

Laura Friend,

August 1, 2019.

Here is our rebuttal to the complaints filed by Mr. Sakamoto against our permit approval.

*The approval officer failed to give Mr. Sakamoto a reasonable opportunity to... review the information ...and submit evidence.*

Mr Sakamoto had just as much time as anyone else. If his mailing address was wrong, so that he did not receive the announcement on time, he should have updated his correct mailing address. In addition to that, announcements were also printed in the Sunny South News, which is provided free of charge everyone living in the county. IN addition to that, he was still able to submit a complaint for the time was up, so how could he complain that he didn't have enough time?

*Sundown Feeders has had a history of non-compliance with legislative requirements and conditions of approval of its operations including but not limited to spills and leakages of waste; improper disposal of animal carcasses; and failing to adhere to setback requirements.*

Animal carcasses are composted in a compost pile, with additional additives to speed up decomposition, which is an environmentally friendly and legal method.

Last fall we stockpiled manure on our field, which is totally legal, but never noticed that our pile was situated near a natural drain in the field, which was our mistake. When it was pointed out to us, the pile was cleaned up within a couple days. Because of the dry years we have had, the manure could not possibly have entered the nearby drain, so it could not have adversely affected anyone. If you have any questions about this occurrence, you can call NRCB complaints officer Karl Iverson, who dealt with this issue.

Besides that mistake, there has never been a complaint made against us about non-compliance with requirements since we started farming here almost 18 years ago.

*In particular such effect on its location in the flood plains....*

Our feedlot is not located on a floodplain at all.

*"asthma and breathing difficulties caused by improper and prolonged piling of manure ... piling of manure within 15 meters of the Sakamoto residence"*

The closest that our pile of manure ever came to his residence is 240 meters, not 15. If we had piled it 15 meters from his house, it would have been on his own property. The closest that our pile was to his property was 25 meters, and it was separated from his property by a berm and a natural drain. See attached map. So Mr. Sakamoto lied.

*"serious health risks related to the improper disposal of animal carcasses near the Sakamoto family residence"*

We have never ever disposed of animal carcasses near his home. Up to two years ago, dead animals were always promptly picked up by Southern Alberta Processing. The last two years we started composting the dead animals in a compost pile with Agri-mest. We are part of a study that is studying its use in composting carcasses. So Mr. Sakamoto lied again. If it has ever happened that there were dead animals near his yard, it must have been wildlife or another farmer's animals.

*“general health risk posed by the potential leakage of manure and bacteria related to flooding”*

One of the conditions of our approval was

1. The permit holder shall complete construction of the manure collection and storage portions of the catch basin prior to November 30, 2021.
2. The permit holder shall provide written documentation, prepared by a “professional engineer” ... certifying the thickness of the catch basin’s constructed clay liner and confirming that the completed hydraulic conductivity of the liner is less than  $5 \times 10^{-7}$  cm/sec
3. The permit holder shall immediately cease construction of the catch basin and contact the NRCB if the water table is observed to be 1 meter or less from the bottom of the catch basin liner
4. The permit holder shall not allow runoff to enter the catch basin until the facility has been inspected by NRCB personnel.....

So in other words, the approval of our permit is actually to Mr. Sakamoto’s benefit, since it included vastly improved manure handling storage facilities.

Sincerely,

Gus Van Velthuisen

Sundown Feeders Ltd.



Start new

Distance 23.98 m

Google

