

GCC Dacotah requests legal authority to utilize air rifles as specified in the following policy for the purpose of pigeon control at the Rapid City facility on St. Onge Street. This is forbidden under Rapid City law 9.28.050 unless approved by the City Council. Health concerns have been noted by representatives of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) related to both the pigeons themselves and their feces. These are legitimate concerns, and it is felt that the most effective way to protect our workforce is to allow them to eliminate the problem themselves. If no actions are taken to improve the current conditions, the company will be subjected to federal fines from MSHA. Attempts to control the pigeon population via trapping and poisoning have proven unsuccessful. The physical nature of the facility (many large, warm, open buildings) makes control methods to lessen the appeal of perches impractical.

Please Note that the GCC Dacotah property under which this request applies is well isolated from any commercial or residential properties, and therefore allowing the use of air rifles should not present a safety risk to any residents of the city beyond the boundaries of this property. The specific policy detailed below also limits where and when the rifles could be used, providing further protection for GCC employees.

There are a maximum of 7 people in the production facility during the hours allowed in the proposed policy. A bounty is specifically proposed to ensure that all dead pigeons are disposed of properly to ensure all health risks are eliminated.

1. Company will furnish the air rifles (two) and ammunition. Only .177 caliber and 1.200 fpm can be used.
2. Only employee's of the company can participate in the program.
3. Employee must show proof of valid Hunter's Safety Certificate or equivalent to be eligible. Same fundamentally sound principles applied to the handling of a firearm and knowing your target and beyond must be adhered too.
4. Employee's may not hunt during normal scheduled working hours. No overtime is to be paid to do this. This includes Supervisors.
5. Hunting hours are only after normal day shift (Mon-Fri) and weekends. Example: a employee that is on his off day during the week can not come in and hunt on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. to noon.
6. Employee's must sign in with the Shift Supervisor to be issued a weapon. The Shift Supervisor will determine what location the employee can enter to hunt so that it can be communicated to the remaining work force on shift for safety purposes. Employee may be requested to carry a company radio.
7. A bounty will be defined. Collection and head count to be signed off on by Shift Supervisor. Birds should be spray painted with something that identifies they have been counted already.
8. Proper disposal area will be identified and communicated after the head count is completed.
9. Any accidental damage from the projectile should be reported immediately to the Supervisor.

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