

# Patricia Cole

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of the Riverview dairy operation in Morris, Minnesota. As a concerned citizen who worked for over 40 years as a Registered Professional Engineer, I believe this project—which would become the largest livestock farm in state history—poses unacceptable risks to our local environment, our groundwater and the health of our community.

My primary concerns include:

**Water Depletion:** The facility is permitted to pump up to 226 million gallons of water per year. This massive appropriation rivals the consumption of the entire City of Morris (permitted for 300 million gallons) and threatens to deplete local groundwater and impact the Pomme de Terre River.

**Nitrate Pollution:** The collection and application of manure from such a massive number of animals significantly increases the risk of nitrates leaking into groundwater. Given Riverview's history of manure spills in western Minnesota, I am deeply concerned about the long-term safety of our drinking water, and the impact that will have on the cancer rates of those living in the area.

**Inadequate Environmental Review:** I join organizations like the Land Stewardship Project in calling for a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The current Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) is insufficient to address the unprecedented scale of this facility and its cumulative impacts on the region's land and water.

I urge the MPCA to deny the current permit and require a more rigorous environmental review to protect the health and resources of Stevens County residents. The impact of these large scale corporate farms and livestock enclosures on the health of our groundwater aquifers needs to be of concern to ALL Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Patricia Cole

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