

Janine Wojtalewicz

RE: West River Dairy

Below are several factors that my family, who lives in rural Minnesota near the Pomme de Terre River, is aware of concerning how expansion of the West River Dairy would negatively affect this river and the rural environment surrounding it.

*It is well known that some farmers over apply manure, and do not comply with rules on application.

*All manure pits and lagoons leak.

*Local economies get detrimental social and economic results from large livestock concentrations.

*Our health and the health of area wildlife and creatures living in the river are all impacted, as well as our enjoyment of outdoor activities such as canoeing and kayaking in this river, swimming, fishing and holding family gatherings centered around the beauty of the river.

*Alleged best management practices of large confinement systems fail, not just in Minnesota but around the USA.

*Manure pits will inevitably overflow and will be made worse and more frequent with the severe weather events of the climate crisis.

*This expansion would be allowing a huge experiment in aquifer depletion.

*The groundwater in the area would be threatened more than ever before in recorded history.

*Even in recorded history, the flooding that can occur is so huge that the waters of both the Pomme de Terre and nearby Chippewa rivers united. This has been verified by meteorologist, Mark Seeley.

*Huge animal confinement systems in the USA use and misuse antibiotics on a huge scale, three to six times more than European farmers.

*Those of you reading this and making the decision to allow the equivalent feces of about 250,000 people just upriver of where we live along the southern Pomme de terre river do NOT live there, nor do your children and grandchildren.