

## Karen Renaud

This proposed operation is the first of its size in Minnesota. It would be nearly double the size of the next largest livestock operation in our state in terms of animal units. This makes it a fundamentally new and particularly powerful threat to Minnesota farmers and rural communities. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency must recognize the fundamentally new nature of this threat and give this permit greater scrutiny than it ever has to previous proposals. This proposal by Riverview, LLP must be required to undergo a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

An EIS will allow the proposal's negative impacts on water quality and quantity, local roads, and existing independent family dairy farms to be fully analyzed before the project is allowed to seek a permit. According to the documents filed by Riverview, the proposed operation would require:

1. To supply water for the operation the facility would be allowed to pump 226 million gallons from an off-site well per year.
2. Liquid manure storage encompassing 250 million gallons of waste.
3. 13,200 acres of farmland for manure application.

Riverview has a recent history of a manure spill in western Minnesota. In Arizona, the company agreed to pay \$11 million to residents affected by the dairy's over-pumping. The proposed Stevens County site sits within five miles of eight different protected waterfowl and wildlife production areas and is part of the Pomme de Terre River watershed, just 25 miles from its confluence with the Minnesota River. A facility of this scale located in such a vulnerable area calls for a thorough environmental review

Just as importantly, an EIS of the West River Dairy Expansion proposal would address socio-economic impacts. Minnesota is already losing dozens of dairy farms annually due to inconsistent and often below cost-of-production milk prices. Massive dairy operations, like the one Riverview is proposing to build, have glutted the market and tightened Big Milk's stranglehold on the industry, allowing them to push small and medium-sized family farms out of business and off the land. This operation would only exacerbate the situation and accelerate the loss of dairy farms in our state, decimating Main Street economies in the process.

An EIS must be required for this project.

Thank You,

Karen Renaud