

July 23, 2018

Warren Warmbold
Midwest Operations Manager
RD Offutt Company
15357 US Hwy 71
Park Rapids, Minnesota 56470
wwarmbold@rdoffutt.com

Transmitted via Email and US Mail

Dear Mr. Warmbold:

On May 7, 2018, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received a citizen petition for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the RD Offutt Continued Potato Field Expansion Project in the Pineland Sands Area, including the counties of Hubbard, Cass, Becker, Otter Tail, Todd, Crow Wing, Morrison, and Wadena (Petition). As required by Minnesota Rules Chapter 4410.1100, the Petition was initially filed with the Environmental Quality Board (EQB), which determined it to be complete. The Petition was then sent to the DNR as the assigned Responsible Government Unit (RGU). The DNR, as RGU, was then tasked with determining whether an EAW would be required, per Minn. R. 4410.1100, subpart 6.

We have reviewed the evidence provided in the Petition and other information known to DNR and other state agencies. This included information provided by the RD Offutt Company. We evaluated this information relative to the relevant criteria under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), and we have determined that your pending water appropriation applications within the Pineland Sands Area may have the potential for significant cumulative environmental effects due to potential nitrate contamination of groundwater. Having reached this conclusion, DNR must, under MEPA, grant the Petition. Therefore, pursuant to the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 116D.04 subd. 17, you are hereby notified that the DNR will be ordering an EAW for the proposed RD Offutt Continued Potato Field Expansion Project on or after August 6, 2018. At the time the DNR issues its order, we will provide the formal notice required by Minn. R. 4410.1100 to you, the petitioners' representative, and the EQB. EQB will then publish the notice in the *EQB Monitor*.

If you have questions concerning this notice or our decision on the Petition, please contact DNR's environmental review unit supervisor, Randall Doneen (651-259-5156, randall.doneen@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,



Tom Landwehr
Commissioner

c: Keith McGovern, RD Offutt Company
Paul Noah, RD Offutt Company
Mike Tauber, Citizen Petition Representative