

EXHIBIT NUMBER: ARB-001
File Name: Hog Reimer
MR 8/07
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When I was a youngster I would take my fishing rod and walk to the Icelandic River, which originated in the back end of our farm. I would catch a half dozen pike for supper. If I were thirsty I would go to one of the springs, which trickled out of the riverbank and have a drink of clear cold water from a gem jar, which was left there for that purpose. I would be able to stand on the bank and look at the fish lying under logs and along boulders in the stream, as they were easy to see in the crystal clean water. I would be able to tilt back my head and suck in the fresh clean air, which after a rain would be the most unbelievable refreshing experience, which surrounded me. This was 1970.

Fast forward to 2005. I wake up and walk over to my tub to run a bath. The water coming out of the tap was brown in color. I had the water tested a week before and it contained coliforms and was not recommended for drinking, cooking or washing dishes, but okay for bathing. The water had been clean and clear until Manitoba Highways had built a new road in front of our property. Blasting of the limestone bedrock had taken place to accommodate the new road. The loss of water quality coincided with the blasting and subsequent water run off in the highway ditch in front of my property. Run off from agricultural spread fields in the area. After my bath in murky water, I made breakfast, but not with water from the tap. I had to use water from a dispenser. I had to purchase the dispenser a couple of weeks earlier as my well water, after twenty years of good clean water, was now polluted. Now I had to buy water to drink, cook with and do dishes. I finished breakfast and walked out the front door to be hit by a wall of odour. One or more of the hog factories in my area was either agitating their

manure storage tanks or spreading the slurry on nearby fields. I was going fishing to a lake one and a half hours to the north where the air and water were still clear and clean. The Icelandic River in my back yard is no longer able to support pike year round. The air along the river is no longer refreshing as it has always got the smells of agriculture in the wind. I recently went down to that spring in the river from which I used to drink. It was covered with algae and was choking with lush green aquatic growth which in the past wasn't there. Now the nutrient laden water irrigated the vegetation and covered the old spring which I wouldn't dare drink from today.

What I have described is normal. It was normal in the 70s and it is normal in 2007. However what was normal in the 70s is far from normal today. The unfortunate part is the environmental degradation has been allowed to "hide" behind the definition of "normal". When there is a discussion on normal farm practices the production of 5000 hogs in one barn is a very "new" normal. Many of the problems that plague the Interlake such as open crevices that allow polluted water into the aquifer remain un-addressed. These areas have been brought to the governments attention many times. Nothing has been done. I am wondering if the new standard for the condition of our environment, when we step outside in the future and look at a desert that resembles a lagoon more that it does a country forest or marsh, will this also be called NORMAL!

I have attached a document from my records dated Oct. 1992, whereas the clean Environment commission discusses sewage lagoon design. I quote *"The intent would be to ensure the design requirements and operational*

guidelines adequately protect the quality of surface and ground water resources in the province. The commission feels that some urgency is attached to this need and that it should receive prompt attention.” It goes on to state that sewage lagoon effluent will be dumped into Oak Hammock Marsh. GO FIGURE. One day Oak Hammock Marsh, the next Icelandic River, tomorrow the world. I guess the gov't is just acting normally. Ladies and gentleman I believe we are loosing the war.....and that is normal.