

Tim Ahrens

The MPCA's repeated refusal to order EIS reviews for extremely largescale feedlot projects is an absolute failure to honor the intent and purpose of MEPA, and the protections it provides. If you don't believe me, ask John Herman and Chuck Dayton.

Environmental Impact Statements under the law are simply more extensive reviews that projects of this complexity must warrant, and applicants must undergo. Proposals even beyond the multi-thousand animal unit scale, and into the tens of thousands of animal unit scale will soon end up exposing the negligence of the agency in failing to order EIS level reviews when they are so blatantly warranted. Facilities of this magnitude in other states have literally displaced material human populations through their depletion of aquifers, surface water bodies, and other environmental harms. If a failure to thoroughly study this proposal leads to a similar outcome in Minnesota, I believe the systemic history of mismanaged environmental review processes by the MPCA will be drawn to the surface. The thousands of documented pleas the MPCA has received from Minnesota residents to honor entitled protections under MEPA may finally command the attention they have always deserved. Natural resources in America's West are depleting at a level that makes the future construction of facilities such as proposed unviable in those regions. The "shit-storm" is coming to Minnesota. Our only shelter, we as residents, and the MPCA as the accountable authority, will be a new adherence to intended conventions of Minnesota Environmental Review regarding NPDES permits, specifically ordering EIS statements when they are appropriate.

Thank you for your time. I always look forward to reading the creative responses left to my comments in your "findings of fact."