine farrow to finish numbers from 180 to 80.

When I issued Approval LA24010, a clerical error occurred by overlooking one condition in Authorization LA06005D when amalgamating the past permits into LA24010. This condition should have been carried forward into Approval LA24010 together with all other conditions as stated in section 10 of Decision Summary LA24010 (*“For clarity, and pursuant to NRCB policy, I consolidated the following permits with Approval LA24010: Authorizations LA06005D, LA08032A, and LA10062A (see NRCB Operational Policy 2016-7: Approvals, part 11.5) ... This consolidation is carried out under section 23 of AOPA, which enables approval officers to amend AOPA permits on their own motion. All conditions from the historical permits are carried forward into the new approval.”*)

Hence, I am updating Approval LA24010 to add this condition into the new amended permit (Approval LA24010A), which will supersede the previously issued Approval LA24010.

This consolidation is completed under section 23 of AOPA, which enables approval officers to amend AOPA permits on their own motion.

No other changes are being made as part of this amendment.

2. Terms and conditions

Approval LA24010A specifies the cumulative permitted livestock capacity as 140 milking cows (plus associated dries and replacements), 80 swine farrow to finish, 25,000 chicken layers, 15,000 chicken pullets, 2,000 beef finishers, 1,000 ducks, 500 geese, and 600 sheep and permits the construction of the new chicken layer barn with solid manure storage.

Therefore, Approval LA24010A contains all of the relevant terms from Approval LA24010. Approval LA24010A restores one on-going condition (condition 5 of Authorization LA06005D) that should have been carried forward as part of Approval LA24010.

3. Conclusion

Approval LA24010 is issued for the reasons provided above.

Waterton Colony's NRCB-issued Approval LA24010 is therefore superseded, unless Approval LA24010A is held invalid following a review and decision by the NRCB's board members or by a court, in which case Waterton Colony's Approval LA24010 will remain in effect.

June 10, 2024

(original signed)
Carina Weisbach
Approval Officer