

Danielle Green

As a Stevens County resident, I'm concerned about the potential environmental impact of the proposed Riverview Dairy expansion and think the MPCA should require a full Environmental Impact Statement before the project moves forward.

This expansion would more than double Riverview's dairy operation in Stevens County and make it much larger than any other livestock operation in Minnesota in terms of animal units. A project of this size really deserves a thorough environmental review.

Any review should look at the total size of Riverview's Stevens County operations, not just the proposed expansion. The larger the operation, the greater the potential impact if something goes wrong. Recent events, like Riverview's tank failure at Meadow Star Dairy near Pennock, show why careful review matters when operations reach this scale.

There's also precedent for this. In 2014, the MPCA Citizens' Board required a full Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed 8,850 cow Riverview dairy in Stevens County because of concerns about water quality, water use, and cumulative impacts. A full EIS makes sense for projects of this scale.