

## Paul Tackes

Minnesota is known for its quality of water. Though industrial pollution is less today than 60 years ago, agricultural and residential runoff has greatly contributed to the decline of water quality. Recreating by canoe on smaller waters makes one realize how they have deteriorated over the years. Once clear waters are now a soupy, smelly mess by midsummer. While small scale dairy operations are suffering from unsustainably low milk prices it seems counterintuitive to promote large scale dairy operations. These operations force family dairy operations out of business causing declining vitality of small communities all over the farming communities. I digress.

The scale of the factory dairy farms produces so much concentrated waste in a small area that it is always a risk for loss of containment. Historically, small farms could manage the manure and use it on their land with far less risk of watershed or aquifer contamination. That cannot be said for these large scale operations. Concentrated turkey, hog and dairy operations are of great concern to me. I witnessed, living in Montana, how mining operations promised "foolproof" containment only for the taxpayer to pick up the mitigation costs after the company and its well golden parachuted executives were off the hook. How long will it be before I have to operate a costly decontamination system for my well, much less endure the smell and low quality waterways and lakes. I urge that this permit be denied.