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Van Erk Dairy **Draft Permit to Operate Renewal**

General overview of the farm

The existing facility known as “Van Erk Dairy” is located at 8789 State Route 114, Haviland, Ohio, in Paulding County, Blue Creek Township. It is situated in the Auglaize River watershed. The facility is owned and operated by GreenTop Acres, LLC. The dairy currently has the capacity to house 2,000 dairy cows in four freestall barns.

The facility includes four existing manure storage ponds with a combined capacity of 38.36 million gallons that provide almost a year’s worth of storage. A sand lane system recycles the sand bedding material. The facility has 48,000 cubic feet of available storage for the recycled sand material. In addition, the facility operates a 1.5 million gallon anaerobic digester treatment system intended to generate renewable electricity and reduce manure odors and pathogens.

Overview of Draft Permit to Operate

Within the draft Permit to Operate (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 40.50 million gallons annually of combined liquid manure, captured storm water, parlor wash water, and flush water. The liquid manure and storm water would be applied to 5,700 acres of nearby crop land as an organic alternative to commercial chemical fertilizers.

An Insect and Rodent Control Plan is included to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents.

A Mortality Management Plan is required for proper disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering and composting. Van Erk Dairy plans to utilize a rendering service as the primary method to manage mortality losses.

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

Finally, an Operating Record is included that provides 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, manure characterization, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. The facility and these records are inspected by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to ensure compliance. –End-

