

# Samantha Deseth

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a resident living within a few miles of the proposed West River Dairy expansion in Synnes Township. I am writing to respectfully request that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before any permits are approved for this project.

My primary concern is water—both the quantity being withdrawn and the quality that will remain for nearby residents. The scale of this proposed expansion raises serious questions about groundwater sustainability. The amount of water required for a facility of this size has the potential to impact local aquifers, private wells, and long-term water availability in our area. As a nearby resident who relies on groundwater, I am deeply concerned that the current level of environmental review does not fully evaluate these risks.

Equally important are the potential health impacts associated with this project. I am the parent of a medically complex adult child with special needs. Recent lab work has shown elevated levels of pesticides in his system. This makes environmental exposures a critical and personal concern for our family. Any increase in contaminants—whether through manure application, runoff, groundwater movement, or air emissions—could further compromise his already fragile health.

Given the scale of this operation, the volume of manure to be generated and applied to surrounding land, and the uncertainty around cumulative impacts, I do not believe that an Environmental Assessment Worksheet provides sufficient analysis.

A full EIS is necessary to:

- Thoroughly evaluate groundwater withdrawal impacts on local wells and aquifers
- Assess the risk of contamination from manure, nutrients, and associated chemicals
- Examine cumulative environmental and health impacts over time
- Consider the vulnerability of sensitive populations, including children and individuals with pre-existing health conditions.

This decision will have long-term consequences for our community's health, water resources, and quality of life. As someone directly affected and responsible for protecting a medically vulnerable child, I urge the MPCA to take a precautionary approach and require a full Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sam Deseth