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An EIS will allow the proposal's negative impacts on water quality and quantity, local roads, and existing independent family dairy farms to be fully analyzed before the project is allowed to seek a permit. This is what the MPCA is for, to assess the potential for harmful impacts to our local environments, both ecological and social. According to the documents filed by Riverview, the proposed operation would require:

To supply water for the operation, the facility will be allowed to pump 226 million gallons from an off-site well per year. For reference, the City of Morris, which is home to over 5,000 people, is permitted to pump up to 300 million gallons of water a year.

Liquid manure storage encompassing 250 million gallons of waste.
13,200 acres of farmland for manure application.

Riverview has a recent history of a manure spill in western Minnesota. In Arizona, the company recently agreed to pay \$11 million to residents affected by the dairy's over-pumping.

The proposed Stevens County site sits within five miles of eight different protected waterfowl and wildlife production areas and is part of the Pomme de Terre River watershed, just 25 miles from its confluence with the Minnesota River. A facility of this scale located in such a vulnerable area calls for a thorough environmental review.

Just as importantly, an EIS of the West River Dairy Expansion proposal would address socio-economic impacts. Minnesota is already losing dozens of dairy farms annually due to inconsistent and often below cost-of-production milk prices. I have watched this happen in my own county here in Minnesota and the local push-back necessary to prevent the exploitation of resources. Massive dairy operations, like the one Riverview is proposing to build, have glutted the market and tightened Big Milk's stranglehold on the industry, allowing them to push small and medium-sized family farms out of business and off the land. This operation would only exacerbate the situation and accelerate the loss of dairy farms in our state, decimating Main Street economies in the process.