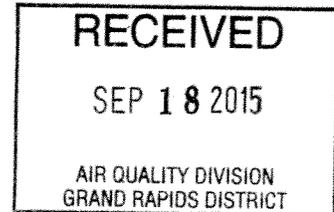


Rest In Peace Farms LLC
12545 Bingham Street
Holland, Michigan 49424
616-886-8639 (Office)
616-796-0262 (fax)

September 15, 2015



Dr. James Averill
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Animal Industry Division
P O Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Dr. Averill,

In response to the letter received from Michigan DEQ (copy attached), below is my response.

We do admit that the business we are in does produce foul order and somethings are beyond our control (example: trucks going in/out of the plant). It would be helpful if we were notified when there was a complaint with the location of the odor in proximity to the plant. This would certainly be of help in locating further areas in the plant that need re-configuring. It's hard to go back and re-create the situation under which circumstances the odor was detected. It is upsetting that you have had 45 complaints but we have heard nothing from the neighbors. We try to be respectful of them and have completed thousands of dollars' worth of re-configuring/construction of the facility to control the odor.

Looking at the dates in the letter when the investigation was conducted, two of the three days were Tuesdays which leads me to believe the complaints were made the preceding day (Monday). Monday's are very challenging for us because of the weekend when we are unable to go into landfills to dump carcasses. Therefore, we do not run our trucks on weekends. On several occasions this summer, we had trucks running late to get caught up and some carcasses sat at our facility overnight.

We are very careful not to have any carcasses at the facility over 24 hours so as to comply with the Bodies of Dead Animals Act. Assuming I have the complaints correct, here are the actions we are taking to correct it:

- We have added six new employees in the last 60 days.
- Within the next 30 days, we will have an additional truck in the fleet to help facilitate the large number of animals being picked up on Monday's.

The combination of additional vehicles and employees will allow us to process the animals in a more timely fashion and remove any animals with too much decay so as to lessen the likelihood of complaints.

On a side note, our plant manager, Scott, had a conversation with one of the AQD investigators who noted that he had smelled the odor on Kelsey Highway. I would like to challenge this statement as this is over ½ mile from our plant. I would tend to believe that there was a dead deer or other carcass between Kelsey Highway and our plant.

If you have questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me at 616-403-0017.

Sincerely,



Mark E Schoenborn
Owner

Cc: Mr. Eric Grinstern, AQD