

Heidi Hardner

I'm concerned about the overall scale and that it's unprecedented in the state. How can we be confident about how the consequences of failure scale with volume at these new levels?

I'm also concerned about the words "except in an extreme storm event" and how different that will look with these huge volumes compared to what might happen at a small family farm.

I see that some commenters are very confident this particular business will do everything right. The permit can say certain things are required but why should we feel confident the operators can really meet those requirements when it's so far beyond what's been done so far? Weren't we just hearing about some insane number of chickens left to starve when a large chicken outfit went out of business? They were probably fulfilling some permitting requirements right up until they weren't around to be held accountable anymore. Their business was probably an economic boon to some farmers and communities right up until it wasn't.

I see that the chickens (1.6 million!) were not actually all in one location. Well, thank goodness for that! This kind of concentration means all the local environmental consequence eggs are in one basket. I see the words "permanent stockpiles" above there too... uh, there was nothing permanent about the chicken business and presumably these will be the largest ever permanent manure stockpiles in the state?

My understanding is the decision being made currently is just about whether there should be a more detailed environmental assessment.

Yes, yes there should. What would merit such a review if not a huge increase in scale like this? If this kind of increased concentration is actually a good idea, it will pass such a review.