Complaint Investigation Report

NC Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources
Division of Air Quality

County: Robeson
Region: FRO
Suspect: Mountaire Farms Inc Lumber Bridge
Facility ID# 7800226
Record # 16840

Regional Investigator: Reeves, Gregory
Regional Co-investigator: Harris, Joshua L.
Partner Agency:

Date Complaint Received: 01/29/2015
Received By: Vivian, Pam
Date assigned: 01/29/2015

Investigation date: 02/03/2015
Follow-up date:
Report submit date: 02/09/2015

Complainant: Kevin Green
Complainant Address: 16136 NC Hwy 71 North
City/State/Zip: Lumber Bridge NC
Telephone (H): (302) 934-3000
Telephone (W):
Call Back Required? No Response Requested

Suspect Contact: Joe Moran
Physical Location: 17269 NC Hwy 71 North - Lumber Bridge
Mailing Address: PO Box 1320
City/State/Zip: Millsboro DE 19966
Telephone: (302) 934-3000
Alternate Telephone:

Referral to DAQ: Unknown

Violation documented:
NCFS Permit:

Signature: [Signature]

Report Date: 04/04/2015

Comments/Directions:

From FRO, take Gillespie Street south to US Hwy 301. Follow Hwy 301 approximately 9.5 miles south, then turn right on NC 71. Follow NC 71 approximately 8.8 miles, through Parkton and Lumber Bridge. The facility is on the right side of the road.

Summary of investigation:

This complaint was received by Pam Vivian of FRO on 01/29/15. Mr. Kevin Green stated that the complaint concerned the spraying of the fields with the waste that is continually creating a terrible smell and water ponding issue. Winter months it seems more spraying is done to prevent lines from freezing and the water ponds on the ground/roadside and continually smells. Summer times the smell on warm/hot days is unbearable. Mr. Green stated that they have called their county people over the years and nothing is done. They recently called the “environmental people” in Raleigh, 1-877-623-6748 and were told to call DAQ FRO. Their home/daycare facility, “Little Dreams of Faith”, is being highly affected by this to where parents are not taking their kids there because of the fear of this
operation possibly creating a hazardous/health issue for their kids. Mr. Green’s home is apparently across from one of the spray fields.

02/03/15

Greg Reeves of FRO phoned Mr. Kevin Green to obtain more information regarding the odor issue. Mr. Green was not available at that time, so a message was left on his voice mail to return the call.

02/05/15

Josh Harris and I, Greg Reeves of FRO visited the Mountaire Farms Inc Lumber Bridge chicken processing facility. During the visit, we drove around the facility and observed the spray fields used for the land application of the waste water from the facility. No active spraying was being conducted at that time. At the facility, we spoke with Mr. Robert Jackson, Waste Water Treatment Manager (910-359-5275) regarding the wastewater systems. Mr. Jackson indicated that the wastewater systems were being operated as they had been previously. He did state that the facility had recently had a great deal of rainfall, and that the water levels in the wastewater pond were elevated (had been as high as 14 feet depth, but 9 feet depth during the inspection today). He stated that when water levels in the pond increase, generally they see more odors from the water, and that may be a component of the increased odors recently. He stated that the facility still utilized hydrogen peroxide injection into the wastewater when being sent to the spray fields, and that the usage of hydrogen peroxide was normal and had not been reduced.

After leaving the Mountaire facility, Mr. Reeves and Mr. Harris visited the “Little Dreams of Faith” daycare facility located at 16136 Highway 71 North, approximately 1 mile south of the plant site. This daycare is located almost directly across Highway 71 from Mountaire’s spray field #X2 (perhaps 1000 feet away). Mr. Reeves and Mr. Harris asked to speak with Mr. Kevin Green, but he was not at the daycare. We spoke with Ms. Harriet Brown at the daycare. We discussed what we had found at the Mountaire facility, and suggested that if any instances of high odor occurred, she could call the facility directly and speak with Mr. Jackson. In that manner, she might be able to get a quicker response than calling DAQ, especially if the odor was occurring after hours or on weekends. We left her Mr. Jackson’s business card. We asked her to call DAQ if this method was not effective, or if she did not feel comfortable calling the facility directly.

We asked Ms. Brown to have Mr. Green call us to discuss the odor issues, and left the business card of Greg Reeves with the contact information.

Investigation Closed 02/05/15

/GWR