

Jeanne Norrgard

I am writing to you at the MPCA as a concerned Minnesotan, born and raised in the land of 10,000 lakes, and proud of our environmental advocacy. I love our state and I am certain that you do, too. My public comment to all of you at the MPCA is this: As the Minnesota POLLUTION CONTROL Agency, caps added by me, if you don't outright deny Riverview LLP's expansion proposal, which I truly believe is the only environmentally responsible decision to make for our state, then the only alternate and responsible environmental decision left for you to make is for you to request an Environmental Impact Statement. Please, and I know I speak for countless thousands of your fellow Minnesotans, do the job that you are all there to do. This potential dairy feedlot expansion permit request is horrific for our state in so many ways, including for our lands, our waters, our air and our public health. Requiring an EIS would require Riverview LLP to justify and to prove to you and to all Minnesotans that increasing their feedlot capacity to a maximum total of 26,397 AU, ANIMAL UNITS (read living, breathing, suffering, milk-producing cows kept in close proximity in total confinement barns) while inconceivable to me, is environmentally sound; that spreading an unimaginable volume of manure onto our lands isn't a dire contamination threat to our lands, our waters, our wildlife, our air quality, our public health; that there is no risk of inadvertent manure spills onto our lands and into our groundwater, streams and lakes; that closely confining many thousands of animals for the entirety of their lives presents no risks of illness and disease to be spread amongst them or to their caregivers; that a mass casualty event such as mass illness requiring euthanasia has been contemplated, planned for and mitigated; that the environmental disaster implied by the ominous words "except in an extreme storm event" has also been planned for and mitigated; ...and I wish I knew the other environmental risks there are that I would cite today if I knew them. Instead, I must trust that you at MPCA know what these additional environmental risks are and that, with an EIS, you will hold Riverview LLP accountable to the highest standards of environmental protection that our state and we Minnesotans expect and deserve. We Minnesotans and our beautiful state are worth protecting. Thank you.