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NRCS Poultry Operations Environmental Assessment
Conference #11 Stakeholders Meeting
November 16, 2022, 2:30pm
Sussex County Conservation District (in-person and virtual via TEAMS)
Notes

Attendance:

Scott R. Hobart	McMillin, Jason - FPAC-BC, Fort Worth, TX
Marilyn Zenko, Terracon	Carissa Speck
Terry Feldmann, Maurer Stutz	Rohrer, Kate (Coons)
Charles Harman, WSP USA	Absher, Debbie - NRCS-CD, Georgetown, DE
Jen Nelson	Reed, Maryann - FSA, Dover, DE
Nardi, Mark R	Sheffer, Caitlin - FSA ,Georgetown, DE
Duncan, Gregory	Honaker, Karri - NRCS, Dover, DE
Woodrow, Gordon (DNREC)	Gilliland, Alexandra
Holly Porter	Pickrahn, Luke (DOS)
Arthurs, Jayme - NRCS, Dover, DE	Gayle C. Baker, Maurer Stutz
Don Clifton	Reed, Colleen - FSA, Dover, DE

Meeting Started: 2:31pm

Jayme Arthurs initiated introductions: started the meeting with Introductions of the project team-name and company/agency.

Jayme Arthurs presented program background including brief explanation of EQIP and changes to the Farm Bill and the potential NRCS EQIP requirements.

Jayme Arthurs asked for questions to the program and its background. No questions were presented at the time of the request.

Charles Harman spoke of what is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and why it is applicable. Charles discussed the objectives of the Public Meeting, the Public Participation Plan, and Purpose of the Environmental Assessment (EA).

Terry Feldmann presented the NEPA Affected Environment and evaluation areas for the subject EA. Terry outlined the scope, schedule, planning study. Terry noted the EA serves as a Programmatic EA for the NRCS in the project area in Sussex County.

Terry Feldmann discussed the EA's purpose of considering alternatives.

Terry Feldmann discussed the Poultry Operations EA including the description of a typical poultry operation site.

Marilyn Zenko discussed the evaluation of the seven hypothetical poultry operation sites and how they were selected.

Marilyn Zenko discussed the results of the site visit by first prefacing that prior to the visits, a records search, and a review of data ahead of the visit were performed. The purpose of the site visit was to verify field conditions as compared to the records reviewed.

Marilyn Zenko discussed the breakdown of the environmental criterion relative and associated with the hypothetical sites.

Terry Feldmann discussed the EA's Planned Alternatives which includes the No Action- the inability to provide financial assistance with EQIP for new expected resources concerns. Alternative 1 is the proposed action which implements conservation practices to address new expected resources concerns.

Terry Feldmann discussed conservation practices included in the EA. Terry discussed examples of resource concerns including waste storage facility, heavy use area protections, animal mortality facility, windbreak/shelterbelt establishment, hedgerow planting, and roofs and structural covers.

Terry Feldmann discussed what the final EA will provide and how it will be used by the NRCS. Terry noted that financial assistance is available to existing poultry operations.

Questions / Comments

Jaymee Arthurs asked the audience for questions and/or comments.

Jason McMillin asked about the greenhouse gases (GHG) analysis

Terry Feldmann indicated that he can look into the GHG on a typical site basis. Terry wanted to keep in mind that the usage of the EA depends on the funding availability, implementing practices sooner.

Jayme Arthurs indicated that NRCS funds practices for more than one poultry operation a year, historically the operations are in place but the birds have yet to be placed are not eligible for EQIP. EQIP applications are ranked so it may take years before accepted for funding even after they have birds placed.

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Terry Feldmann suggested to the audience additional questions / comments can be emailed Gayle Baker.

No other questions / comments presented during meeting

Jayme Arthurs closes meeting and offer questions / comments be sent to Gayle Baker and himself. Jayme indicated the presentation will be posted on the NRCS website with contact information. Accept questions / comments within the next 30 days.

Meeting closed as 3:15pm.