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Heartland Quality Egg Farm **Draft Permit to Operate Renewal**

General overview of the farm

The existing facility called “Heartland Quality Egg Farm” is located in Logan County, Bokes Creek Township, at 9800 County Road 26, West Mansfield, Ohio 43358. It is located in the Upper Scioto River watershed. The facility is owned and operated by Weaver Brothers, Inc. from Versailles, Ohio. The facility has a total design capacity of 1,754,910 laying hens housed in seven barns. The solid poultry manure is stored in concrete structures associated with each of the seven housing barns. Each manure storage structure has the capacity to store about 200,000 cubic feet of manure, which provides between 252 and 417 days’ worth of storage capacity, depending on the size of the building. The facility also includes two lagoons to store process wastewater from egg washing operations. The two ponds have a combined storage volume of about 2 million gallons, which provides about 290 days’ worth of storage capacity.

Overview of Draft Permit to Operate

This draft Permit to Operate (PTO) renewal would be valid for a period of 5 years. Within the draft PTO renewal, a complete manure management plan is provided which outlines inspections and monitoring that must be completed by the facility. At the maximum design capacity, the facility would generate an estimated 22,211 tons of solid manure annually. All of this manure would be distributed to and utilized by cooperating farmers to recycle the nutrients on productive crop land as an organic alternative to imported commercial chemical fertilizers. In addition the facility would generate about 2.5 million gallons of low-nutrient process wastewater from egg washing operations. The irrigated wastewater would be distributed to and utilized by a neighboring crop farmer to replace a fraction of the commercial chemical fertilizers that would otherwise be needed.

A detailed Insect and Rodent Control Plan is required to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents. The plan details which types of pests could potentially cause problems and how the facility will prevent those problems from occurring. The plan explains what preventative measures and treatments are available and how and when they might be employed. Details regarding the Insect and Rodent Control Plan can be found in the draft PTO.

A Mortality Management Plan is required for the disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of mortality disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering and composting. The facility will continue to use transport to a sanitary landfill as the primary method of mortality disposal.

An Emergency Response Plan is also required to ensure that accidents or emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies.

Finally, an Operating Record is contained in the draft Permit to Operate that includes all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to show compliance with ODA’s rules and the permit. These records include inspection of the manure storage structures, groundwater sampling, manure characterization, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. The facility and these records are routinely inspected by ODA to ensure compliance. -End-

