Cameron Berthiaume

I am concerned about the impact of this project and believe it needs a full environmental impact statement. I would also like to request a public meeting regarding this project if possible. As a Morris resident, this project is close to home.

Looking through the documents and looking at the maps, I see that there are prairie conservation areas and at least one area important to birds (attachment 7c) - having ecologically significant areas nearby merits careful investigation of the potential impacts of such a large project. There are also lakes that support biodiverse populations (7d).Though page 53 of the EAW says that project areas were changed to avoid overlap, "...the DNR noted that the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) identified one or more sites of Biodiversity Significance adjacent to some of the proposed manure application areas (Attachment 7d)... in all cases, these ecologically significant areas are outside the tillable fields designated for manure application." Even if manure application guidelines are followed, I believe the impact of areas adjacent to these ecologically significant zones warrants more investigation. Just because an activity does not take place directly on the ecologically significant land does not mean it will not affect said land - adjacent is still nearby enough to be important. I also see that some of the manure application areas are near the Pomme de Terre River, in some cases right up against it.

I am also concerned about the amount of water used. Hundreds of millions of gallons per year is an incredible amount that's hard to conceptualize. I am glad that there will be pumping restrictions, but these restrictions seem to target shorter lengths of time (years or seasons). More consideration must be given to the long-term impacts of utilizing the area's aquifers. When all the water use around the facility is considered (more ag and nearby communities), the amount is staggering. Is there data that can verify the water used by this facility won't deplete the aquifers faster than they can recharge?

Also, talking climate change - I read the section of the EAW on greenhouse gas emissions. Efficient practices and carbon sinks help, but they can't do it all. More cows means more methane.

My final thought - I would like to see more in-depth data on the hydrology of the area, including the aquifers. A fuller picture and better understanding of the area's groundwater resources must be gained.

I appreciate the work that has been so far, but a closer look is necessary.