



TOWN OF BERLIN

Office Of the Town Manager

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Town Manager

February 20, 2025

Update on Bright Feeds' Efforts to Address Odor and Noise Concerns in Berlin, CT

Since the last update letter in December 2024, there have been several notable developments regarding odor and noise mitigation efforts at Bright Feeds.

Odor Mitigation: The Town Council held a public informational meeting on January 15, 2025, where members of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) announced interim measures while Bright Feeds awaits the installation of a thermal oxidizer to replace the current odor control system. The thermal oxidizer remains on schedule to be delivered in late February and installed in early March 2025. In the interim, Bright Feeds has reduced production by 50% and is currently operating between 7:30 AM and 7:30 PM only. They have also limited processed materials and are rejecting certain feedstocks, such as raw dough and fresh pasta that may contribute to odors.

Regarding air quality, DEEP mandated Bright Feeds to conduct dryer stack testing for pollutants. Testing occurred on Friday, January 10th and was monitored by five DEEP staff. These test results are pending and may take up to 60 days. DEEP will share the data with the Department of Public Health (DPH) for a human health risk assessment. DEEP has stressed that their investigation remains active, and they continue collaboration with agencies including the local health district, DPH, and the Attorney General's Office towards a full resolution. Bright Feeds has expressed their continued commitment to resolving the odor issues and appreciates the community's patience.

Noise Mitigation: In response to ongoing noise concerns, the Town has taken action to ensure compliance with its noise ordinance, retaining SH Acoustics to conduct comprehensive sound testing in late January 2025. While SH Acoustics found Bright Feeds to be in compliance with the town of Berlin's noise ordinance for daytime noise levels, their detailed frequency analysis uncovered a concerning tonal noise issue. SH Acoustics has provided Bright Feeds with recommendations to mitigate these tonal noise issues. Bright Feeds is currently working to incorporate those recommendations. The full Acoustic Evaluation Report is available for public review [here](#).

Next Steps: The Mayor and Town Council have set a tentative meeting date of March 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM for the next public update and informational meeting on Bright Feeds. DEEP and DPH staff have indicated they will attend to discuss stack testing results, if available. The Town and its partner agencies are committed to continued monitoring of Bright Feeds' progress in implementing both odor and noise mitigation measures and will provide further updates as key milestones are reached.

Sincerely,

Ryan Curley

Town Manager

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