



Citizens Advisory Council

to the Department of Environmental Protection

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PRELIMINARY LIST OF QUESTIONS/ISSUES RELATED TO CAFOS

The following is a preliminary list of questions and issues identified during a public meeting held by the CAC in Somerset, Pa.. October 6-7, 1997. This is for informational purposes only; CAC has not yet discussed how to answer or address these concerns.

- Need to clarify what the operations are required to do under existing laws (both federal and Pennsylvania) to address environmental and community concerns. Seems to be disagreement re: when NPDES permits are required, how PNMA is implemented, and enforcement of nutrient management plans.
- Proposed revisions to malodor regulations are viewed as a weakening, especially with regard to large agricultural operations. Enforcement of the nutrient management law is based on a complaint driven system rather than any regular inspections or oversight—is this sufficient for large operations?
- What precautions can be taken to go beyond legal requirements to address both environmental and community concerns? Pollution prevention, strategic environmental management, lagoon liners, limits on manure spreading, best management practices, soil and manure testing, etc.
- The industry is beginning to try to encourage better operational and management practices to create a better image, which is encouraging; is self policing sufficient? How can large operations be held publicly accountable?
- What criteria are used to determine the location of a proposed facility? Should there be limiting criteria for siting (e.g., how many can be sited in one area, areas to avoid)?
- Should there be any bonding requirements for large operations?
- What are the farmer's responsibilities and liabilities? The management company's? The production company's? Who owns the animals? How are diseased pigs dealt with and how are carcasses disposed of, especially if there is an epidemic? Who "owns" the manure and bears liability for its disposal?
- What are the environmental, economic, community/public health impacts?
 - public health (e.g., impact of hormones, antibiotics, other additives to feed)
 - nutrient management
 - water resources, both quality and quantity
 - malodor/air emissions (e.g., ammonia)
 - transportation/infrastructure
 - social and cultural impacts; traditional agricultural culture vs. ag-industry
 - sustainability
 - animal care
 - "multiplier effect" of related operations such as feed production; will they also locate in the area? Or will they be transported in from elsewhere? Impacts?
- What are the economic impacts and benefits of these operations?
- Is this where the agricultural sector is heading? How will these large operations economically affect traditional or family run operations? Do they still have access to the market?
- What will be the impact on preservation of agricultural land?
- What meaningful public participation opportunities are there at the state and local levels? What outreach is occurring to educate both the public and the operators?

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