



## Decision Summary LA24002X

This document summarizes my reasons for amending Approval LA24002 under the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* (AOPA) and issuing Approval LA24002X. All decision documents and the full application are available on the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) website at [www.nrcb.ca](http://www.nrcb.ca) under Confined Feeding Operations (CFO)/CFO Search. My decision is based on Technical Document LA24002, Decision Summary LA24002, and the direction of the NRCB Board given in NRCB Board Decision Request for Review RFR 2024-05/LA24002 Van Huigenbos Farms Ltd issued on August 28, 2024.

Under AOPA this type of application requires an amendment of an approval. For additional information on NRCB permits please refer to [www.nrcb.ca](http://www.nrcb.ca).

### 1. Background

On July 23, 2024, Approval LA24002 was issued to Van Huigenbos Farms Ltd. (Van Huigenbos) permitting an expansion to its existing beef CFO by constructing additional feedlot pens and catch basins, decommissioning an existing row of feedlot pens, increasing beef feeder calf numbers from 2,500 to 16,500, and decreasing beef feeder numbers from 1,200 to 0.

The information about location and permit history can be found in Technical Document LA24002 and Decision Summary LA24002.

On August 28, 2024, following a consideration of filed Requests for Review (RFR), the NRCB Board issued Decision RFR 2024-05. In that decision, the Board denied the RFRs but “strongly recommends that the approval officer require Van Huigenbos to provide written confirmation from a professional surveyor that the MDS measured from the outside walls of the closest neighbouring residence to the point closest to manure storage facilities or manure collection areas is at least 526 m.” On that direction, I am amending Approval LA24002 to add a condition that implements this recommendation.

Because this amendment of Approval LA24002 is being issued upon direction of the NRCB Board, no notice was given to affected parties, referral agencies, the MD of Willow Creek, or the Town of Fort Macleod.

For the same reason, a new MDP consistency determination and a new assessment of the effects on the economy and community was not done in conjunction with this permit amendment.

A new environmental risk assessment of the proposed and existing facilities was also not undertaken. The results of the risk assessment as reflected in Technical Document LA24002 (page 10 of 54) and as discussed in section 8 of Decision Summary LA24002 are still valid.

### 2. Terms and conditions

Approval LA24002X includes all the terms and conditions set out in Approval LA24002, with the addition of condition #24 and the water well testing condition re-numbered to condition #25.

Therefore, the new condition #24 will state:

“The permit holder shall provide the NRCB with written confirmation from a professional surveyor verifying the minimum distance separation (to the nearest 0.1 m) from the outside walls of the closest neighbouring residence to the point closest to manure storage facilities or manure collection areas is at least 526 m. This document must be received by the NRCB by October 31, 2024.”

Rather than issuing a new permit, I consolidated all terms and conditions of Approval LA24002, with the addition of the new condition and re-numbering an operating condition, in the new, amended Approval LA24002X. This is to improve clarity and efficiency and is in accordance with NRCB Operational Policy 2016-7: *Approvals* at part 11.5.

### **3. Conclusion**

Approval LA24002X is issued for the reasons provided above, in Decision Summary LA24002, in Technical Document LA24002, and in NRCB Board Decision 2024-05.

Van Huigenbos' Approval LA24002 is therefore superseded, and its content consolidated into this Approval LA24002X, unless Approval LA24002X is held invalid following a decision by the NRCB's Board members or by a court, in which case Approval LA24002 will remain in effect.

September 17, 2024

(Original signed)  
Kelsey Peddle  
Approval Officer