

## To Our Various Local and Provincial Government Agencies

January 18, 2023

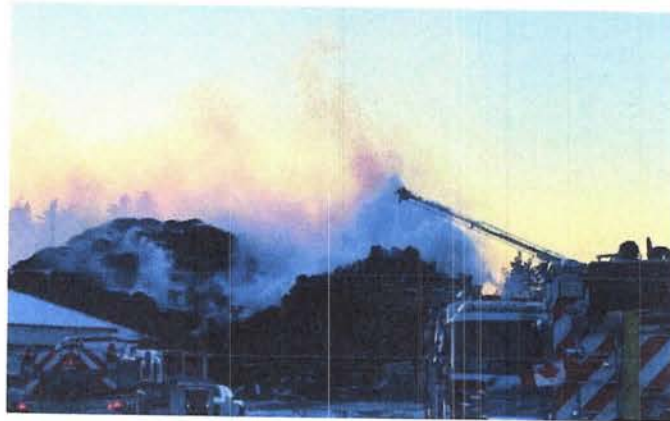
We are the neighbours of an ongoing and illegal commercial composting operation on a poultry farm. We would like to share with you our stories of how we have been impacted by an ongoing fire which began during the Thanksgiving weekend of 2022.

Most of us have been quiet as we watched this composting operation grow beside us. We have wondered why there seems to be no oversight of this operation by any provincial or local agencies as this operation contaminates the vulnerable Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer. The Aquifer supplies drinking water to us and our American neighbours, and serves as irrigation water for much of the produce that is sold throughout our local community, throughout the province, and elsewhere.

We would just like to live peacefully in our community and do not oppose the compost facility itself, but we ask that it be managed in accordance with regulations of both our City and Province. We have appreciated that some of our neighbours have tried to speak up, to our City, to our Mayor, to our Ministry of Environment and to the ALC with their concerns, but the concerns have not been addressed.

We wonder why the City of Abbotsford with its Fire Service Bylaw and Zoning Bylaws appears helpless to ensure compliance of this facility in a manner that would protect the community? We wonder why the Ministry of Environment seems helpless to provide oversight? We wonder where the leaders of our community and Province are? Where are the leaders of the Agricultural Land Commission and Ministry of Health?

As mentioned above, we would like to share with you our stories and impacts of a fire that has continued to burn since October 2022. A fire that could have been prevented if proper safety measures had been in place, regulations were followed, and best management practices were implemented. We also request that all agencies responsible for oversight please follow through on their obligations to protect each of us and our environment.



490 MCCALLUM ROAD,  
Abbotsford , Bc V2S 8A2

January 12, 2023

### Personal Impact Statement

Dear Sirs and or Madame ,

As concerned citizens residing in south Abbotsford we wish to bring your attention to an ongoing issue arising from a huge commercial compost on the property at 625 Mackenzie Road , Abbotsford , BC.

Early one morning in November our household was awakened to a very strong caustic odour emanating from outside and as we looked out our windows we were aghast. We were unable to see the chicken barns (which are approximately 300 feet from the house). A strong wind was blowing from the north and with it a bilious smoke which upon investigation was coming from a fire within the compost site on MacKenzie Road.

My husband Wayne has been treated with chemo and radiation since November 02 for cancer which has metastasized to his lungs . Due to the poor air quality he is unable to venture outside for walks and when the wind often blows toward the house the smoke infiltrates our home .Therefore we are doubly worried and concerned about his health.

My son , daughter in law accompanied by their three year old toddler and one month old infant were staying with us at the time when the property was engulfed in smoke. Needless to say although our granddaughter wanted to play outside we were unable to risk her health and ours and decided to take her and the husky dog for walks and playtime to a park on the other side of the city, even though we are situated on ten acres of walkable land.

I made a call that very morning to the Department of Environment explaining the dire situation this fire was having upon us( whenever we did venture outside our clothes and hair were instantly saturated with a noxious smell) ash was covering our vehicles , window sills and porches. We were also keeping the dog inside, concerned with her health, much to her digression

The Abbotsford Fire department did make an appearance onto the property at 625 MacKenzie but were unable to extinguish the fire entirely due to the immensity of the compost pile.

I then made a follow up call , a few days later, to the Department of Environment but all they could tell me was that my report had been filed and the agent had no further information on the consequences of the matter or if any inspector had even investigated the situation.

As the weeks went by snow began to fall and we were delighted that we would experience a white Christmas but alas as the snow fell so did the ash and the property outside our door was now covered in a brown grey soot .We knew by now this soot must contain contaminants from the ongoing fire . We continued to walk through this debris to drive our granddaughter and husky to the park for playtime and fresh air.

We are very concerned that our Abbotsford council , the Abbotsford fire department and our Provincial Department of Environment seem to be totally unable to put an end to this illegal activity as it is an established fact that this compositing operation is out of compliance with the city bylaws and provincial regulation .

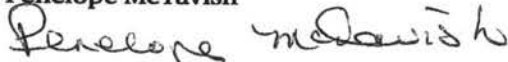
In short whom do we turn to now if these departments are deaf and blind to our concerns ?

Sincerely yours,

Wayne McTavish

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne McTavish".

Penelope McTavish

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Penelope McTavish".



January 16/23

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Ron Blair. I am the owner/manager of the commercial broiler farm located at 490 McCallum Rd. Abbotsford(Ratheane Farm Ltd.). I have been farming at this location since 1994.

Recently, myself, my fiancée Shauna McTavish and her parents Wayne and Penny McTavish have been directly impacted by the composting piles located at 617 McKenzie Rd. They are only 200m to the northeast of the farm.

On Nov.28/22 these composting piles caught fire. My understanding is that this is not the first time. The prevailing winds took the caustic smoke directly across the farm. The smoke was so thick that it was difficult to see the barns from the house at times, and it actually blackened areas of snow on the the ground with soot. The smell encompassed the farm, especially in Barn 1(the closest to the piles). It was difficult to breathe in the barns and after working that day the clothes smelled heavily of smoke. Even now, two months after the Fire Dept. has been to the compost site, the smell of smoke lingers in the air on a daily basis, rising up at times.

Not only has the health of myself, my fiancée and her parents been compromised by the caustic smoke, my livelihood was directly affected soon after the Nov.28/22 incident.

Five days after, on Dec.3/22, the birds on the bottom floor of Barn 1 began showing signs of Inclusion Body

Hepatitis(IBH), the top floor on Dec.5/22. On Dec.6/22 birds were subsequently submitted to the veterinarian(Canadian Poultry Consultants Ltd.) for analysis. Confirmation of IBH was made. One of the examples of stressors that can trigger IBH or increase losses due to IBH is poor air quality. The horrible air quality in the barns as a result of the Nov.28/22 incident seems to support the timeline.

Just recently I fully updated the heating, cooling, ventilation and computer systems in all barns. These systems provide amazing state of the art environmental conditions. For my farm, air quality is not an internal issue and had to come from an outside source.

Normal mortality for a flock of birds runs around 5.5%-6.0%. Mortality for the flock grown during the Nov.28/22 incident was the worst I have experienced in nearly 33 years of growing commercial birds. The downstairs was more than 3X the norm at over 18% and the upstairs was nearly 11%. Although not as significant as the barn closest to the compost fire, the other three barns experienced higher than normal mortality as well. Stemming from the compost smoke, overall loss was close to 3000 birds more than normal for just this flock alone! How many more will be lost in future if this operation continues to operate?

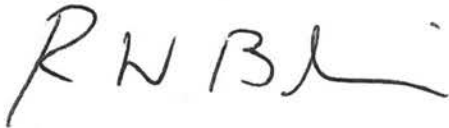
If this composting site can affect the bird mortality so significantly, what is it doing to human health and well being? I am greatly concerned about both the immediate and long term human health effects that this operation poses to the public. I am also concerned for the continued problems it poses to the health of my livestock and other surrounding farms in the Poultry Industry.

Included, I have provided documentation for the

Veterinarian reports and Mortality records for Barn 1 as a result of the Nov.28/22 incident and following days. I can provide further documentation if needed.

Sincerely,

Ron Blair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R N Blair', with a stylized flourish at the end.

OWNER/MANAGER RATHEANE FARM LTD.



**CANADIAN POULTRY CONSULTANTS LTD.**

30325 Canary Court, Abbotsford, BC, Canada V4X 2N4

Tel: (604) 854-6600 Fax: (604) 854-6100

invoice to copy

Case Number: 30791-22

Date Submitted: 6-Dec-2022 11:57 am

Submitted by: Ron Blair

Invoice To ☐ Mail ☒ E-Mail ☐ Fax ☐ None

Name: Ritchie Smith

Mail To: 33777 Enterprise Avenue

Abbotsford, BC V2S 7T9

Farm:

Phone: (604) 859-7128

Fax:

E-mail: mleslie@rsfeeds.net;mstanley@rsfeeds.net

Report To: Mike L and Mark S all RS reports

Owner ☐ Mail ☒ E-Mail ☐ Fax ☐ None

Name: Ratheane Farm Ltd.

Mail To: 490 McCallum Rd.

Abbotsford, BC V2S8A2

Farm: 490 McCallum Rd

Phone: (604) 897-7938

Fax: (604) 855-6063

E-mail: ratheane@shaw.ca

Report To: Ron Blair

Additional Final Report:

☐ Mail ☐ E-Mail ☐ Fax ☐ None

Attending Veterinarian: Lindsay Kehler

Preliminary Report To: Ron Blair, 604-897-7938, ratheane@shaw.ca

Preference: Phone

Specimen	SubprmsID	Samples	ProdType
#1 Necropsy - Commercial Flo			Regular
#2			
#3			
#4			
#5			

Hatchery: Western Hatchery # Submitted Alive 0 Dead: 10 Age: 20 Days

Classification: Broiler Mortality Vaccination Details

Feed Company: Ritchie Smith Flock Size: 20000

Clinical Signs: Barn 1 - High mortality

Serology Requested:

Other Requests:

Notes:



# CANADIAN POULTRY CONSULTANTS LTD.

30325 Canary Court, Abbotsford, BC, Canada V4X 2N4

Tel: (604) 854-6600 Fax: (604) 854-6100

Owner: Ratheane Farm Ltd.

Case Id: 30791-22

Date Submitted: 12/6/2022

Specimen 1: Necropsy - Commercial Flock

Specimen 2:

Specimen 3:

Specimen 4:

Specimen 5:

Classification: Broiler

## Confirmation Report

### Necropsy

Body weights: 378, 508, 400, 468, 882, 250, 874, 428, 400, 368 grams

1 x swollen head (subcutaneous tissues), colibacillosis

1 x intestinal accident

1 x acute death syndrome

7 x Inclusion Body Hepatitis

Diagnosis: Inclusion Body Hepatitis





# WESTERN HATCHERY LTD.

505 HAMM ROAD, R.R. 1, ABBOTSFORD, B.C. V2T 6B6  
859-7168 or 856-0306



## BROILER FLOCK MONITORING RECORD

FARM NAME: RATHEANE FARM

FLOCK #: A-150

SOURCE: WESTERN

DATE TO SHIP: DEC. 22/22

LEGS	FLIPS
DAILY TOTAL	
CULLS	OTHERS

DATE PLACED: NOV 17/22

FLOCK SIZE: 10,812

TYPE: ROSS

BARN #: 1UP

WK	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	Weekly Total	Cum Total	% Mort
	NOV. 17/22									
0	2	17	27	114	29	22	11	222	222	
	1 17	10 13	14 77	37 16	13 13	9 6	5			
1	15	2	15	12	19	24	23	110	332	
	8 70	2 13	2 8	4 11	8 14	10 12	11			
2	16	30	22	19	70	52	94	303	635	
	11 524	6 15	7 12	7 39	31 27	25 34	60			
3	75	75	62	63	61	43	44	423	1058	
	30 4531	44 27	35 22	41 29	32 23	20 30	14			
4	17	21	18	14	9	11	10	100	1158	
	9 811	10 11	7 8	6 5	4 6	5 6	4			
5	11				10.81%			11	1169	



# WESTERN HATCHERY LTD.

505 HAMM ROAD, R.R. 1, ABBOTSFORD, B.C. V2T 6B6  
859-7168 or 856-0306



## BROILER FLOCK MONITORING RECORD

FARM NAME: RATHEANE FARM

FLOCK #: A-180

SOURCE: WESTERN

DATE TO SHIP: DEC 22 / 22

LEGS	FLIPS
DAILY TOTAL	
CULLS	OTHERS

DATE PLACED: NOV. 17 / 22

FLOCK SIZE: 10,404

TYPE: ROSS

BARN #: 1DOWN

WK	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED.	Weekly Total	Cum Total	% Mort
	NOV. 17 / 22									
0	1	13	21	72	19	18	10	154	154	
	0	1 3	10 7	14 37	35 10	9 11	7 6	4		
1	18	0	24	26	26	29	44	167	321	
	10	8 0	0 18	6 16	10 17	9 18	11 30	14		
	DEC. 3									
2	32	30	38	51	111	99	266	627	948	
	25	7 23	7 20	18 30	21 46	65 40	59 76	190		
3	238	229	166	98	45	36	27	839	1787	
	110	128 99	130 70	96 41	57 20	25 19	17 19	8		
4	17	10	14	20	10	11	18	100	1887	
	12	5 7	3 8	6 14	6 7	3 7	4 10	8		
5	15				18.28%			15	1902	



### Comments and Recommendations

Discussed the case with Ron. Inclusion Body Hepatitis (IBH) is a disease of young chickens that targets the liver and can cause a sudden increase in mortality. IBH is caused by a virus and therefore does not respond to antibiotic treatment. The mortality pattern generally occurs over a 9 day period with mortality increasing for approximately 3 days, leveling off for approximately 3 days and then decreasing to normal levels over approximately 3 days. Total mortality can be as high as 30% but is usually significantly lower. The flock can be supported with multivitamins/electrolytes in the water.

IBH can be transmitted both vertically (from a virus-shedding breeder flock) and horizontally (from a contaminated barn, person, equipment, pest, etc). Just because the virus is present in the chicks or in the barn does not necessarily mean that disease will occur. Minimizing stressors and keeping the immune system & environment healthy will lower the chances of experiencing mortality due to IBH.

To minimize stressors, think about the acronym T-FLAWSS (temperature, feed, litter, light, air, water, space, sanitation). These management factors must be fine-tuned. This is outlined on the Platinum Brooding checklist.

Feed disruptions, overheating, chilling, drafts, and poor air quality are examples of stressors that can trigger IBH or increase losses due to IBH. On-farm manure storage is a risk factor for IBH.

Immunosuppression due to diseases such as Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD) can also significantly increase the likelihood of experiencing flock mortality due to IBH so a suitable vaccination program and excellent biosecurity are important. End of flock serology is recommended.

Cleaning and disinfection of the barn is essential. Some key points:

- Make sure all organic material is removed from the barn (feces and dirt cannot be disinfected). Remember to clean the fan blades, heaters, louvers, lighting fixtures, walls, other equipment, etc. Remember to clean mortality buckets, service areas/anterooms. Ensure all loose, organic material has been removed.
- Clean with a detergent
- Make sure the barn is dry before using a disinfectant. Thermo-fogging is recommended.
- Ensure adequate on-farm insect and rodent control.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.



January 11, 2023

To Whom it Should Concern,

My name is Stamatina Goritsas and I live at 606 McCallum Road in Abbotsford. My family has owned this land since the 1950's when my grandparents immigrated to Canada with their seven young children. In the beginning they cleared the land of trees so that they could farm it to support not only their family but produced green beans, strawberries, raspberries, and corn to feed the citizens of this city and province. Today, we do not farm the land ourselves, but keep within the ALR regulations by renting out the property to farmers so that they can produce food for either human or animal consumption, which I believe is what the ALR was established to do. That is to keep and protect the farmland and aquifers within the province so we can continue to safely feed the people and animals here far into the future.

I write the above as a starting point to what began on Thanksgiving weekend of 2022. I awoke from sleep with an extremely sore throat, and eyes. The inside of the house smelled acrid. I knew that this was not a regular sore throat because it was the same thing that would happen to me when we used to visit family in Prince George. As we got closer to the pulp mills my throat would begin to burn and my eyes would become sore. I stepped outside that weekend, looked eastward and saw that the compost pile directly behind my property was on fire, with smoke billowing towards me. Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> I left for work, and it was still burning. I came home that night to a fire that looked out of control with a fire department ladder pouring water onto the compost with what looked like little effect. This went on for (I believe) a few days and as of today the pile continues to burn, continues to expose everyone within the area to toxins in the air and with the subsequent health effects.

I was not aware prior to this fire that this compost business is considered a commercial business and am disappointed in how the city and the province are handling this situation. With a fire out of control, with no apparent fire controls in place, no one was notified of potential harm not only to our property but to our health. I wonder how much worse it could have been if this fire had started during our summer drought? I would like to know how a commercial business is running on ALR land and how they seem to be able to proceed without any of the safety checks and regulations mandated for that type of business? The employees of this city as well as of the province are here to protect ALL the people of this city and province and to ensure that regulations are followed by EVERYONE.

I don't know about you, but my parents taught me that everyone is equal under the laws of this country and in God's eyes. So, am unsure how some individuals and businesses are able to sidestep the process? I also wonder how any of you would feel to be living so near a business that affects not only the land you own, but your health with possible serious consequences. To now fear that anything growing on the land could be destroyed because of a business not respecting or implementing necessary and regulated safety checks. To not be able to go outside and enjoy your patio or yard because depending on how the wind blows you are forced to breath in an acrid smell. To wonder what health affects this will have on yourself, your kids, your pets or the farm animals who are forced to breath this in.

Sincerely,



Stamatina Goritsas

Manjit Gholia

457 McCallum Rd

Abbotsford, B.C.

V2S8A1

ATTENTION: TO WHOM IT SHOULD CONCERN,

Our family has lived and farmed at this above address FOR 50 YEARS. On our family farm we have mainly blueberries that are grown for commercial production. Over the last 50 years we have never had any concerns with anybody in the local neighborhood, until now.

Over the last 6 years the compost pile at 617 McKenzie Rd. kept growing higher and higher and appeared like a mini mountain approx. 60 to 70 ft in height. WHILE LOOKING AT HIS HUGE COMPOST SITE, I FELT THAT OUR AQUAFER, GROUNDWATER AND NEIGHBORING WELLS ARE UNDER THREAT OF CONTAMINATION. As a farmer with a blueberry crop, we need potable water to irrigate our crops, and if our groundwater is contaminated our processors can reject our blueberry crop due to high amounts of contaminants and foreign residues on the blueberries as well as the plants and leaves. There is a lot of grading and traceability testing done by the secondary processors like Kraft, Danone, Smucker's and Driscoll's. They can trace contaminants and residues specifically to the exact farm it came from. I and all neighbors have to do everything we can to mitigate the threat to our groundwater through good agricultural practices. Then this past spring and summer 2022 with the compost pile being 60 ft, I witnessed seeing a huge amount of dust blowing off the 60 ft pile of compost when the wind really picked up from the oncoming storms. The dust from this site was blowing everywhere. It looked like a dust storm. I was concerned now about the air quality and the dust on our blueberry crop as I found it hard to breathe during those few days of bad weather. Had the piles been covered with tarps this would have mitigated the onslaught of dust and particulate in the air that was blowing toward neighbors. Luckily our fruit was not rejected by the processing plant however the threat remains if the compost site continues to operate without care or regard to their surrounding neighbors.

I did not report or call the city until the next problem occurred at 617 McKenzie Rd. during mid-October of 2022 just after Thanksgiving Day, I witnessed a small amount of smoke coming from the large compost pile, the one 60 ft in height. I know it was not steam, as I could smell the smoke in the air. Then about for weeks after that on November 28, 2022. I woke up at 5am to this awful smell as if it was plastic burning. I looked outside and I could not even see the neighbors Poultry barns. I looked past the neighbor's barn when I walked across the street, I could clearly see a huge orange flame shooting 50ft in the air from the large compost pile and the Abby fire department trying to put out the fire at 617 McKenzie Rd.

I made repeated calls to the Abby fire dept to put out the fire at 617 McKenzie Rd after Nov 28. Since then, there is always smoke coming from the compost site towards the neighbors to this day depending on which way the wind blows. On occasion I called bylaws office in the city and



they say the fire dept is who I should be calling. I called city councillors and they say they cannot do anything about the smoke. I am not sure how many more months the city is going to allow the owner at 617 McKenzie Rd. to continue to break the burning bylaws and other provincial, municipal rules that apply. All this smoke is going to wreck havoc on the nearby farm operations and I am concerned the smoke will kill the bees during pollination time for the blueberries. ALL THIS COMPOST POSES A HUGE RISK TO OUR ENVIROMENT HERE IN SOUTH Abbotsford, as the next big fire could happen any moment. This compost has to be completely removed to remove the constant threat to our crops, animals and families.

Since Nov 28,2022 and until now I can smell the smoke 24/7 in my house, garage, shop, truck and car. As for my health to this day I am coughing, sneezing and have irritation in my throat, eyes and nose. I am also experiencing bouts of shortness of breath, fatigue and dizziness.

Are our Mayor and council going to resolve the threat we are living under, or are the provincial reps for this area going to get rid of the threat we are living under?

Sincerely,

*Manjit Ghosh*



To whom it may concern;

January 16, 2023

In way of a written introduction my name is Edward Neil Gondek, I have lived at 581 McCallum Rd. for the past 51 years.

Throughout my childhood there were special bond/friendships in our neighborhood which have continued to this very day. I attended South Poplar Elementary School then off to Clearbrook Junior with graduation from Abbotsford Senior in 1984.

During my childhood I was an active member with the Abbotsford Minor Hockey Association and years later started my amateur coaching career with the Association. The experiences and people that I met throughout the journey have a special place in my heart along with the fondest memories.

I was raised on a small 5 acre hobby farm which taught me many life lessons which were passed down by my father/mother who I'm sure were sharing experiences from their parents from previous generations. The values of honesty, hard work, respect and integrity were important part of our daily lives which to this day are my core values. We were fortunate to have the good life living in the Fraser Valley, running through the fields, helping the neighbors during berry season, pitching hay on the wagon or trying to get enough friends out for a game of street hockey.

During the years there has been so much development in the Fraser Valley and over time the ALR seems to be shrinking at an alarming pace. The ALR is so important to our eco-system and I believe we have forgotten the impact we now face globally with more

and more land that is being removed and replaced with Industrial/Commercial Operations. In our neighborhood there is a proposal for a property rezoning located at 617 McKenzie Rd.

In all my years while living at my residence I have never been subjected to such an impact from the Composting Operation on ALR. The operation which has been ongoing for years during the application process has most recently caused a negative impact to my overall health from the fires that have been burning out of control since early November 2022. The smoke has caused damage to my vehicles while leaving a toxic residue throughout my home from the ash, interrupted my sleep which is vital as I have the obligation to be fully rested and fit for duty as a Red Seal Journeyman Crane Operator. There have been numerous days that I cannot stay at my home which is due west of 617 McKenzie because of the smoke. In addition the burning compost pile has lingered long enough that my normal enjoyment being outdoors is limited with continual eye, throat irritation, headaches, and dryness in my mouth. This is not natural and I welcome and open my home for those who may be interested to see what is happening at my residence because of this Compost Operation, are you brave enough to accept my invitation?

I have made numerous calls to the Abbotsford Fire Department, spoke with the Fire Prevention Officer, members of City Council which included Patricia Ross and all I'm getting is lip service or we are working on the issues. Documents that I have reviewed clearly identify non-compliance of this application, how can this operation be allowed to continue when the issues related to the application are still present.

The impact statement that I have provided is truthful and with no personal agenda against the individuals who are operating the Commercial Business located at 617 McKenzie Rd. Abbotsford B.C. Who will be brave enough to look at the rezoning application for the best interests of the citizens of Abbotsford who are residing in the immediate area? Consider the negative impact that you may be subject to if you were living in our neighborhood not to mention the healthy life that we all want.

The applicant(s) need to follow the rule of law both at the Provincial and Federal Levels, policies and procedures that have been put in place by the Ministry of Agriculture along with the By-Laws within the City of Abbotsford.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Gondek', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward Neil Gondek

604 859-9640



**PERSONAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

*January 12, 2023*

**RE: ONGOING FIRE FROM COMPOSTING OPERATION AT 617 MCKENZIE ROAD, ABBOTSFORD, BC**

*We live at 33778 Vye Road, directly northwest of the huge piles of composting materials located at 617 McKenzie Road. This operation has been ongoing for about ten years and has negatively impacted our peaceful enjoyment of our home during retirement. We are 75 and 76 years old.*

*There has always been a lot of steam rising from the piles but we saw a change to smoke around Thanksgiving 2022. Due to the unseasonably warm fall weather we were sitting outside on the deck with a number of family house guests that were visiting for Thanksgiving. This smoke increased until flames began and before long the fire department arrived on site. Despite many tanker loads of water applied to the fire locations throughout that day, the fire has broken out intermittently and has continued for three months until the present time. As the winds shift we get more or less smoke and odour. The excavators have been working to bury the fire outbreaks on a daily basis since Thanksgiving without any success in ending the outbreaks. On several occasions we have had to turn off the air exchange system in our home as the smell becomes too strong. The toxic smoke smell is present on most days and the air pollution situation is causing us increased anxiety. The fire department was onsite on a second occasion to spray the fire sites on November 28th. The excavators have also repeatedly used many excavator buckets of drainage water from the sides of the piles to dump onto the hot spots. All of water dumped on the pile must be carrying pollutants into the aquifer.*

*Despite the large volumes of water and heavy rains we are still getting smoke from the ongoing fire at the compost facility. There have been burning in the compost piles in the past and we are concerned that it is an expected occurrence, especially with the very large piles. There is no area that would allow them to spread out the piles to cool down as the piles now occupy all of the property behind the three chicken barns. We are forced to breathe the contaminants resulting from the burning of mixtures of manures and organic and wood waste.*

*It is very disturbing to us that this operation is allowed to continue to negatively impact the air we breathe as well as the enjoyment of our property in our retirement. It causes us a large deal of stress and anxiety. The situation definitely has gotten worse over time. One of the neighbours on McKenzie sold their property rather than continue to live beside it. We also wonder if we will be forced to relocate at a time when our property value is also impacted by this non-compliant commercial operation in a farming community.*

Dennis Morelli



Judy Morelli



Jan. 17, 2023

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to express my concerns about a large composting operation in our neighbourhood that has been burning a large pile of chicken manure on their property for several months. The burning of chicken manure has had a severe and detrimental impact on the air quality in our community, and has led to a number of negative health effects for the citizens of South Abbotsford.

Firstly, the burning of chicken manure releases a number of pollutants into the air. These pollutants have been linked to a number of negative impacts on air quality, including the formation of smog and acid rain, and have the potential to harm human health.

Furthermore, the burning of chicken manure has led to the phenomenon of "brown snow" in our community. This is not only unsightly, but it is a clear indication of the high levels of pollution in the air.

Moreover, the burning of chicken manure has had a significant and negative impact on the mental and physical health of the citizens of South Abbotsford. Studies have shown that exposure to air pollution can lead to an increased risk of depression and anxiety, and can cause cognitive decline. Additionally, exposure to pollutants from burning chicken manure can lead to respiratory problems and can increase the risk of heart and lung disease.

Given the severe and detrimental impacts of the burning of chicken manure on our community, I urge the Municipal Government to take immediate action to ensure that Randy Dahl of Lifesoils Products adheres to regulations and stops burning chicken manure. The health and well-being of our community is of the utmost importance, and it is the responsibility of the Municipal Government to ensure that the air we breathe is safe and clean.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Citizen of South Abbotsford

January 13, 2023

Ian & Louise Brown  
33820 Vye Road  
Abbotsford, B.C.  
V2S 8A9

Re: Composting Operation at 617 McKenzie Road, Abbotsford, B.C.

We are writing today to complain about the composting operation at 617 McKenzie Road in Abbotsford.

We are annoyed that this operation is allowed to continue while not in compliance with the operating regulation. This operation does not appear to be in compliance with Section 26 of the composting guidelines.

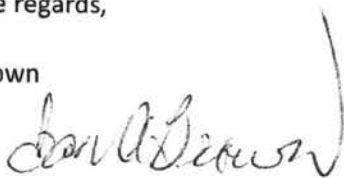
Our concerns are the leaching and discharge of waste from this operation contaminating our well water, as well as the danger to our air quality from the stink and smoke being emitted from the continuous burning of this composting pile.

We like to sleep with our window open at night and numerous times have been forced to close the window because of the strong smell of smoke that filters through our house from this facility. My husband has COPD and we are concerned that this pollution may be worsen his condition.

We are concerned with the potential hazards and dangers this composting operation can pose and would like to see this business cease and desist its operation because of the environmental impact it is having on our neighborhood.

Sincere regards,

Ian Brown

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ian Brown", with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Louise Brown

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L Brown", with a large, stylized initial "L".



**Karl and Carmen Peters**

522 McCallum Rd.  
Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 8A2  
Ph. 604 857-4804  
email [kpelectric@shaw.ca](mailto:kpelectric@shaw.ca)

Jan. 13, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Smoke and strong odour coming from compost piles-McKenzie Road

This letter is to inform you that there has been a lot of smoke and odour coming from an adjacent property near me for a few months now.

It was especially bad the morning of November 28, 2022. When I stepped out of the house early Monday morning, I received a nose full of the stench. I went to my shop where it reeked inside, as well as in my vehicle parked within. I could smell it in my vehicles every time I entered them for most of the week, until the smell slowly went away. This day there was so much smoke visible above my property from east to west and south as far as I could see.

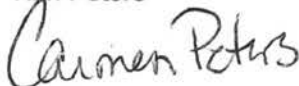
Since that day, I have smelled smoke just about every morning when I leave for work, and oftentimes when I arrive home in the afternoon when I exit my vehicle. Some days it is hard to do yard work outside because of the smell.

I am appalled that the City of Abbotsford has let this operation exist for so long and has yet to remedy the smoke and fire coming from these compost piles. My understanding is that this is a commercial operation happening on Agricultural Land and this is against City bylaws. This needs to be remedied and stop immediately.

Sincerely,



Karl Peters



Carmen Peters

Ivan and Sarah Wright  
34141 Farmer Road  
Abbotsford BC V2S 7M4

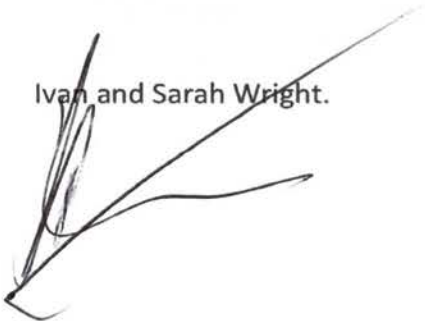
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**Re: Huge compost heap located at 617 McKenzie Rod, Abbotsford.**

Our residence is located approximately one quarter of a mile from the aforementioned compost heap. Since the compost heap caught fire around mid October, when the wind is blowing in our direction there is a lot of smoke, rancid smell that causes family members to get nauseated and causes headaches.

It is almost impossible to enjoy sitting or working outside during times when the wind blows in our direction. This endeavor is affecting our quiet enjoyment of the property we rent and I believe is violation of the city bylaws.

Ivan and Sarah Wright.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'V' or 'W' shape, located below the typed name 'Ivan and Sarah Wright'.

15 Jan. 2023

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to bring to your attention an urgent issue affecting our neighbourhood of South Abbotsford. There is a large composting operation located in our area that has been burning a large pile of chicken manure on their property for several months now. The burning of this manure mixture is having a detrimental impact on the air quality in our community, as well as on the mental and physical health of its citizens.

The pollutants released from burning chicken manure, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, and ammonia, can have negative impacts on air quality, including contributing to the formation of smog and acid rain. Additionally, exposure to these pollutants can lead to respiratory problems such as asthma and increased susceptibility to respiratory infections, such as COVID-19, as well as heart and lung disease. In our community, we have also noticed the phenomenon of "brown snow," which is not only unsightly, but also a clear indication of the high levels of pollution in the air.

Furthermore, the burning chicken manure is causing adverse mental and physical health symptoms in the citizens of South Abbotsford. Studies have shown that people living in areas with high levels of air pollution have an increased risk of developing depression and anxiety disorders and that exposure to air pollution can lead to changes in the brain that are associated with cognitive decline. Children exposed to high levels of air pollution can have lower scores on cognitive tests and have a higher risk of developing behavioural problems. I personally have had respiratory symptoms that have worsened as this has gone on, and during this timeframe, I have been prescribed an inhaler to treat my symptoms.

Given the severe and detrimental impacts of the burning of chicken manure on our community, we strongly urge the Municipal Government to take immediate and substantial action to motivate the Dahl Family of CUTLINE INDUSTRIES LTD DBA LIFESOILS PRODUCTS and A & M Poultry Farms Ltd. located at 595 McKenzie Road, 617 McKenzie Road, and 625 McKenzie Road to adhere to regulations with regard to community safety and to take every action necessary to cease the burning pile of chicken manure mixture. We request that the city take appropriate measures to minimize the further release of pollutants into the atmosphere and lithosphere so as to protect the health and well-being of our community. The health and well-being of our community is of the utmost importance, and it is the responsibility of the Municipal Government to ensure that the air we breathe is clean and safe. We hope that you will take this matter seriously and take the necessary steps to address this issue as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Skyler Kentin



Concerned Citizen of South Abbotsford