



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
LANSING



DAN WYANT  
DIRECTOR

August 22, 2012

Mr. Tom Van Zoeren  
9585 South Bow Road  
Maple City, Michigan 49664-9611

Dear Mr. Van Zoeren:

SUBJECT: The Homestead Resort

Thank you for your letter dated July 18, 2012, expressing your questions and concerns regarding The Homestead Resort wastewater treatment system. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Water Resources Division's (WRD's) current position regarding the compliance status of The Homestead with respect to their groundwater discharge permit is expressed in my August 22, 2012, letter to the National Park Service. Your copy of this letter is enclosed.

We can assure you that the WRD expects all permittees to comply with the terms and conditions of their permits and all applicable laws and regulations. The WRD's response to alleged violations may vary depending on the specific circumstances associated with these violations. The WRD has thoroughly reviewed all available information, including the instances of spray drift you have observed, in evaluating the compliance status of The Homestead with respect to their groundwater discharge permit.

The WRD has not dismissed your reports regarding spray drift as false. We have considered these reports in our overall review of The Homestead's wastewater treatment system. However, based on all available information, the WRD believes continued close monitoring of the discharge and appropriate adjustments to The Homestead's operation of the wastewater treatment system will appropriately address your concerns at this time.

With respect to your concerns regarding potential health hazards associated with the discharge, the WRD conducted a toxicology review in setting the fecal coliform limit in the current permit. The permit limit has been set to 130 counts per 100 ml as a monthly average and 300 counts per 100 ml as a weekly maximum. This limit is more conservative than the water quality standards established for recreational total body contact, and is considered appropriate for potential public contact in this location. For further clarification regarding potential health hazards, please refer to the October 25, 2011, electronic mail message to you from Ms. Janice Heuer of the WRD's Cadillac District Office.

Mr. Tom Van Zoeren

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August 22, 2012

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Rick D. Ruzs, Chief  
Groundwater Permits Unit  
Water Resources Division  
517-335-4709  
FAX: 517-241-8133

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Mike Masterson, DEQ  
Mr. Brian Jankowski, DEQ - Cadillac  
Ms. Janice Heuer, DEQ - Cadillac