

For Immediate Release

**DNR ISSUES CAFO PERMIT TO NON-EXISTENT COMPANY -
CITIZENS' GROUP FILES APPEAL OF PERMIT**

Lone Jack, MO (June 25, 2018) -- On June 15, 2018, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a CAFO Permit to "Country Club Homes, LLC" for the operation of a 6,999 head cattle concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) to be located near Lone Jack, Missouri.

The DNR Permit allows the operation of a cattle CAFO that will generate over 111,000 tons per year of waste manure. The waste manure will be provided to area farmers for use as fertilizer for their row crops.

However, online records maintained by the Missouri Secretary of State conclusively show there is no legal entity known as "Country Club Homes, LLC" that is in existence or is authorized to do business in Missouri. As a result, DNR issued a CAFO Permit to a non-existent business.

"We all know that DNR's CAFO regulations are almost non-existent and provide no protections to public health and the environment," said Carolyn Wilkinson, a member of Lone Jack Neighbors for Responsible Agriculture, LLC, a local citizens group organized to fight the CAFO. "But, we would never imagine that DNR would actually issue a CAFO Permit to a non-existent business," added Wilkinson.

"It is clear there must be a valid lawful business in existence to receive a CAFO permit," said Karen Lux, a member of Lone Jack Neighbors. "This is very important because someone has to be legally responsible for any pollution that may result from the CAFO," added Lux.

In the appeal filed by Lone Jack Neighbors, it is also alleged that the permit application contained false information regarding the number of fields where the manure will be used as fertilizer. The permit application includes 435 acres where waste manure from the CAFO will be accepted, but in fact, the property owner of these fields says she never gave permission to accept waste manure on her property.

Also, the appeal filed by Lone Jack Neighbors alleges that the waste manure from the cattle CAFO will likely contain residual amounts of veterinary pharmaceuticals that are administered to the cattle, and that these residual veterinary pharmaceuticals will be present in the soils where row crops are raised.

“In July 2013, DNR’s Water Protection Program required a proposed slaughter facility to provide detailed information about the veterinary pharmaceuticals administered to the animals, along with detailed information about how the facility planned to deal with any drugs that are present in the animals,” said Stephen Jeffery, attorney for Lone Jack Neighbors. “We believe DNR should be consistent in the efforts to safeguard both the public and the environment from exposure to these veterinary drugs,” added Jeffery.

Because the facts concerning DNR’s issuance of the CAFO Permit to a non-existent legal entity are clear and cannot be disputed, Lone Jack Neighbors is also asking the Missouri Administrative Hearing Commission to issue a Stay that will prevent any further operation of the CAFO until the appeal is resolved.

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