



BC Farm Industry Review Board

February 13, 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

BACKGROUND

On [January 8, 2025](#), I issued an interim order requiring Western Hatchery Ltd., Okanagan Hatchery (1989) Ltd., Sofina Foods Ltd., and Carleton Hatcheries Ltd. dba Fraser Valley Chick Sales (the Hatcheries) to comply with all orders, rules and requirements applicable to licensed hatcheries as described in the British Columbia Broiler Hatching Egg Commission's (Commission) Consolidated Order of January 1, 2021, until such time that BCFIRB releases a further order. My interim order also required the Hatcheries to produce an affidavit responsive to a list of questions to assist BCFIRB in understanding the issues before it.

On January 17, 2025, instead of producing the required affidavits as directed by BCFIRB, the Hatcheries forwarded their signed 2025 hatchery licenses to BCFIRB and indicated that having done so, they assumed they no longer needed to provide affidavits responding to the questions identified in my January 8, 2025 decision.

In my letter of [January 21, 2025](#), I sought a response from the Commission on the Hatcheries position and whether affidavits are still required. In its response dated January 28, 2025, the Commission took the position that the signing of licences should not impact BCFIRB's direction that the Hatcheries produce affidavits. The Commission also requested that designation of the Hatcheries as agencies remain open for BCFIRB consideration.

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DIRECTION

My January 8, 2025 interim order directed the Hatcheries to immediately comply with all licensing requirements in order to preserve the status quo and maintain stability in the hatching egg sector, while BCFIRB tried to get a better understanding of the issues in the sector through production of sworn affidavits. The issue that now arises is the necessity for those affidavits in light of the Hatcheries having now obtained their licences, and in particular, whether BCFIRB still requires answers to its questions in order to maintain orderly marketing and industry stability.

In my view, the production of affidavits as directed in my interim order are no longer required by BCFIRB to ensure or restore orderly marketing at this time. However, there are clearly issues existing between the Hatcheries and the Commission, including with respect to the 'marketable egg' definition, the hatchery margin, and financial protection against escalating costs of US sourced eggs. Those are important issues which are most appropriately addressed by the Commission as first instance regulator in discussion with the Hatcheries. In order to ensure industry stability, and avoid the disruption which occurred in late 2024, I am directing the Commission to report to BCFIRB on its progress in discussions with the Hatcheries no later than April 15, 2025. After my review of the report, I will determine what further directions or orders, if any, may be needed to ensure orderly marketing within the hatching egg sector.

The Commission has also asked that the issue of designating the Hatcheries as agencies remain open before BCFIRB. In my view, if the Commission wants to pursue such a significant change in the sector, additional steps are required, including engagement with industry stakeholders and the development of an overarching designated agency framework. Unless and until those steps are taken, it would be premature to have the matter before BCFIRB.

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
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