

From: [Erika](#)
To: [NRB - Comments](#)
Subject: Natural Resources Board v. Poulin Grain, Inc., March 14, 2019
Date: Friday, April 12, 2019 12:47:36 PM
Attachments: [whitmans aka poulins hours.PNG](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Erika Floriani, and I live directly across Rte 67 From Poulin Grains. I have been documenting and reporting for over a year the multiply violations of Josh Poulin's and Poulin Grains Act 250 permit to operate in the village of North Bennington.

Mr Poulin last fall called a meeting inviting neighbors to the meeting. I am attaching the flyer that was sent around in Sept 2018. I attended the meeting along with the Richard Howe, who owns the house that I live in- He has lived in this same house across from Poulins for over 30 years.

Me Poulin began the meeting by stating (I am paraphrasing somewhat)

"First let me start by saying, I am well aware of what the Act 250 Hours of operation stipulate, but I have no intention of following them. In fact I am petitioning to increase the hours of operation here"

So, with that as the tone at the start of the meeting, it seemed that our words and concerns would be of little consequence to Mr Poulin. When I asked about why, since he has taken over Poulin Grains, has there been such a tremendous increase in trucks, noise, and hours of operations, he stated the following.

Poulin Grains competes against large companies such as Purina and others, so they have to work hard to keep up- And though he works with farmers to get them on a schedule for grain delivery, sometimes emergency situations pop up at 2 or 3am where they have to send a truck out to a farm because a farmer needs to feed his livestock. I find it hard to believe that this time of thing is happening on such a regular basis, that the trucks and grain silos have to run at almost a 24 hour schedule there.

My response was to ask, how many times does a farmer get an unexpected influx of cows overnight that they weren't expecting to be there in the morning to feed. I don't know much about farming, but I know that a farmer knows how many mouths he has to feed, and how much each takes to feed and how often they have to feed them, that it is a matter of simple math to figure out weeks in advance how much feed is needed, and order accordingly.

There are nights that I have gotten less than 4 hours of sleep due to the consist sounds of trucks idling in winter while the grain falls down the silos to be filled. Trucks seem to take an avg of 50 minutes to fill. Sometimes as I had upstairs to bed I will see 3, 4, or more trucks lined up idling waiting to fill. Once filled the sound of 18 wheelers going through gears to move is also loud. Some backup with the backup alarms sounding to park at the very edge of the parking lot along Ret 67E, which for me sounds like they are backing up to under my bedroom window.

This past fall, I had been hit and my car pushed backwards down rte 67E by a truck that had just left Poulin Grains. I was terrified that I would be crushed or killed by this 18 wheeler. He actually hit my twice and pushed me down the road/ This incident was witness by another driver of an 18 wheeler as he was coming into the same intersection that this had happened in.

I took off after the driver, as he refused to stop, called 911 who transferred me to The Bennington PD dispatch, who in turned sent me over to the state police. I was on the phone with the police as I continues to pursue the truck. I followed this truck into Hoosick NY, but he refused to pull over. I had to discontinue my attempts to stop him, as I myself had to get to work.

I told Mr Poulin about this at the meeting, and he said he would look into his drivers logs and get back to me but he never did.

Mr Poulin cares not about the neighbors quality of life, and how he affects it, and it appears this attitude has made it's way to employees of the company who can hit a person in a car, pushing them backwards and not stop.

I am also attaching from Whitman's Feed Store a snap shot from their website posting their hours of operation on Sundays. The Act 250 permit in which Poulin Grain is allowed to operate is clearly stated to be from 7am to 7pm Monday through Saturday- No Sunday hours are permitted.

Poulin Grains, hours of operations of the retail store on Sundays is a clear violation to the permit. The increase hours of operations has meant an increase of truck traffic, and the noise that comes with increase truck traffic. Increase noise pollution from the running of silos, into all hours of the night, and early morning. This has led to many nights of sleep deprivation for me, and concern for my safety and my neighbors from tractor trailers that operate on an almost continuous basis, in a residential area.

I hope that the Natural Resource Board takes these violations seriously and pursues appropriate action against Poulin Grain for their many and constant violations of their Act 250 permit.

I look forward to this resolving soon
Erika Floriani



REGULAR HOURS

M-F 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Sat. 7:30 am - 5:00 pm

Sun. 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

ADDRESS

1873 Vermont Rte 67 E

North Bennington, VT 05257

PHONE

802.442.2851

EMAIL

whitmans@poulingrain.com

MEMBER LOGIN



Poulin Grain/Whitman's Feed Store extends an invitation to all of our neighbors to discuss future changes we want to make to our facility here in Bennington. We also invite you to tour our facility and join us for Pizza.

Wednesday, September 26th – 5:30 p.m.
at Whitman's Feed Store, 2nd Floor

Please RSVP by Wednesday – 3:00 p.m.



We are committed to being a good neighbor!