

Caroline Collet

I'm local to Morris, and regularly use the Pomme de Terre river bike paths and dog park. I'm concerned about the impact such a large operation would have on the environment that is currently an important part of my day-to-day life. I'm also very proud of the work the university does with regards to land stewardship, and I'm not sure this is in line with the best interests of the people who live in this area and rely on this land/ecosystem.

If built, the Riverview operation would be allowed to pump up to 226 million gallons of water per year from an off-site well. For reference, the City of Morris, which is home to over 5,000 people, is permitted to pump up to 300 million gallons of water a year. Once constructed, the facility would produce 202,744,000 gallons of liquid manure and wastewater a year and 26,400 tons of solid manure a year.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has not yet completed a mapping of Stevens County's groundwater resources and aquifers for their County Geologic Atlas Series. In fact, they have not even begun the hydrological survey of the county. It is irresponsible to other water users and residents of the area to move forward with this permit without a full understanding of the potential impacts.

The Pomme de Terre watershed, where this expansion is proposed, is already considered a sensitive watershed. The MPCA already lists the two closest waterways to the facility, the Pomme de Terre River and an unnamed creek, as impaired, and this proposal would only exacerbate the impairment.