

# Kathy Arthun

Dear MPCA Officials,

I am writing as a concerned resident to strongly urge the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed expansion of Riverview, LLP's dairy concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) in Stevens County.

Due to the unprecedented magnitude of this proposal, Minnesotans deserve the highest level of environmental review available. This would be the largest livestock operation in state history, and a project of this scale warrants far greater scrutiny than a standard review process provides.

I have been a volunteer lake and stream monitor for the MPCA since 2019. I monitor Barrett Lake, which is part of the Pomme de Terre watershed downstream of the proposed site, and I have also monitored the Pomme de Terre River where it enters Barrett Lake. Over that time, I have observed a decline in water quality. Even without a facility of this size upstream, there are already many weeks each year when Barrett Lake is not suitable for recreation. The addition of a 26,000+ animal operation raises serious concerns about further degradation.

This proposal presents several significant risks:

## Water Use and Water Quality

A facility of this size would require substantial water use and generate an enormous volume of manure. Given the location within the Pomme de Terre River watershed, near already impaired waters, the risks of nutrient runoff, groundwater contamination, and accidental spills must be thoroughly evaluated.

## Proximity to Sensitive Areas

The site is within five miles of multiple protected waterfowl and wildlife production areas. These are sensitive ecosystems that could be significantly impacted by contamination or runoff.

## History of Environmental Incidents

Riverview has experienced manure management issues in the past, including a 2025 leak at its Meadow Star Dairy facility in Kandiyohi County. This history underscores the need for careful, comprehensive review.

## Impacts on Rural Communities

An operation more than 60 times larger than the average Minnesota dairy farm could accelerate consolidation, harm small and mid-sized farms and alter the character of rural communities. Residents may also experience increased traffic, odor, and air quality concerns, along with potential declines in property values.

I value living in this area and the natural resources it offers. However, a project of this scale raises serious concerns about long-term environmental quality and community sustainability.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request that the MPCA require a full Environmental Impact Statement before proceeding with any approvals for this project.

Sincerely,

Kathy Arthun