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Van Erk Dairy Draft Permit to Install & Draft Permit to Operate

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 by GreenTop Acres, LLC and operated by GreenTop Acres LLC and Ohio Renewables Holdings, 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 36.4 million gallons that provide almost a year’s worth of storage. A sand lane system recycles the sand bedding material. The facility has 147,000 cubic feet of available storage capacity for recycled sand material and solid manure. In addition, the facility operates an existing 1.5 million gallon anaerobic digester located at the dairy.

General Overview of the draft Permit to Install

Van Erk Dairy has proposed to construct a 10 million gallon anaerobic digester that would process manure originating from other dairies in the area, for the purpose of generating renewable natural gas. Manure would be hauled to the facility on semi-truck tankers and then offloaded into the 4-cell concrete digester. The liquid manure would pass through the digester and then through a solids separation process, resulting in a liquid “digestate” fraction and a processed solids fraction.

The liquid digestate would primarily be loaded back onto semi-truck tankers to be returned to the dairies from which it originated. In addition, the facility proposes to construct a 6 million gallon earthen pond to provide temporary storage for a portion of the liquid digestate material. The processed solids would be stored in a proposed building that could hold up to 345,600 cubic feet of material for eventual distribution and utilization by others. No additional animal design capacity is proposed with this draft permit.

General overview of the draft Permit to Operate

Within the draft Permit to Operate (PTO), a complete manure management plan is provided which outlines inspections and monitoring that must be completed by the facility. At the existing maximum animal design capacity, Van Erk Dairy would continue to generate an estimated 41.9 million gallons of liquid manure and 250 tons of solid manure annually. The liquid and solid manure would be land applied to 3,372 acres of nearby fields in a crop rotation that includes corn silage, corn grain, soybeans, and wheat.

The proposed anaerobic digester would import manure from partnering dairies and process about 163 million gallons of liquid digestate annually. This liquid would be returned to the partnering dairies that originally generated the manure, and those nutrients would be land applied in accordance with the manure management plans for those respective dairies. In addition, the digester would generate



about 144,000 tons of processed solid manure annually. The solids would be distributed to and utilized by others in accordance with ODA rules.

An Insect and Rodent Control Plan is included 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 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 and resources. The plan also identifies procedures to be followed during an emergency, such as a spill or discharge, as well as contact information for those who need to be notified in the event of an emergency.

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-

