

Date February 20, 2015

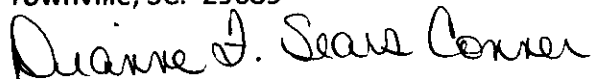
The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC. 29201

On behalf of the citizens of the Double Springs Community of Townville, SC. there has been a letter of concern sent to the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) in Columbia and in Anderson, SC. This letter addresses the concerns and objections to the proposed building of broiler/poultry barns on the property at the corners of Dobbins Road and Old Dobbins Bridge Road in Townville, SC. Tax Map #: 180008007. (See attachments.)

We are asking for your support in opposition of this permit being granted. Please read these files and understand how destructive this will be to our homes, families and community way of life.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Dianne F. Sears Conner  
1618 Old Dobbins Bridge Road  
Townville, SC. 29689



Herbert Stevenson  
802 Double Springs Road  
Townville, SC. 29689

26 January 2015  
SCDHEC  
Stormwater, Construction & Agricultural Permitting  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: **Response to Form DHEC 3579, Received 22 January 2015 by Herbert Stevenson**

We received a copy of form DHEC 3579 from Don Burns regarding the intention to build four poultry houses at adjoining property, identified on the form as Tax Map N. 180008007 (copy attached). The proposed site directly adjoins properties owned by Herbert Stevenson and John and William Cromer, but also adjoins several properties at Old Dobbins Bridge Road, including that of Dianne F Conner and John Michael Conner.

We **strongly** object to the proposed poultry barn construction for the following reasons:

1. To our knowledge, Mr. Burns does not own the property in question. We believe the permit application is speculative and tied to a contract to purchase contingent on constructing the poultry barns.
2. Only Herbert Stevenson, John Cromer and William Cromer received the permit form via mail. No other affected property owners, including the undersigned, have received written notice of the permit intent. Based on our direct knowledge of the proposed property and site, the property owners are all well within the 1320 foot distance rule stated in the permit form.
3. The type of manure treatment or storage has not been listed on the public notice. Based on past experience with local impact we believe Mr. Burns does not have an environmentally viable plan for controlling the waste.
4. Existing storm watershed will direct storm or other run off from the proposed site directly on to the Stevenson and Cromer properties. The properties include a pond providing water for livestock, underground springs, and the drainage connects directly to nearby Lake Hartwell. (Image attached).
5. The usual disposal of deceased poultry and other waste is in trenches or pits that would be created on the proposed property (likely in excess of 30 deceased birds per barn per day). These disposal trenches will leach into the existing ground water and directly impact the adjoining Stevenson and Cromer properties, and then Lake Hartwell via the drainage noted above.
6. Prevailing winds pass over the proposed site and across Old Dobbins Bridge Road. The dust and odor of the poultry barns will directly impact these property owners, none of whom have been notified.

We request that you deny the permit application from Mr. Burns for the reasons cited above.

**Herbert Stevenson**  
Property Owner, 802 Double Springs Rd  
Townville SC



**Dianne F Conner**  
Property Owner, 1618 Old Dobbins Bridge Rd  
POA for H. Stevenson



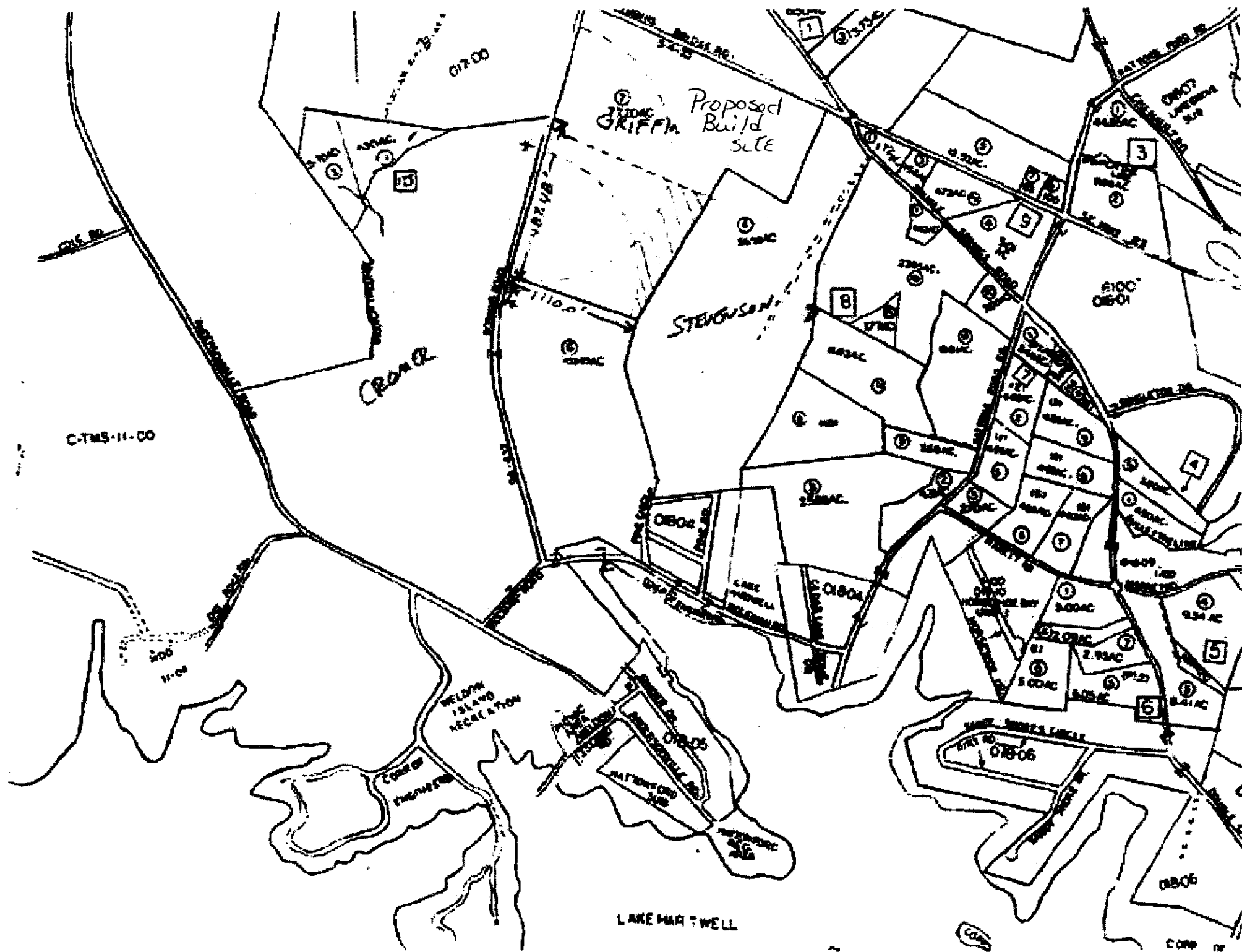
**John Michael Conner**  
Property Owner, 1618 Old Dobbins Bridge Rd













AGRICULTURE FACILITY  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR AN AGRICULTURAL PERMIT

An agricultural animal growing operation is proposed by the following:

Permit Applicant: Don Burns 864-617-9293  
County: Anderson Co., Tax map no 180008007, Dobbins Rd.  
Location: Townville, SC  
Number of Animal Barns Proposed: 4 Animal type: broilers, poultry

Type of manure treatment/storage proposed: \_\_\_\_\_

This Public Notice of Intent to Construct is to inform you, as an adjoining property owner or a property owner within 1,320 feet of the proposed facility, that an agricultural facility is proposed to be built near your property. The signing of this form only indicates that you are aware of the proposed farm construction. The signing of this form **DOES NOT** waive any legal rights that a property owner has concerning the Department's permitting process in this matter. Nor does signing of this form constitute making a comment to the Department. Also, if the Department's permit decision is appealed, the signing of this form does not mean that the property owner cannot participate in the appeal process. Participation in the appeal process will depend upon your legal standing in the matter.

Please Print (except for signature)

Name: Herbert Stevenson

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Refusal to sign this form will not prohibit the Department from making a permit decision on the proposed facility. If you refuse to sign this form, the permit applicant will complete this form and write "refused to sign" in the signature block. If you have objections to the construction of this facility, you may address specific objections/issues, in writing to: SCDHEC, Stormwater, Construction, & Agricultural Permitting, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201. The Department will consider all written comments in making the permit decision. All persons submitting comments will be notified of the permit decision made by the Department. Please note that the Department is not involved in property values, zoning or land use issues as these are local issues, which must be addressed by local governments. Please contact your local county or municipal officials for any concerns on these issues.

White and Yellow Copies; Submitted to DHEC; Pink Copy: Farmer; Orange Copy: Adjoining Property Owner



**AGRICULTURE FACILITY  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR AN AGRICULTURAL PERMIT**

An agricultural animal growing operation is proposed by the following:

Permit Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Animal Barns Proposed: \_\_\_\_\_ Animal type: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of manure treatment/storage proposed: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please Print (except for signature)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 802 Double Springs Rd  
Townville, SC 29689

Phone #: (864) 287-4054

Signature: Herbert G. Stevenson

Date: Feb. 6, 2015

Refusal to sign this form will not prohibit the Department from making a permit decision on the proposed facility. If you refuse to sign this form, the permit applicant will complete this form and write "refused to sign" in the signature block. If you have objections to the construction of this facility, you may address specific objections/issues, in writing to: SCDHEC, Stormwater, Construction, & Agricultural Permitting, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201. The Department will consider all written comments in making the permit decision. All persons submitting comments will be notified of the permit decision made by the Department. Please note that the Department is not involved in property values, zoning or land use issues as these are local issues, which must be addressed by local governments. Please contact your local county or municipal officials for any concerns on these issues.

*I sign in acknowledgement of receiving this form. I am opposed to and will be protesting the building of these barns.*

White and Yellow Copies; Submitted to DHEC; Pink Copy: Farmer; Orange Copy: Adjoining Property Owner

## **Our Concerns:**

### **Respiratory Health**

The Double Springs Community in Townville, SC. is mostly comprised of old family heritage. It is a family oriented community with approximately 100 households that would be greatly and adversely affected by poultry barns being built in this close proximity to us. Most of the people in this small community have lived here their whole lives. We have raised our children here, watched our grandchildren and even our great grandchildren grow up here. All of this with no fear of airborne diseases due to viral and bacterial pathogens being released into our air from ammonia and pesticides coming from these barns. Many of our residents already have respiratory problems and do not need help in making these illnesses progress further especially when there is no need.

### **Contamination of Drinking Water**

Contamination of drinking water, not only for us but for our livestock as well, is of great concern due to storm runoffs and disposal of dead poultry and excrement which will also contribute to contaminated soil to grow our gardens in. Most of the families in the Double Springs Community do rely on our gardens to feed our families, the water for ourselves and our livestock of which some will have absolutely no water source for our livestock.

### **Impact on Community Center and Children's Park**

We will not be able to allow our children to play outdoors, hang our clothes out to dry, open our windows for fresh air all due to the carcinogens, pathogens, dust, feathers and the stench that comes along with these poultry houses being built in our community. Less than a half mile below proposed building site property there is a community children's park where many of our families spend our spring, summer and fall evenings and week-ends enjoying our time together with family and friends. Family events, holiday golf cart parades and benefit dinners, Double Springs Fire Department & Community Benefits are all held here. We cannot imagine this happening in the future with the stench of very nearby poultry houses in operation. We're surprised that Mr. Burns and his wife have not taken this into consideration for part of their family time together unless his family does not partake of what the community has to offer. If this is the case then his idea of bringing poultry houses to the area shows his lack of concern and consideration for his community neighbors and families.

### **Property Values**

There are a number of seniors who live in the area, many of whom have chosen our area to invest their life savings to retire here, and many of these on Lake Hartwell. They have bought property and built homes with the expectations of living out their lives here and then having some form of inheritance to leave their families. Their money goes into our community, our school system, our county, our state and on down to our federal government. This is not what these people had in mind for their retirement when they chose our community to live in and probably never had a clue it would come to this. Due to the layout of the proposed building site property, the storm runoff from these poultry barns would have no other choice but to run into Lake Hartwell contaminating drinking water for many of Anderson County's residents and also dropping the values of our properties anywhere from 50 to 90%. Taxes will go up but property values will go down.

I, Herbert Stevenson, am one of only three adjoining property owners who received this form. I stand to lose a lot. First, the proposal for disposal of waste and dead poultry was not addressed in the form Mr. Burns mailed me. My property adjoins Mr. Burns proposed building site and is downhill towards the lake from him. My pond will be totally contaminated with storm runoff from feces and decomposing chickens. I will have no source of drinking water for my livestock. The runoff will then go from my pond down my creek to Hartwell Lake and pass through the property

of Danny Hughes and will contaminate the water there which is also his only source of water for his livestock. From there it will run straight into a still cove in Hartwell Lake which is at the back of my property where there are nice homes built on the banks of this cove. Water does not move in this cove as it does in open water and will stagnate and fill with sludge. My soil will be contaminated where I will not feel comfortable in planting a garden. I will be 91 years old in March. I already have some respiratory issues and I will be downwind from Mr. Burns' proposed building site. Attached you will find a map where Mr. Burns proposed property build site adjoins myself (Herbert Stevenson), John and William Cromer. It also includes many other properties within the 1320 feet radius of this proposed building site that were never considered when Mr. Burns sent out building proposal forms. It shows where there is no possible direction the runoff could go that would not end up in Hartwell Lake. We hope you find this map helpful in making your decision.

There are many other concerns but the bottom line is if this permit is granted the only one who clearly stands to benefit now, in the near future or for many years to come is Mr. Burns only. This will damage the health of our community, surrounding areas and the proper values will be dropped to where Mr. Burns is hoping to be able to buy 'in the near future' at a ridiculously low price of which he will be the sole cause and of which we believe to be his sole intention. He has other properties that he could probably comfortably build poultry houses on where maybe no one would have objections and yet he chooses the middle of a family oriented community.

We do plan to fight this permit for as long as it takes to keep our Community from being the target of destruction. A community comprised of close to a hundred small families as opposed to the obsessions of one person should outweigh any possibility of this permit being allowed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Herbert Stevenson (Property Owner)



Dianne F. Sears Conner (Property Owner and POA for Herbert Stevenson)



John Michael Conner (Property Owner)





January 29, 2015

Hi Diane and Mike,

What an excellent and passionate document with supportive information and attachments you compiled expressing your opposition to the poultry barns. My brother Bill and I completely share your well stated and valid concerns. Our property has been in our family for three generations and we embrace our obligation to protect and pass it on to a fourth generation in the same safe and unpolluted condition as received.

Some of our concerns may mirror or be in addition to those you have listed: this proposed operation will generate dozens, maybe hundreds of tons of solid waste annually. This waste is regularly applied as fertilizer on surrounding farm land. The surrounding land is generally hilly topography that has a lot of heavy red clay subsoil composition. This type of soil is notorious for producing heavy runoff during rainfall due to low PERC values. The practice of spreading this waste on the surrounding farmland is essentially unregulated and hap hazardous at best. This practice will generate extremely polluted runoff and wind up at worst in local ground water (well water) and at best in farmers' ponds and streams or on our and Herbert Stevenson's property on the way to Lake Hartwell. **EITHER CONDITION IS OF GRAVE CONCERN TO ALL ADJOINING LANDOWNERS AND THE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL.**

The mortality rate in the broiler industry as reported by experts in the field can run as high as 4%. This results in an average of 100 carcasses per day to dispose of for a 120,000 bird operation which we estimate as the size of the proposed operation. How are 100 diseased, decomposing, and foul smelling broiler carcasses going to be disposed of in the Double Springs Community that has several housing developments with dozens of homes easily within "smelling distance" of the proposed operation? **IT IS AN OUTRAGE TO THE DOUBLE SPRINGS COMMUNITY THAT DHEC WOULD EVEN CONSIDER MOVING FORWARD ON THIS PERMIT FOR THIS MISPLACED OPERATION WITHOUT HAVING A DETAILED PLAN THAT IS ACCEPTABLE AND AGREED TO BE THE COMMUNITY!!!!**

What is the training program for the employees that will be running this operation? What education and qualification will the employees have to run this facility in a safe manner and address the above community concerns? **"THE COMMUNITY DESERVES TO SEE AND AGREE WITH ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING ".**

John & William Cromer