

Steve Deslauriers

As a resident of Stevens County MN, where the proposed Riverview Dairy expansion would be located, I am concerned about its environmental impact and would like the MPCA to require a full Environmental Impact Statement before the project can go forward.

This project would more than double the size of Riverview's dairy operation in Stevens County in terms of animal units, and almost twice as large as the next largest livestock operation in the state. A project of this unprecedented scope demands particular care in reviewing its impacts, which a full Environmental Impact Statement would provide.

In addition, I believe it is important for the EIS to take into account the total projected size of Riverview's Stevens County dairy operations, including existing animal units, not just the size of the expansion. Total size matters because the larger the total size, the larger the potential impact if something goes wrong. For example, Riverview's Feb. 2025 manure spill in Kandiyohi County likely spilled approximately the same amount of manure in 5 days that an average sized MN dairy farm would produce in 6 months, based on early reports.

To ignore the potential environmental impacts of this expansion would be completely reckless. A full Environmental Impact Statement should absolutely be obtained before proceeding.