

Mary Ness

To an MPC representative:

My name is Mary Ness and I live in Avon, Minnesota. I care about this issue because I am concerned about the quality of our water in Minnesota.

I am glad to see some of the changes and updates that the agency has proposed for NPDES and SDS permits. Many of these are common sense ways to protect our shared land, water and communities from the harmful effects of CAFOs and I want to share my support for these changes:

-Protecting our shared groundwater by requiring that by 2028 all lands that have manure applied to them vulnerable ground water areas must have either a growing crop, perennial, crop planted, or have a cover crop planted within 14 days of manure application if spreading in October and November. I also support phasing out winter application entirely in these areas.

-Protecting surface waters by limiting manure application within 100 year floodplain to only application that incorporates the manure into the soil

-Monitoring spreading by requiring the permit holder to do visual inspections of all land application areas

-Helping with cleanup and accountability by requiring the permit holder to do water sampling after a manure discharge event

-and making our rows consistent by requiring people who buy manure from a permit holding operation or who spread manure for one, follow the permit requirements.

These are truly common sense measures. I was raised on a dairy farm which was near a small lake on which we had great fun. This feels personal to me. We must that our water is shared. No one owns it. But everyone needs it and benefits from clean water.

Thank you for offering this comment period.

Sincerely,
Mary Ness