

July 28, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Application LA20014  
Hutterian Brethren Church of Granum  
SE 25-11-28 W4M**

We would like to express our concern for this application. We are landowners that have resided here for 53 years and, like numerous people in the area, will be directly affected by this application.

The close proximity of the proposed poultry barn and manure storage area to Meadow Creek is very concerning for the environment. Having resided here for 53 years we have witnessed numerous floods and their drastic impact on the area. Each flood has surprised us that a small creek like Meadow Creek can grow overnight and cause widespread damage. We have been unable to travel to Claresholm because of many of the roads and bridges in the area becoming impassable. The close proximity of the proposed location to Meadow Creek is concerning. When the next flood occurs, a poultry barn and manure storage area constructed there could cause severe consequences related to water contamination. This could have very far reaching effects.

There is significant evidence that large amounts of flooding occur near the proposed location. In the area there are three drainage pipes that go into Willow Creek. At the intersection of Range Road 280 and Meadow Creek Road (TWP 114) you can see where the fence has been moved on an angle because of flooding. Hope has walked on the south portion of section 25 with the previous landowner and learned of a drainage pipe buried underground that drains water seepage into Meadow Creek. These are just a few examples of flooding near the proposed location.

The disposal practices associated with poultry barns could also have negative impacts on the environment. The euthanasia of laying hens and subsequent decomposition in the manure area and spreading on fields could have serious consequences for the environment including contamination of the groundwater. The application does not address these potential issues and is lacking detail on how any environmental issues will be addressed. A large-scale poultry barn will also affect the air quality in the area.

We are also very concerned about the consequences for the road conditions in the area. We travel past this proposed location to get to Claresholm and currently the road conditions are very poor. If this application were approved then the increased traffic would deteriorate the roads even further. The roads and bridges in the area are not rated high enough for the weights of heavy trucks. These roads are used by numerous people to travel and commute to Claresholm and surrounding areas. If this application were approved then the landowners in the area will likely face increased taxes to offset the costs of increased road and bridge maintenance and upgrading. It is likely that the M.D.

maintenance will not be able to keep up with the increased traffic since they struggle to do so currently.

Hope has driven school bus for 17 years. There are two school bus routes that travel the Meadow Creek Road four times a day on school days. We are very concerned about the safety of the road if this application were approved, particularly the intersection of Meadow Creek Road (TWP 114) and Range Road 280. Every landowner residing beyond this intersection travels through this intersection to access Claresholm. This intersection is where the Hutterian Brethren would cross to access their landholdings and colony to the south. This is well known to already be a dangerous intersection. Rodney and Hope have witnessed someone run the stop sign going north at this intersection and narrowly miss a neighbour driving east to Claresholm. There would be high amounts of traffic travelling between the proposed poultry barn location and the current Hutterian Brethren colony including large trucks and slow-moving farm machinery. It is also concerning that this machinery may be driven by young, inexperienced drivers. This intersection and the surrounding roads will have decreased safety for everyone.

The Hutterian Brethren Church of Granum own approximately 60,000 acres. Surely they could find a different location that would have less of an impact on the environment and surrounding neighbours. They are a huge corporation that is going to operate at the expense of the smaller landowners. Many of these landowners have been here for generations and we feel that their concerns should be taken seriously. It is concerning that they intend to construct even more large-scale, confined feeding operations in this area. The lack of transparency with their long-term intentions makes one wonder what other unforeseen consequences could arise should this application be approved. Furthermore, the application has misleading information in it. Under Part 2-Technical Requirements it states that "The former land[own]er indicated that [in] 60 years the water has never flooded over the creek into the yardsite". This is very misleading because the former landowner only owned the land for 40 years.

We are proud to be a small agricultural family ranch on Meadow Creek in beautiful southern Alberta and hope to continue our ranch for future generations to operate and continue to be environmental stewards of this land. Thank you for your time and we appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rodney & Hope Jensen  
NW 18-11-28 W4M  
P.O. Box [REDACTED]  
Claresholm, Alberta T0L 0T0  
[REDACTED]

Eddie & Natalie Jensen  
NE 17-11-28 W4M  
P.O. Box [REDACTED]  
Claresholm, Alberta T0L 0T0  
[REDACTED]