EXHIBIT "E"



Tel: (610) 896-7101 Fax: (717) 427.1752 EricRosenbaum@RosetreeConsulting.com

Agricultural Review Letter

Following the initial review of the proposed land application plan, Spring City Acres LLC provided revisions to the Design Report. They also submitted copies of the Manure Management Plan (MMP) and Agricultural Erosion & Sedimentation Plan (Ag E&S Plan). These documents were reviewed for completeness and accuracy.

Comments on Design Report for Permit 12-153-851 Dated 6/13/21

Below are the comments originally submitted by Rosetree Consulting, along with an update to the current status of each comment.

1. Page 3 - indicates an approved nutrient management plan. What regulatory body approved the plan? What kind of plan is it? What are the effective dates of the plan? Does the operation intend to continue developing and implementing an approved nutrient management plan?

The document now reads "always spread FPR waste in accordance to any applicable Residual Waste Management regulations" and addresses the initial concern.

2. Page 3 – O&M Plan. Below is a comparison of the O&M requirements in the PA313 Standard with the submitted design report

NRCS PA313 Standard Operation &	Corresponding O&M in the submitted design
Maintenance Requirements	report
Requirements for emptying the storage,	Missing in the original submission. It is now
including the expected storage period	addressed in item #8 of the O&M plan
Identification of the staff gauge / permanent	Missing in the original submission. It is now
marker to measure storage freeboard	addressed in item #3 of the O&M Plan
Perimeter Drains outletting within 50' of	Missing in the original submission. It is now
surface water – monthly inspection of the	addressed in item #7 of the O&M Plan
outlet	
Information on safety precautions for toxic &	O&M Plan #4&5.
explosive gases	х.
Description of routine maintenance for each	There are 3 components to the storage –
component of the facility	(1) concrete storage – O&M Plan #1

Rosetree Consulting Agricultural · Environmental

Rosetree Consulting, LLC 20 Glenbrook Drive Shillington, PA 19607 Tel: (610) 396-7101 Fax: (717) 427.1752 EricRosenbaum@RosetreeConsulting.com

	(2) Safety Fencing – see page 43. O&M Plan
	#5
	(3) Leak Detection System – O&M Plan #7
Provision for emergency removal and	O&M Plan #3 indicates adequate freeboard
disposition of material in the event of an	for unusual storm events
unusual storm event	
Instructions for ventilating confined spaces	Not applicable
Develop an emergency action plan	O&M Plan #9 & #10 provide adequate
	information for emergency actions.

The document addresses the initial concerns as all elements are addressed in the O&M guidance.

Comments on the Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Ag E&S Plan), prepared by AET Consulting, dated April 24,2021

The Ag E&S Plan submitted by AET Consulting provides the necessary elements of an Ag E&S Plan

- Best Management Practice Summary, location of the practice & implementation schedules for each practice that is existing or planned for the property
- Soil Loss Calculations for each field showing that planned management will result in soil loss within the allowable limit.

The Ag E&S Plan meets state guidelines.

Predicted soil loss exceeds the allowable limit (T) in fields BC1-BC3, BC4, and BC7. The planner correctly states that the program used to calculate soil loss has accuracy limitations. For instance, the program is not precise enough to definitively establish a difference between 2 ton and 2.5 ton when T is 2 ton.



Tel: (610) 396-7101 Fax: (717) 427.1752 EricRosenbaum@RosetreeConsulting.com

Comments on the Manure Management Plan (MMP), prepared by AET Consulting, dated April 24,2021

The MMP submitted by AET Consulting provides application guidance for all tracts operated by Lloyd Z Nolt, including the Spring City Acres #1 Farm and Spring City Acres #2 Farm. The plan outlines Poultry litter and FPR application rates for each crop that may be grown on the farm, and crops listed in the MMP are consistent with the crop rotation provided in the Ag E&S Plan.

The calculated maximum FPR application rates for each crop are correct based on the analysis used in the calculation. There are few discrepancies, however, that should be addressed:

- 1. There is no Manure Management Plan Summary for FPR applications
- The calculation is based on "FPR-Tyson DAF" material with a analysis of 7.3 lbs total nitrogen,
 7.3 lbs phosphorus, and 0.6 lbs potassium per 1000 gallons. There is no analysis in the Potential Manure/FPR Products Nutrient Analysis with this analysis.
- 3. All FPR calculations state that "Option 3 P Index Must be Completed". The P Index is not included in the plan.

I would want to see these 3 points addressed in the MMP before accepting it as complete.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Rosenbaum

Rosetree Consulting LLC



Tel: (610) 396-7101 Fax: (717) 427.1752 EricRosenbaum@RosetreeConsulting.com

Comments & Opinion on AET Letter Dated 9/11/21

A Land Application System Plan was provided by AET consulting, summarizing the required elements that would be in the operation's FPR nutrient management plan. Those elements are:

- 1. A map showing field boundaries & setback areas
- 2. Annual analysis of the FPR materials that are land applied.
- 3. Regular soil testing of cropland for basic fertility values
- 4. Annual calculation of FPR application rates based on soil tests, FPR analysis and planned crops
- 5. Recordkeeping of loads applied to each field
- 6. Recordkeeping of annual nutrient balance for the past year's application.

Nolt's have chosen not to include any detailed information on the nutrient management plan. It is difficult to tell how they are complying with nutrient management regulations, but the information provided does allude to the appropriate work being performed to meet regulations.

As stated earlier, there are a few different nutrient management plans a farm can develop, based on their level of regulation. In this case, the operation needs to comply with the planning requirements outlined in the DEP FPR Manual. A nutrient management plan meeting these requirements does not need formal approval by the County Conservation District or the State Conservation Commission, nor is it considered public information. However, the design report states there is an approved nutrient management plan, indicating that some government agency reviewed the plan and provided official feedback constituting approval.

The township could ask for the following documents. The operation may or may not be willing to provide them:

- 1. Copy of the nutrient management plan.
- 2. Copy of the approval letter or email from the government agency performing the review
- 3. Copy of the Agricultural Erosion & Sedimentation Plan. This plan will not have a review process or approval letter.



Tel: (610) 396-7101 Fax: (717) 427.1752 EricRosenbaum@RosetreeConsulting.com

Comments & Opinion on Fox Rothchild Letter Dated 10/21/21

- Page 1, 1st paragraph -- Letter states land application of FPR & manure. If the operation is land applying FPR, a nutrient management plan meeting DEP's Food Processing Residuals Manual is required. If the farm is land applying FPR <u>and</u> manure, a Manure Management Plan that meets DEP's Manure Management Manual would also be required. It is possible, and allowable, for the farm to have one nutrient management plan satisfying both programs. Other documents provided indicate there may be a few cattle on pasture. Pastured animals deposit the majority of manure on the pastures, with small amounts collected and land applied. The amount of collected cattle manure would not significantly alter a nutrient management plan.
- I SCA Farm & Purpose of the Tank There are a number of reasons why a farm would want a storage structure
 - Staging of adequate materials A number of factors are considered in this statement.
 Storage is a desirable solution for to manage the supply of FPR materials and labor for land application.
 - most FPR generators produce a small amount of material on a daily basis not enough to cover an entire field or farm.
 - FPR materials are not land applied when annual crops are actively growing and cannot be land applied during winter months. Contingency plans are needed for these times.
 - Equipment used to transport material from the generation site to a farm is not the ideal equipment for land application (see soil health below)
 - Land application for annual crops can occur in 2 short windows (1) from harvest
 of the previous crop until winter conditions are met, and (2) when winter
 conditions end until the planting of the current cash crop. This could be as few
 as 30 days in the fall and 60 days in the spring. Weather conditions will further
 reduce this window.
 - Soil Health land application of manure on saturated soils leads to soil compaction.
 Equipment fitted with road tires causes significantly more compaction that application fitted with field tires. Soil compaction reduces a plants ability to obtain nutrients and water, reduces overall productivity of the land, and reduces the soils' ability to infiltrate



Tel: (610) 396-7101 Fax: (717) 427.1752 EricRosenbaum@RosetreeConsulting.com

rainwater. Any decrease in rainwater infiltration is offset by increase surface water runoff, which can increase erosion and increase off sight nutrient loss.

Rosetree Consulting Agricultural · Environmental

Rosetree Consulting, LLC 20 Glenbrook Drive Shillington, PA 19607 Tel: (610) 396-7101 Fax: (717) 427.1752 EricRosenbaum@RosetreeConsulting.com

Closing Opinion:

Agriculture often has public perception issues in suburban areas that do not occur in more rural settings. The past few years have seen many townships increase their role in determining that all agricultural operations within their borders are meeting the minimum requirements for agricultural regulations. The two regulatory plans all farms in the township should have in place are the following:

- Agricultural Erosion and Sedimentation Plan / Soil Conservation Plan Ag E&S Plans, also called Soil Conservation Plans, address soil loss and nutrient loss concerns on the farm. All farms with pastures, or cropland, are required to have an Ag E&S Plan. These plans do not need review or approval by a government agency.
- 2. Nutrient Management Plan all farms producing and utilizing manure (or FPR) are required to have some level of nutrient management plan. This includes the family with 1 pet horse and the dairy farm with 100 milking cows. The level of animal density and source of material applied will dictate the level of planning needed.

Next Steps:

Most townships we deal with will ask farms for copies of both the Ag E&S Plan and nutrient management plan as part of the permitting process for a new barn or manure storage. I would ask for both of these documents as part of the permit approval package. The goal is not to review the plans for accuracy, but rather to review for completeness <u>and</u> that the farm is implementing them according to the timelines in the plan.

I would also ask for the missing items in the Design report to be addressed. Let's make sure whatever is submitted in the design report is consistent with the language in the Ag E&S Plan

Rosetree Consulting Agricultural · Environmental

Rosetree Consulting, LLC 20 Glenbrook Drive Shillington, PA 19607 Tel: (610) 396-7101 Fax: (717) 427.1752 EricRosenbaum@RosetreeConsulting.com

I am supportive of using a storage structure to temporarily store/stage materials for land application. As a certified nutrient management specialist, Certified Crop Adviser with Sustainability specialty certifications, and the executive director of the PA 4R Nutrient Stewardship Alliance, I can attest to storage providing many benefits for farms to improve nutrient use efficiency and overall conservation. If the farm will be land applying material, a storage structure offers a better alternative for responsible management of the land and the nutrients contained in the FPR material(s). Comparing land application of materials with a storage vs without a storage, I see more benefits to a storage. They are as follows:

- Reduced frequency of land application. Without a storage, land application could occur up to 275 days a year, depending on the farm's rotation and weather conditions.
- 2. Reduced odors arising from land application. The more frequently land applications occur, the higher instance of negative public interactions.
- 3. Increased ability to manage healthy soils. Managing field traffic to times when soils can support the equipment loads will minimize compaction. This, in turn, will reduce the risk of nutrient runoff into surface waters.
- 4. Increased ability to manage applied nutrients and improve overall nutrient use efficiency. Supplemental fertilizer will be applied to meet yield goals. Material removed from a storage will be more homogenous than multiple materials applied daily, resulting in consistent supplemental nutrient needs. This will improve the farm's ability to manage crops responsibly and reduce the risk of over applying nutrients.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Rosenbaum Senior Agronomist, Rosetree Consulting Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) CCA specialty certifications in Sustainability, Resistance Management and 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certified Nutrient Management Planner Certified Conservation Planner