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TEXAS  
COMMISSION  
ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY

AUG 17 2007

BY

*JW*

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August 13, 2007

Dear Texas Commission on Environmental Quality,

We are writing to you in regards to Permit No. WQ0003682000 by Joseph and Jennifer Osinga and Bert and Heidi Velsen in which they wish to amend their wastewater disposal permit and increase the animal head count to 1600. At this time, we would like to make several comments about this issue. Our home is located next to their dairy operation. In fact we are so close that we could throw a rock and it would end up in their cow pens or their waste water tank. This tank is entirely too close to our property. We built our home here in 1978 on 10 acres and loved living in the country. Today we have dairies on three sides of our property. For the last 15 years since these businesses started, living here has become an impossible situation. We have not been able to open our windows or enjoy going out into our yard because of the constant contaminated air. No matter what we do the smell gets into our house, furniture and every thing else that we own. Sometimes the smell is so bad that it will literally make you sick when you go outside. Not only do we have to deal with the smell, but flies are a real health hazard. We cannot enjoy our swimming pool because of the smell and the flies that are everywhere. Let me ask, "Do you have to clean your front door each week to get all of the fly specks off of it"? I do! The more animals that you have in confinement the more flies you will have and the worse the smell will be! Not only do we have to deal with these issues, there is the issue of the dust that is constantly in the air from the dairies. The grinding of feed goes on non-stop. This creates a tremendous amount of dust. You can actually see the dust floating in the air. Each morning the pool is covered with a film of feed. Cars look like they have been through a sandstorm the day after they have been washed. Last is the biggest problem of all - WATER. Dairies use a tremendous amount of water in their daily operations. We already have to drill 400 feet to get water and this level is rapidly increasing to 600 feet. We must have a supply of clean water. Also, dairies have a large amount of waste water from the milking operation and flushing the manure from their concrete feeding area. What is to keep all of this waste water from contaminating our stream, rivers, and drinking water? Not all of this water gets to lagoons. This is a huge problem. Would you want manure water so close to your land? People are constantly saying when they find out where we live how sorry they are for us and isn't there anything we can do about all of the problems. The dairy operations have drastically DECREASED the value of our property. We have gone from a beautiful place in the country to a home that we could not give away because of the dairies. Enlarging these operations will only further decrease the value of our property and enlarge the problems that these operations cause. We have lived with all of these problems for many years now; however, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

Sincerely,

*Suzanne Cook*  
*Richard Webb*

*MW*

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