

Brett Boyum

The current EAW process is sufficient and thorough. There is no need for further EIS review.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
ATTN: Commissioner Kessler
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

My name is Brett Boyum, and I am a licensed veterinarian at Riverview LLP. I am writing in support of the proposed West River Dairy expansion in Stevens County. I have spent my whole life in the dairy industry and have been privileged to work as a veterinarian for Riverview LLP for the past nine years. I offer the following observations based on direct, firsthand experience with this farm.

Animal Care and Herd Health

Riverview LLP maintains rigorous, written herd health protocols covering vaccination, disease surveillance, treatment standards, and compliance. All employees are trained in animal welfare expectations, and we work diligently to provide extraordinary care for our animals. Sick animals are identified through daily observations and receive individualized care. The herd consistently performs well below industry averages for mastitis, lameness, and respiratory illness, reflecting genuine investment in animal welfare. This is further reviewed and supported by 3rd party welfare evaluation that we voluntarily participate in twice annually. The proposed expansion will further support animal care expectations by continuing to improve and upgraded housing designed around cow comfort, ventilation, and stocking density best practices. Additionally, we are implementing advanced technology in animal monitoring that will further improve the health and welfare of the cattle in our care.

The livestock barns and facilities at Riverview are among the best that I have evaluated. These freestall barns are designed and maintained to promote cow comfort with appropriate stall sizing and bedding comfort along with ventilation that meet or exceed industry standards.

Manure management is equally integral to herd biosecurity. West River Dairy adheres to a written nutrient management plan and maintains barn cleaning routines that minimize pathogen load, hoof disease risk, and fly pressure. The expanded manure management infrastructure proposed with this project is professionally designed and will strengthen — not compromise — both environmental stewardship and animal health outcomes. The current EAW is rigorous and robust and from what I can scientifically discern, there is no need to proceed with an EIS review.

Economic Benefit to the Region

The West River Dairy expansion represents a meaningful and lasting economic investment in Stevens County and the surrounding region. Expansion projects of this scale generate significant construction-phase employment, followed by stable, long-term jobs in farm operations, maintenance, and management. Dairy operations of this size also drive sustained demand across a broad network of local vendors and service providers — feed and commodity suppliers, equipment dealers, trucking and hauling operations, and agronomic service providers.

Riverview is a reliable economic partner that reinvests in its people, its facilities, and its community. Rural communities in western Minnesota depend on agricultural operations like this to anchor local economies, support tax bases, and sustain the service industries that make those communities viable. Approving this expansion is an investment not only in one dairy operation, but in the long-term economic health of the region.

Summary

No Environmental Impact Statement is needed — the state environmental review process is rigorous and fully sufficient. Riverview LLP has consistently demonstrated the management discipline, operational standards, and commitment necessary to responsibly operate an expanded facility. I respectfully encourage your support and approval of this important project

Thank you for the diligent and meaningful work withing the MPCA to keep our communities safe and our natural resources protected.

Sincerely,

Brett Boyum , DVM