



BC Farm Industry Review Board

January 21, 2025

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

Bill Vanderspek
Chair
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission

Eduardo Olivan
Hatchery Manager
Okanagan Hatchery (1989) Ltd.

Ryan Whitmore
Hatchery Manager
Carleton Hatcheries Ltd. dba Fraser
Valley Chick Sales

John Franck
Hatchery Manager
Sofina Foods Inc.

Ernie Silveri
Hatchery Manager
Western Hatchery Ltd.

Dear Sirs:

RE: BC BROILER HATCHING EGG COMMISSION APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTERIM DECISION TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN HATCHERIES AS DESIGNATED AGENCIES

I write in follow up to my decision of [January 8, 2025](#), issued in response to a January 2, 2025 request from the British Columbia Broiler Hatching Egg Commission (Commission) for the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) to approve its decision to designate the following four hatcheries, Western Hatchery Ltd., Okanagan Hatchery (1989) Ltd., Sofina Foods Ltd., and Carleton Hatcheries Ltd. dba Fraser Valley Chick Sales (the Hatcheries) as agencies pursuant to section 8 of the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act Regulations.

In my decision, I declined to make the order sought and instead made an interim order confirming that the Hatcheries, having failed to apply for hatchery licences for 2025, were required to comply with all orders, rules and requirements that are applicable to licensed hatcheries as described in the Commission's Consolidated Order of January 1, 2021, until further order of BCFIRB. I made the additional order that each of the Hatcheries produce an affidavit responsive to a list of questions to assist BCFIRB in understanding the issues before it, by January 17, 2025.

Instead of producing the required affidavits on January 17, 2025 as directed, the Hatcheries forwarded their signed 2025 hatchery licenses to BCFIRB and indicated that having done so, they assumed that they removed the need to pursue the designation of Hatcheries as agencies and as such, they no longer needed to reply to the specific questions directed in BCFIRB's January 8, 2025 letter. The Hatcheries in their response also raised issues with the Commission's January 2, 2025 request for BCFIRB approval of the agency designations arguing the information presented was incomplete or not factual. The Hatcheries also confirmed

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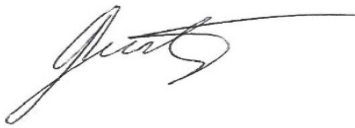
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their intention to address their issues with the marketable egg definition, hatchery margin, and financial protection against escalating costs of US sourced eggs with the Commission.

Before making any further directions or rulings in regards to this matter, I would like to hear from the Commission by January 28, 2025 on the significance of the Hatcheries' belated decision to acquire licenses for 2025, and whether their decision has any impact on my direction that the Hatcheries produce affidavits under oath related to the matters in issue or whether there is a need for any other related direction.

Once BCFIRB has received the response from the Commission, I will determine what further supervisory steps are required to address this matter.

Regards,



Gunta Vitins
Chair
BC Farm Industry Review Board

cc: Stephanie Nelson, Executive Director, BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission
Ryan Whitmore, President, BC Egg Hatchery Association
Ernie Silveri, Executive Director, BC Egg Hatchery Association
Kevin Klippenstein, Chair, BC Chicken Marketing Board
Woody Siemens, Executive Director, BC Chicken Marketing Board
Bruce Apperloo, President, BC Broiler Hatching Egg Producers Association
Blair Shier, President, Primary Poultry Processors Association of BC
Brad Driediger, President, BC Chicken Growers Association
BCFIRB website