

LCA Expansion Plans: Key Concerns and Request for Clarification

1. Intent for Full Campus Buildout:

LCA has expressed its intent to construct its entire campus as soon as funding and necessary approvals are secured. This raises significant concerns about the lack of phased evaluation. Each proposed phase should undergo thorough analysis for safety, environmental impact, and appropriateness. Combining phases or approving future expansions prematurely undermines responsible growth and could neglect emerging challenges or community changes.

2. Reliance on Well Water and Septic Systems:

The proposed reliance on well water and septic systems presents risks to local water resources, environmental sustainability, and public health. These systems are not equipped to handle a campus of this scale in the long term, potentially overburdening natural resources and creating hazards that would otherwise be mitigated through municipal infrastructure.

3. Need for City-Like Infrastructure:

The scope of the proposed campus expansion necessitates city-like infrastructure, including municipal water and sewer systems, which are more reliable and scalable. This would better support the campus's needs while ensuring proper oversight and reducing the potential strain on the surrounding environment and community.

4. Concerns About Neighboring Property Wells:

The proposed reliance on well water raises significant concerns about its potential impact on neighboring property wells within a seven-mile radius. This scale of water usage could lead to depletion or contamination of local groundwater resources, adversely affecting surrounding properties and residents.

5. Meeting with MPCA:

a) It is crucial to request a meeting with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to address these concerns. The MPCA's expertise is essential to:

i) Validate LCA's calculations and assumptions.

ii) Clarify the short- and long-term environmental impact of the project.

iii) Guarantee that the project will not adversely affect neighboring property wells within a seven-mile radius.

b) Such a meeting would provide stakeholders with the necessary information and assurances to make informed decisions regarding the appropriateness of this project.

6. Commitment to Responsible Development:

To ensure that safety, environmental health, and community infrastructure align with the proposed campus's demands, this project must follow rigorous analysis and independent verification of its feasibility and impact.