



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Ben Brancel, Secretary

September 22, 2015

Secretary Ben Brancel
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
2811 Agriculture Drive
Madison, WI 53718

Dear Secretary Brancel:

As chairman of the 2014 Livestock Siting Technical Expert Committee, I am pleased to present you with the committee's report, which satisfies the requirement in s. 93.90(2)(d), Stats., to secure expert advice as part of the review of the livestock facility siting rule.

This report provides a series of technical recommendations developed in response to assignment questions prepared by the department. While the committee members approached their assignment from a scientific perspective, they were mindful of the economic and other factors listed in s. 93.90 (2) (b), Stats., relevant to development of siting standards.

Relying on a consensus process, the committee agreed to recommendations that are intended to improve the standards in the livestock facilities siting rule (ATCP 51) for local approval of new and expanding livestock facilities. As a whole, the recommendations reflect an endorsement of the siting framework. Individual recommendations range in specificity for a number of reasons, including the complexity of the subject matter and the current state of research. Some recommendations suggest general guidance and point to factors that the department may wish to consider in revising the siting standards. Other recommendations are precise and detailed in the improvements they offer.

The scope of the committee's review was limited to a technical review of the siting standards. If DATCP chooses to amend ATCP 51, it will be important to work with stakeholders and the ATCP Board, all of which have shown an active interest and desire to participate in any changes to the rule.

On behalf of the entire committee, I wish to extend our appreciation for the opportunity to share our expertise, and we stand ready to contribute in the future.

Sincerely,


Jeff Lyon
Deputy Secretary

cc: Members and advisors of the Technical Expert Committee

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