



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
JACKSON DISTRICT OFFICE



DAN WYANT  
DIRECTOR

January 30, 2015

Mr. Eric Bleich  
Bleich Dairy  
1151 South Meridian Road  
Hudson, Michigan 49247

Dear Mr. Bleich:

SUBJECT: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)  
Certificate of Coverage (COC) No. MIG010060  
Designated Name: Bleich Dairy - CAFO

On January 14, 2015, staff of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Water Resources Division (WRD), conducted an evaluation of Bleich Dairy located at 1151 South Meridian Road, Hudson, Michigan, Hillsdale County. This inspection was conducted in response to a complaint this office received on a potential violation of Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended and NPDES Certificate of Coverage No. MIG010060 issued July 13, 2011, effective July 13, 2011.

Mr. Eric Bleich and Ms. Beth Gruden participated in the inspection. The following item was identified and/or discussed during the inspection:

1. The DEQ Jackson District Office received a complaint on January 2, 2015 regarding the application of manure to a field at a time when the National Weather Service (NWS) forecast predicted a significant rain event. Review of farm records indicated that solid manure (straw pen pack) had been applied to a field at a time when the NWS forecast was predicting a very high probability of a rain event in excess of ½ inch within 24 hours. Field application of manure when there is a 70 percent chance or greater for rainfall in excess of ½ inch within 24 hours is a violation of the CAFO general permit. Discussion between DEQ staff, Mr. Bleich, and Ms. Gruden at the time of the inspection indicated that additional steps would be enacted for future manure applications to ensure that NWS forecasts are more closely monitored and information is better relayed to farm employees about when manure applications should not take place. To remain in compliance with the CAFO permit, all future manure applications (including pen pack applications) must be done in accordance with the land application requirements outlined in the permit (pages 9 through 14); failure to do so will be a violation of the permit and will result in increased compliance measures.

Mr. Eric Bleich  
Bleich Dairy

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January 30, 2015

Thank you for your cooperation in these matters. Should you require further information, please contact me at 517-780-7917; koledar@michigan.gov; or DEQ, WRD, Jackson District Office, 301 East Louis Glick Highway, Jackson, Michigan 49201-1556.

Sincerely,



Rachel Koleda  
Environmental Quality Analyst  
Water Resource Division

cc: Ms. Beth Gruden, Bleich Dairy (via e-mail)  
file: Bleich Dairy – CAFO, MIG010060, Hillsdale County