MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AIR AND RADIATION ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION, PUBLIC HEARING, AND OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS

FIRST NOTICE

The Department of the Environment, Air and Radiation Administration (ARA) has completed its review of an application for a Permit to Construct submitted by Mountaire Farms, Inc. – Westover Feed Mill on June 29, 2023 for the modification of hammermills to increase throughput and the installation of grain handling equipment. The proposed installation will be located at 30607 Revells Neck Road, Westover, MD 21871.

The issuance of the Permit-to-Construct for this facility will be the subject of a Virtual Public Hearing to be held on April 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

To attend the hearing, please register using the following link no later than April 19, 2024:

https://forms.gle/eRFndy2M6HfyPXsMA

Registered attendees will receive instructions on how to join the virtual hearing using a computer and internet connection or telephone on the day of the hearing.

Pursuant to Section 1-604, of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Department has made a tentative determination that the Permit to Construct can be issued and is now ready to receive public comment on the application. Copies of the Department's tentative determination, the application, the draft permit to construct with conditions, and other supporting documents are available for public inspection on the Department's website. Look for Docket #12-23 at the following link:

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Permits/AirManagementPermits/Pages/index.aspx

In accordance with HB 1200/Ch. 588 of 2022, the applicant provided an environmental justice (EJ) Score for the census tract in which the project is located using the Maryland EJ mapping tool. The EJ Score, expressed as a statewide percentile, was shown to be 67.1%, which the Department has verified. This score considers three demographic indicators – minority population above 50%, poverty rate above 25% and limited English proficiency above 15%. The Department's review of the environmental and socioeconomic indicators contributing to that EJ score is included in the tentative determination that is available for public inspection.

Persons who wish to make a statement concerning this application at the hearing are requested to provide the Department with a copy of their statement. In lieu of oral statements at the hearing, written comments may be submitted at the time of the hearing or to the Department no later than 30 days from the date of this notice or within 5 days after the hearing, whichever is later.

Interested persons may request an extension to the public comment period. The extension request must be submitted in writing and must be received by the Department no later than 30 days from the date of this notice or within 5 days after the hearing, whichever is later. The public comment period may only be extended one time for a 60-day period.

All requests for an extension to the public comment period and all written comments should be directed to the attention of Ms. Shannon Heafey by email to shannon.heafey@maryland.gov or by mail to the Air Quality Permits Program, Air and Radiation Administration, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.

The Department will provide an interpreter for deaf and hearing-impaired persons provided that a request is made for such service at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing. Further information may be obtained by calling Ms. Shannon Heafev at 410-537-4433.

Christopher R. Hoagland, Director Air and Radiation Administration