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Croton Layer 4 Draft Permit to Install & Draft Permit to Operate

General overview of the farm

Croton Layer 4 is an existing poultry facility located at 11492 Wesley Chapel Road, Croton, Ohio 43013. It is situated in Licking County, Hartford Township, in the Licking River Watershed. The facility is owned by Ohio Fresh Eggs, LLC and operated by Trillium Farm Holdings, LLC and Versova Holdings, LLC. The facility consists of 16 layer barns that provide a total design capacity of 2,315,531 layers. Each of these layer barns have a belt battery manure handling system, where the manure is transported out of the barns on a regular frequency and stored in separate manure storage barns. At this facility, there are two manure storage barns that are capable of storing 629,000 cubic feet of solid manure each, which provides in total approximately 201 days of storage. This facility also has an egg processing operation that generates liquid eggwash effluent that is stored in a two-cell earthen pond system with a total storage capacity of 2.58 million gallons combined, or approximately 269 days. If approved, the Permit to Operate would be valid for a five year period.

General Overview of the draft Permit to Install

Croton Layer 4 is proposing to construct an anaerobic digestion facility that would process manure, eggwash, and inedible eggs produced at Croton Layer 4 and other nearby permitted poultry facilities. The anaerobic digestion facility would produce methane biogas from these organic byproducts, as well as a liquid nitrogen (ammonia) fertilizer and a solid, nutrient-dense byproduct, known as digestate, that would be distributed off-site and used as a substitute to commercial fertilizers. The anaerobic digestion facility would consist of 4 reactor tanks, each approximately 810,000 gallons in volume, 2 digestion tanks, each approximately 3.03 million gallons in volume, and a building to temporarily store the solid digestate byproduct. Croton Layer 4 is also proposing to add a third operational entity known as Gypsum, LLC to the permit. Gypsum, LLC would oversee all operations of the proposed anaerobic digester. If approved, the Permit to Install would be valid for two years. If construction has not been completed within two years, Croton Layer 4 may apply for an extension through the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

General overview of the draft Permit to Operate

Within the draft Permit to Operate (PTO), a manure management plan is provided which outlines different inspections and monitoring activities that must be completed. Each year, approximately 39,022 tons of poultry manure will be generated by Croton Layer 4. All of the solid manure will be distributed off the farm to manure brokers and crop producers that will utilize the manure as a replacement for commercial fertilizers until the proposed anaerobic digestion facility is operational. Also, approximately 5.5 million gallons of liquid eggwash effluent/truckwash will be generated and land applied to land under the control of the facility annually until the proposed anaerobic digestion facility is operational. Approximately 155 acres (37 acres under center pivot irrigation) are designated for the application of this liquid on a typical corn-soybean rotation.



If the proposed anaerobic digestion facility becomes operational, all 39,022 tons of poultry manure and 5.5 million gallons of liquid eggwash/truckwash produced annually by Croton Layer 4 would be transferred to the anaerobic digestion facility for further processing. In addition to the volume of solid manure and eggwash/truckwash planned to be transferred from Croton Layer 4 to the anaerobic digester, several other poultry facilities in the surrounding area would be transferring manure, eggwash, and inedible egg to the anaerobic digester for further processing. Approximately 98,174 tons of solid manure, 7.8 million gallons of eggwash, and 1,928 tons of inedible egg would be transferred to the anaerobic digester annually from other, permitted concentrated animal feeding facilities.

The anaerobic digestion facility would produce methane biogas from processing the manure, eggwash, and inedible egg, as well as a liquid nitrogen (ammonia) fertilizer and a solid, nutrient-dense byproduct, known as digestate, that would be distributed off-site and used as a substitute to commercial fertilizers. Approximately 184,579 tons of solid digestate will be produced annually and approximately 4.2 million gallons of the liquid nitrogen fertilizer would be produced annually.

A detailed Insect and Rodent Control Plan is required to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents. The plan details which types of pests could potentially cause problems and how the facility will prevent those problems from occurring. The plan explains what preventative measures and treatments are available and how and when they might be employed. Details regarding the Insect and Rodent Control Plan can be found in the draft PTO.

A Mortality Management Plan is required for the disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering, and composting. Trillium Farms will continue using rendering and composting as the two primary methods to manage mortality losses at Croton Layer 4.

An Emergency Response Plan is required to ensure that emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies and resources. The plan also identifies procedures to be followed during an emergency, such as a spill or discharge, as well as contact information for those who would need to be notified in the event of an emergency.

Finally, an Operating Record is included that provides all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to show compliance with ODA's rules and the permit. These records document inspection of the manure storage structures, groundwater sampling, manure characterization, land application, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. The facility and its records will continue to be regularly inspected by the ODA to ensure compliance.

