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I have two main concerns about the West River Dairy Expansion:

1. Possible depletion through over-pumping of the local ground water aquifer. An in-depth analysis of the impact on the local aquifer(s) needs to be done before hand. The buried drift aquifers of this area tend to have very slow re-charge and therefore can be over drawn and depleted by large quantity withdrawals, leading to permanent destruction of the aquifer.
2. An in-depth long-term analysis of the nutrient loading from manure applications and their impact on the soils and waters (ground water and surface waters) of the surrounding area.

Thousands of feet of private drain tile connect to a nearby public county drain tile (underground pipe) that drains the acres in and around the dairy operation and flows east directly to the Pomme de Terre River. Drain tiles act as a direct conduit for toxic nutrients such as nitrates.

The soils in this area are already naturally high in phosphorus. Manure spreading adds large quantities of phosphorus to the soil, often far in excess of the needs of crops. Phosphorus binds to soil particles. When soils erode due to high winds and flooding (common on cropland in this area) the phosphorus can cause severe toxic algal blooms in nearby water bodies. Attached is an example of a recent blue-green algae bloom on near-by hypereutrophic Long Lake just east of Morris, MN.

