

Cyndy Berry
RR 1 Site 5 Box 1
Leslieville, AB. T0M 1H0
September 17, 2019

Dear Mr. Smejkal:

I am responding to your letter of August 16/2019 regarding the request from Stant Enterprises for a grandfathering determination of the feedlot located at NW 18-40-4W5M.

I am directly affected by any decision made by the NRCB as I reside on the acreage bordering the feedlot at SW19-40-4W5M. My husband and I purchased this 1/4 section in 1986 and up until his hospitalization and death this past February of 2019, we have lived and I continue to live on this property.

For these 30+ years, we have been adversely affected by the existing operation of this feedlot. When we first lived at our residence, the feedlot was operational and housing a limited number of cattle but we still had the usual activity related to a feedlot operation such as:

- (a) foul smell
- (b) excessive noise
- (c) dust and
- (d) traffic

As of January 2002, the operation was not "at a size that was at or greater than the threshold size" to need a permit under AOPA". In the past ten years or so, it has become almost defunct. However, in the years it was operational, we endured the resulting consequences of a neighbouring feedlot, namely cattle loose on our property for long periods of time. At one point, the cattle made their way into our yard and destroyed our garden. Besides this, when Stan had the manure haulers into the lot and driving up past our home beside the road, they created so much dust, you could hardly breathe here at the house. At the time, we called Stan and asked him to water the road, which he did not; consequently, we contacted the MD of Clearwater where we were assured that this on-going traffic from dawn to dusk was not considered "normal agricultural activity" and they had the road watered down for the duration of the hauling at Stan's expense. From that point on, when traffic from the feedlot was excessive, we called the MD to have dust control enforced in front of our residence.

In addition to the above general feedlot consequences, we would call Hillbrook Feeders and let Wilma, Stan's assistant at the site, whenever their cattle were loose on our property, the road, or in some cases in distress in the field to the west of us. Another specific incident took place on very cold December day when a cow was calving in the west field, and we could see coyotes moving in on her. My husband called Stan to let him know of this dire situation yet it was not dealt with until hours later. It became quite clear to me, early in our experiences with Stan and his operation, that his animal management and husbandry were sadly lacking. I still regret selling some cattle to him one fall in the early 90's- I never did that again!

My greatest concern in the authorization of this pending permit, is that the feedlot will be either leased or sold to another party who will maximize capacity based on the NRCB decision. Already silage from the neighbouring field, owned by the Leedale Colony, is up and covered for the upcoming winter in preparation for cattle at the feedlot. I have already noticed an increase in road activity since the Hutterites have bought surrounding quarters from Stan Taylor or his related companies. Because my home of thirty years is close to the road and at the top of the

hill, I get the full impact of the dust and the noise of trucks or machinery gearing down or up as they negotiate south down the hill to the feedlot and surrounding fields. At one time, a cattle liner actually spun out directly in front of our home and could not make the hill. I should also point out this road is a bus route for school children with a current stop to the north of me. Without a doubt, RR 5-0 south of Highway 12 is not built to sustain the resulting traffic that a 5000 head feedlot would necessitate.

Furthermore, I have a grave concern for the environment should an operation of this magnitude be allowed. I know of issues of water availability and contamination at this feedlot in the past when it was operational at minimal capacity. What does that mean should 5000 feeders be confined on this site? I am sure that the NRCB will be considering this issue seeing as the feedlot and surrounding area is situated directly above a huge aquifer.

Lastly, but of equally importance, as a recent widow, I will be looking at selling my acreage in the near future. Should the NRBC allow this operation to thrive at maximum capacity of 5000, it will seriously devalue my property and may even make it impossible to sell. It is heart-breaking to think my husband and I bought, built our home and raised our family here and will not reap the benefits of our years of investment. It should be mentioned that since we bought the quarter in 1986, the MD has allowed four acreages (two owned by Stan Taylor) to be sold off of quarters within 1/4 to 1/2 mile of the feedlot. They have endorsed this ruling to the owner's financial benefit, myself included. This will now present ramifications which I am sure the MD deals with on a regular basis. Stant Enterprises will enjoy considerable financial gain in the sale of this feedlot while leaving surrounding acreage owners dealing with the consequences. That is of serious concern to me as well as other owners, who may or may not be aware of this situation.

In summary, as a directly affected party, I am strongly opposed to the development of this feedlot for personal, ethical, and financial reasons as outlined in the above. I sincerely hope that the NRCB acts responsibly and ethically in their investigation and carefully considers the negative impact of grandfathering a permit and how it would have detrimental repercussions for individuals like myself, and the natural resources and environment.

Thank you for considering my letter in this investigation, and I look forward to hearing the decision made on this contentious issue.

Sincerely
Cyndy Berry

cc Amber Williams, Administration. Clearwater County
cc Keith McCrae, Planning and Development. Clearwater County
cc Cammie Laird, Division 2 Councillor. Clearwater County.