



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING DISTRICT OFFICE



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

January 24, 2005

CERTIFIED MAIL

NL-001095

Mr. Dean Jeffrey Armstrong
Michigan State University
102 Agricultural Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

SUBJECT: Michigan State University (MSU) Beef Cattle Research & Teaching Center
Complaint Response Inspection

This letter details the results of site inspections conducted by the Water Bureau of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) at the MSU Beef Cattle Research & Teaching Center (BCRTC) located at 3200 Bennett Road, East Lansing, Michigan. Inspections were conducted January 4, 12, and 14, 2005. Mr. Charles Reid, Mr. Benjamin Darling, and Mr. Thomas Grove of MSU participated in the January 12 inspection. Inspections were in response to a series of complaints reported to Water Bureau, Lansing District Office during December 2004 through January 2005. The complaints described manure runoff from the BCRTC outside lots.

The BCRTC is located at the corner of Beaumont and Bennett Roads. The facility is located on a ridge and any runoff may be directed east or west. The following observations were made:

BCRTC east:

- Lack of proper collection and storage for the silage and bedding on the north side of the facility results in silage leachate and contaminated storm water runoff to drain, via swales and ditches, to the Bennett Road roadside ditch. Wastewater and stormwater pond in the low lying area along Bennett Road.
- A series of outside animal lots are located on the east side of the facility. An area of these lots slopes such that during precipitation or snowmelt, manure runoff will flow to a ditch along the access road, and eventually to the low lying area along Bennett Road.
- A catch basin installed by the Ingham County Road Commission (ICRC) is located at the low-lying area in the roadside ditch on the north side of Bennett Road. Water was observed flowing from the catch basin into the adjacent lowlands. There is another surface water inlet on the south side of the road; however, at the time of the inspections, no water was observed flowing into or from this structure.

Follow-up phone conversations with the ICRC and the office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner (ICDC), indicated no records or institutional knowledge of specific tile connections from the eastern area of the BCRTC or from the catch basin to the waters of the state. Therefore, while pathways of contaminated storm water runoff are observed leading to the catch basin in Bennett Road, a direct connection to waters of the state can not be determined at this time.

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BCRTC west:

- Additional outside animal lots are located to the southwest side of the BCRTC facility. A culvert on the MSU grounds carries manure runoff to the Beaumont Road culvert and then west along Bennett Road to another low lying area.
- At this western low area, manure runoff flows to a catch basin installed by the ICRC and a tile riser installed by MSU. These structures are inlets for runoff to then flow to the Bennett county drain which flows to the Goritz county drain and then to the Red Cedar River.

At the time of inspection, MSU had recently installed temporary measures to prevent manure runoff from the southwest lots from reaching Beaumont and Bennett Roads. Given the lack of controls, the flow pathways, the slope of the land, and the direct connections to county drains, it is evident that precipitation events occurring prior to these temporary measures would result in discharges of manure runoff to surface waters of the state.

You are hereby directed to submit a report by **February 24, 2005** to the DEQ, Water Bureau, Lansing District office, Constitution Hall-4 North, P.O. Box 30242, Lansing, Michigan 48909. This report shall indicate when and what steps have been and will be taken to stop further discharges of manure and contaminated storm water.

In accordance with the DEQ's Final Determination and Notice regarding Surface Water Discharges from Large Animal Feeding Operations, (signed December 11, 2002), a large animal feeding operation that is determined to have had a regulated discharge since January 2000, has the duty to obtain coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit. A NPDES CAFO permit application is enclosed. Please return the completed permit application to DEQ by February 24, 2005.

The CAFO permit will specify that MSU have a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) completed by a certified plan provider. In addition, there is a permit application fee of \$75.00 due with the application.

It is imperative that there are no additional discharges from the MSU facilities or operations and this will be verified by routine inspections by the MDEQ. Furthermore, we want to stress the importance of adherence to the CNMP, as well as visual observations and judgments so that MSU does not have any additional discharges. In particular, flow paths, vegetative buffers strips, and outlets should be inspected regularly to ensure there is no discharge to waters of the state.

Sincerely,

Megan McMahon
Environmental Quality Analyst
Field Operations Division, Lansing District
Water Bureau
517-335-6107

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Charles Reid, MSU
Dr. Karen Plaut, MSU
Mr. Pat Lindemann, ICDC
Ms. Ronda Wuycheck, MDEQ-WB