



Proposed Project Summary

Marsh Swine Farm, Montague, MI

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Water Resources Division (WRD), is accepting comments from the public on a proposed Certificate of Coverage (COC) for Marsh Swine Farm under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit MIG010000 for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO), issued and effective April 30, 2015. The WRD will accept comments on the proposed COC until the end of the comment period, January 17, 2018.

What does the facility propose to do?

Marsh Swine Farm proposes to construct a CAFO for 4,000 head of swine located at West Flower Road, Montague, Michigan. Wastewater will be collected and stored below the barn. Wastewater storage structures (WSS) are proposed to be built for 12 months of manure storage capacity. The Marsh Swine Farm will generate approximately 1.5 million gallons of wastewater annually in the form of manure. The manure will be manifested (i.e., sold or given away) to area farms. Once viewed as a waste, manure is now used as a resource to fertilize crops. The Marsh Swine Farm has developed a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) that describes practices the facility will utilize to meet the requirements of the COC and NPDES permit.

Permit requirements for manure storage?

New WSS must be constructed to meet the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 313 Standard 2014. These designs must be signed and certified by a professional engineer verifying they were built to the NRCS 313 standard. The structures must be constructed to hold a minimum of 6 months of production area waste with an additional 6 inches of free space. Each year, the facility must notify the MDEQ between November 1 and December 31 indicating when the manure structures have the capacity to store at least 6 months of wastewater.

Permit requirements for manifested manure?

CAFO waste may be manifested such that the waste is no longer under the operational control of the CAFO owner. The CAFO owner (i.e., generator) must use a manifest form that is approved by the MDEQ and records information including, but not limited to, the following:

- The contact information for the generator and the recipient of the CAFO waste.
- The nutrient content of the CAFO waste to be transferred.
- The total quantity and the number and size of the loads of CAFO waste.
- A statement to the recipient of his/her responsibility to properly manage the land application of the CAFO waste as necessary to assure there is no illegal discharge of pollutants to waters of the state.
- The address or other location description of the site or sites used by the recipient for land application.
- The generator must retain a copy of the signed manifest and provide a signed copy to the recipient.
- The generator must advise the recipient of his or her responsibilities to complete the manifest form and, if not completed at time of delivery, return a copy to the generator within 30 days after completion of the land application.

The generator shall not sell, give away, or otherwise transfer CAFO waste to a recipient if any of the following are true:

- The recipient fails or refuses to provide accurate information on the manifest in a timely manner.
- The use or disposal information on the manifest indicates improper land application, use, or disposal.

- The generator learns that there has been improper land application, use, or disposal of the manifested CAFO waste.
- The generator has been advised by the MDEQ that the MDEQ or a court of appropriate jurisdiction has determined that the recipient has improperly land applied, used, or disposed of a manifested CAFO waste.

All manifests shall be kept on-site with the CAFO owner’s CNMP for a minimum of 5 years and made available to the MDEQ upon request. These requirements do not apply to quantities of CAFO waste less than 1 pickup truck load, 1 cubic yard, or 1 ton per recipient per day.

MDEQ Oversight

- The MDEQ is responsible for the compliance and enforcement of permitted CAFO facilities.
- Results of inspections, tests, and records must be kept with the CNMP for 5 years and be available for MDEQ review.
- MDEQ field staff are required to conduct a complete inspection at least once every 5 years including, but not limited to, an interview with the owner, a review of the CAFO site, inspection records, and the manifest forms.
- The MDEQ also conducts unannounced reconnaissance inspections, dropping in on the CAFO or area fields to determine compliance with the permit.
- The MDEQ responds to complaints from the public about CAFOs either through site inspections, phone calls, or referral to another agency.
- Permit documents (including the CNMP), facility reports and submittals, completed inspections, correspondence, and enforcement actions (not including actions in process) are available for public viewing at the facility’s MiWaters site.



Proposed Marsh Swine Farm CAFO facility. (Vicinity of Montague, Michigan, Oceana County)

Who can I contact?

For more information about the proposed COC to Marsh Swine Farm, please contact Megan McMahon, Permits Section, WRD, at mcmahonm1@michigan.gov or 517-230-3442.

For information about the future compliance of the Marsh Swine Farm, please contact Melissa Sandborn, Grand Rapids District Office, WRD, at sandbornm1@michigan.gov or 616-401-1396.

Michigan’s Environmental Justice Policy promotes the fair, nondiscriminatory treatment and meaningful involvement of Michigan’s residents regarding the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies by this state. Fair, nondiscriminatory treatment intends that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or low-income populations, will bear a disproportionately greater burden resulting from environmental laws, regulations, policies, and decision-making. Meaningful involvement of residents ensures an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health.