



May 6, 2016

File: 1680-04 BHEC ELRUL

**DELIVERED BY EMAIL**

Casey Langbroek  
Chair  
BC Hatching Egg Commission  
180-32160 South Fraser Way  
Abbotsford BC V2T 1W5

Dear Mr. Langbroek:

**BRITISH COLUMBIA BROILER HATCHING EGG COMMISSION ELECTION RULES AND PROCEDURES**

In an email dated May 6, 2016, the BC Hatching Egg Commission (BHEC) requested that the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) approve its "Rules and Procedures for the Election of Elected Commission Members" (Election Rules and Procedures) that accompanied the email. Under the British Columbia Broiler Hatching Egg Scheme s. 4(2), election rules and procedures do not come into effect until approved by BCFIRB. This means that the BHEC cannot hold an election in 2016 pending BCFIRB's approval.

I have been appointed by the Chair of the BCFIRB as a one person panel to review the election rules and procedures of the commodity boards and commissions.

I hereby approve the Election Rules and Procedures submitted by BHEC on May 6, 2016. This approval is subject to receiving a signed motion from BHEC that its members have reviewed and formally approved the proposed Election Rules and Procedures.

Despite the above approval, I want to point to an important issue with BHEC's management of its election rule review process. The process and guidelines for BCFIRB's review and prior approval of elections rules have been in place for some time. In regards to the BHEC, the Election Rules and Procedures, approved in 2013 by both BHEC and BCFIRB, clearly establish an agreed to review deadline:

The Rules and Procedures will be reviewed at the request of a registered producer, and in any case every three years with **the next such review to be completed no later than December 31, 2015**. No change may be made to the Rules and Procedures except with the prior approval of the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board. [emphasis added]

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**British Columbia  
Farm Industry Review Board**

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BCFIRB staff sent a reminder email on March 24, 2015 to BHEC. The email included a letter<sup>1</sup> reiterating the importance of election rules in relation to good governance, a reminder of the review deadline, and confirmation the on-going regulatory and BCFIRB SAFETI-based<sup>2</sup> prior approval requirements. A number of emails and phone calls from BCFIRB staff followed throughout the year and into early 2016.

Despite this agreement and subsequent support, BHEC did not provide its Election Rules and Procedures for final approval until four months past the December 31, 2015 review deadline. As a result of this delay, the 2016 BHEC Election Schedule was at substantive risk. No sound rationale was provided to BCFIRB at any point in the process to explain the delay.

This is at least the third full review and approval of BHEC's election rules and procedures since the rules were removed from the Broiler Hatching Egg Scheme in the early 2000s. BHEC's management of this relatively simple, but regularly reoccurring and vital project raises concerns. Sound election processes are a key component of a good governance structure and important to the validity of elections and the subsequent credibility and authority of a board.

I expect that BHEC will give due consideration to the above points when conducting subsequent election rule reviews.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FARM INDUSTRY REVIEW BOARD

Per:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Fillmore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diane Fillmore  
Presiding Member

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<sup>1</sup> 2015, March 25. [BCFIRB. Election Rules and Procedures – Reminder of Review Schedule & Approval Process.](#)

<sup>2</sup> Strategic Accountable Fair Effective Transparent Inclusive. [BCFIRB Governance.](#)