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PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-23-04
JULY 17, 2023

Ravalli County Commissioners

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PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a General Permit as described in this notice and to hold a public hearing on the issuance of this permit. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website <https://deq.mt.gov/public/index>

APPLICANT INFORMATION

PERMIT/CATEGORY:	General Permit: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
GEOGRAPHIC REGION:	Statewide (except within the boundaries of Indian Reservations)
FACILITIES:	Owners/Operators of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
RECEIVING WATERS:	Statewide
PERMIT NUMBER:	MTG010000

The renewal of this Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation General Permit (CAFO GP) will continue to provide statewide general permit coverage for owner/operators of animal feeding operations that meet the definition of a CAFO as defined by 75-5-801 MCA. The Montana Discharge Elimination System (MDPES) requirements for CAFOs apply to all animals in confinement at the operation and to all manure, litter, and process wastewater generated by those animals or by the production of those animals, regardless of the type of animal. The renewal is for a five-year cycle.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited and **must be received by 11:59 p.m. on AUGUST 21, 2023.**

Comments may be directed to the DEQ Water Quality Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. **All comments received or postmarked by 11:59 p.m. on AUGUST 21, 2023,** will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permit.

If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov

On August 21st 10:30 AM, a public hearing will be held in Room 111 at DEQ offices in the Metcalf Building in Helena on the draft general permit, fact sheet, environmental assessment, and DEQ's tentative determination to reissue the permit. Please contact Hannah New at hannah.new@mt.gov on or before AUGUST 14, 2023, for details on how to attend.

The State of Montana makes reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in state government. Persons needing an accommodation must notify Hannah New no later than **August 14, 2023**, to allow adequate time to make needed arrangements. You may contact Hannah at hannah.new@mt.gov or write to her at the address noted above to make your request known.

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-5546 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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