

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

Filed By:	<b>Ken and Debra Loeffler</b>
Deadline for RFRs:	September 17, 2020
Date RFR received:	September 17, 2020
Status of party as per Decision Summary:	Directly Affected

ATTENTION LAURA Friend

**REQUEST FOR BOARD REVIEW**  
SUBMITTED TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD

Application No:	LA20014
Name of Operator/Operation:	Hutterian Brethren Church of Granum
Type of application (check one):	<input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Registration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorization
Location (legal land description):	SE 25-11-28 W4M
Municipality:	Municipal District of Willow Creek

I hereby request a Board Review of the Approval Officer's Decision and have the right to request a Board review because (please review all options and check one):

- I am the producer seeking the approval/registration/authorization.
- I represent the producer seeking the approval/registration/authorization.
- I represent the municipal government.
- I am listed as a directly affected party in the Approval Officer's Decision.
- I am not listed as a directly affected party in the Approval Officer's Decision and would like the Board to review my status.

**IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. You must meet the specified 10-day timeline; otherwise your request will not be considered.
2. Section 1 of this form must be completed only if you are requesting that the Board review your status as "not directly affected". Sections 2 to 5 must be completed by all applicants.
3. This form must be signed and dated before it is submitted to the Board for its review.
4. Be aware that Requests for Board Review are considered public documents. Your submitted request will be provided to all directly affected parties and will also be made available to members of the public upon request.
5. For more assistance, please call Laura Friend, Manager, Board Reviews at 403-297-8269.



## 2. GROUNDS FOR REQUESTING A REVIEW

(ALL PARTIES MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION)

In order to approve an application, NRCB Approval Officers must ensure the requirements of AOPA have been met. Your grounds for requesting a Board review should identify any requirements or specific issues that you believe the Approval Officer failed to adequately address in the Decision.

**My grounds for requesting a review of the Approval Officer's decision are as follows:**

We believe that the Approval Officer has just pushed aside any concerns that ourselves and other land owners in this area have submitted to the NRCB. We were notified that the Granum Colony had applied for the construction a new poultry confined feeding operation for 20,000 chickens and were advised to submit our concerns. What weren't advised of that right beside that chicken facility will also be another poultry operation (ducks and geese) and that there will also be a new colony built in the same area as the chicken facility in the future. It seems that we are only given notification on one facility at a time and are told that we can only submit our concerns about that one facility, but we already know that there are other facilities coming. We all know that once one facility is approved, as the chicken barn has been, there will be no chance of fighting against the other facilities.

I find it very convenient that this poultry confined feeding operation is being pushed through during the year of the COVID virus, when it is hard to get the AHS and the AEP to take the time to check out the situation at hand.

Also it has been stated by the Approval Officer that there is two CFO's in the area when there is actually five CFO's in this area. So do we really have to deal with a sixth.

### 3. REASONS YOU ARE AFFECTED BY THE DECISION

(ALL PARTIES MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION)

In order to support your reasons for requesting a review, please explain how you believe you would be affected by the Approval Officer's decision.

**I believe that, as a result of the Approval Officer's decision, the following prejudice or damage will result:**

The Approval Officer has stated that we will smell some chicken manure during the spreading seasons, but we are also going to smell manure directly from the chicken facility itself. We will not be able to enjoy our own properties due to the smell that will be released into the air from this facility.

There will be higher stress and depression from having to be confined to your home, not being able to open windows or sit outside to enjoy a summer evening. This facility will impact our health and mental health, there will be more possibilities for allergies, asthma and other respiratory issues from the dust, bacteria and other toxins released from this chicken barn. And how are the deads being disposed of? Just dumped on the land? This would mean the smell of decaying carcasses, and higher fly infestations. When these chickens are of an age that they are no longer laying eggs, how are their lives ended? Are humane methods in place?

Then there is the concern of the increase in traffic. The NRCB Approval Officer has stated that there will not be a significant increase in traffic, but we have already seen an increase in the Hutterite Semi Trucks that are flying down Range Road 280 right past our house and the dust from these trucks has drifted across our pasture right up to our house. So it has already begun and the chicken facility has not even been built yet! This dust is being breathed in by us, our cattle and horses that are grazing in those pastures, but we are told that this will not have a negative impact on us. These roads, when it is hot and dry, break down to a very fine dust that floats for miles, but when we have moisture the roads become very soft and can be quite dangerous when having to move over for oncoming traffic. So the increase in heavy traffic will deteriorate the roads more quickly, resulting in higher taxes. Also, it is not only the residents in the area that will have to contend with bad road conditions, but the school buses that also travel these roads to pick up the children in the area 5 days a week.

We are told that water quality and quantity is not a concern with the NRCB, but it is a concern of ours, and we can not see how that the 2 poultry facilities and a Hutterite colony is not going to affect our wells. Do we not have the right to have drinking water and water for household use? And who will be responsible if these facilities do affect our wells? As for flooding, I guess you have to live here to realize how much land in the area ends up under water.

**4. ACTION REQUESTED**

(ALL PARTIES MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION)

**I would like the Board to take the following actions with the respect to the Approval Officer's decision:**

- Amend or vary the decision
- Reverse the decision

**Please describe why you believe the Board should take this action:**

I have never seen where these type of facilities are built so close in the vicinity of where people reside. Usually they have a distance of 5 to 10 miles from other residences, so why is this situation different? I feel that our rights are not being taken into consideration.

If the Board decides to grant a review (*in the form of either a hearing or a written review*), all directly affected parties are eligible to participate. The Board may consider amending the Approval, Registration, or Authorization on any terms and conditions it deems appropriate. **Please note the Board cannot make any amendments unless it first decides to grant a review.**

If a review is granted by the Board, are there any new conditions, or amendments to existing conditions, that you would like the Board to consider? It is helpful if you identify how you believe your suggested conditions or amendments would address your concerns.

If these facilities are allowed to proceed, we feel that there needs to be some conditions put in place.

The colony needs to do something about the control of the dust from the roads that they will be travelling with their bigger equipment and semi's.

Also, as AEP has stated, that all efforts should be made to protect drinking water sources during construction and operation of the facility and that water testing of drinking water should be conducted. We think that this should be a condition to ensure that surrounding landowners do not possibly lose the quality of their water supplied to their households.

**5. CONTACT INFORMATION**

(ALL PARTIES MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION)

**Contact information of the person requesting the review:**

Name: Ken and Debra Loeffler

Address in Alberta: [REDACTED]

Claresholm, AB

Legal Land Description: SW 19-11-27 W4

Phone Number: [REDACTED] Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Signature: *Ken Loeffler* Date: September 16, 2020  
*Debra Loeffler*

Please note that all sections of the form must be completed in order for your request to be considered. Also, if you do not meet the timeline identified, your request will not be considered. Form must be signed and dated before being submitted for Board consideration

**If you are, or will be, represented by another party, please provide their contact information (Note: If you are represented by legal counsel, correspondence from the Board will be directed to your counsel)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**When you have completed your request, please send it, with any supporting documents to:**

Laura Friend, Manager, Board Reviews  
 Natural Resources Conservation Board  
 19<sup>th</sup> Floor Centennial Place  
 250 – 5<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
 Calgary, AB T2P 0R4

Phone: 403-297-8269  
 Email: [laura.friend@nrcb.ca](mailto:laura.friend@nrcb.ca)

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