

**#5 - REQUEST FOR REVIEW: LA20014 / Granum Colony**

Filed By:

**Barry and Casey Arnestad**

Deadline for RFRs:

September 17, 2020

Date RFR received:

September 16, 2020

Status of party as per Decision Summary:

N/A

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Laura Friend](#)  
**Subject:** Request for board review of approval of application LA20014  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2020 8:59:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [NRCBReviewLetter.docx](#)

---

Hi Laura,

Please see the attached letter expressing our concerns regarding application LA22014.

I would also like our names (Barry and Cassandra Arnestad) added to the list of directly affected parties as we are located less than 1500 m from the proposed facility.

Thanks,  
Casey Arnestad

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Barry and Casey Arnestad

██████████  
Claresholm, AB

TOL OTO

NE ¼ 19-11-27 W4

NRCB

Agriculture Centre

100, 5401 1 Ave S

T1J 4V6

Sept. 15, 2020

Re: Decision on Application LA20014 – Request for board review

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to express our concern regarding the approval for Granum Hutterite Colony to build a 20,000-layer facility and request that this decision be presented to the Board for review.

We are very concerned about the impact this facility will have on our quality of life and our ability to use our land for both work and enjoyment. It took 20 years of working and saving for us to be able to buy our home. The approval of this facility does not adequately take into account our ability to use our property as intended. The impact this facility will have on our use of our property is unacceptable. We love spending time outside with our livestock and pets, our kids play sports and games, we enjoy morning coffee, afternoon reading and evening barbeques outdoors. We calve out cows and raise horses. Family comes to visit and they camp on our property, we sit in the yard and socialize for hours. We use our land to produce income and for recreation. The dust, odour, pollutants and flies created by 20,000 chickens has the potential to destroy all of this.

20,000 chickens produce a tremendous amount of waste that smells unpleasant and contains harmful pollutants and disease. Bad odour alone has the potential to induce headaches, nausea, negative moods, anxiety and increase stress levels. We have all experienced the unpleasantness of being in an enclosed space with someone wearing too much strong perfume and the nausea and headache that result. Imagine if that were now your everyday life and there is no way to escape except to leave your home. Persistent foul odour also has the potential to cause physical stress such as eye, nose, throat and lung irritation. This is of added concern to us as our middle son had 2/3rds of his left lung removed shortly after birth. We are strongly opposed to gambling our child's health on "probably it will be fine". Especially when you consider that the reason these odours are unpleasant is because they contain harmful chemicals such as ammonia and hydrogen sulfide. These chemicals can be lethal at high enough concentrations and are harmful at any level. The impact of that harm is amplified for individuals with pre-existing health conditions. Considering the number of homes in close proximity to this facility it is likely that our son is not the only person who stands to have his health negatively impacted.

In the approval of this facility the officer placed a stipulation that manure only be spread in the fall due to regular flooding in spring and early summer in the area. While this will hopefully help minimize manure flowing into nearby Willow Creek and Meadow Creek it does raise other concerns. One of these is storage of the manure over the period of a year. It is our understanding that the NRCB requires solid manure storage to hold 9 consecutive months of manure production. If manure is only being spread once a year this will clearly be inadequate. As mentioned earlier in this letter we are very concerned about the odours and pollutants this facility will produce and the impact this will have on our quality of life. Manure being stored on the facility for 12 months or possibly longer will definitely magnify this problem. This also applies to flies. Of course, flies are always an ongoing battle in rural areas. Adding an abundant and constant source of food and breeding ground for flies will mean an increase in pests that will be a torment to both humans and livestock, carrying disease to both. We are also concerned about the path the manure will take from the facility to the field where it will be spread. The route goes directly past our home and while the manure is being spread will increase traffic, dust, noise and smell. I know we have all seen the trails of manure that can result on the road during the hauling process. Driving on the road and then into our yard will mean this manure is now in our yard. We are also concerned about what the plan would be if the fall window for spreading and incorporating manure is missed. Fall spreading will mean that harvest must be done before the manure can be spread. There are years that harvest is delayed combined with an early freeze. Since manure cannot be spread on frozen ground this could result in an unacceptable stockpile of manure with no where to go. If the decision is made to then use an outdoor area for short term manure storage this will also have an impact on odour, pollutants and flies while also putting nearby Meadow Creek at risk and blowing dust contaminated with fecal matter on to neighbouring properties.

Finally, while it is not the NRCB's realm of influence it is worth noting that the Granum Colony has a large land base that would allow for this facility and their proposed new colony to be built with a much larger buffer zone between neighbours. It isn't fair or right for someone to build a barn to house 20,000 animals 1500 feet from another person's doorstep while keeping their own homes safely upwind no matter what the MDS says.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter and the many others you are sure to receive on this matter. We urge you to consider what you would like the outcome to be if your neighbour wanted to put 20,000 chickens and the accompanying manure, odour, pollutants and flies immediately next to your home rather than their own.

Sincerely,

Barry and Casey Arnestad