

EXHIBIT NUMBER: STW-002  
File Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: MAR. 6, 2007

Received by: [Signature]  
(Commission Sec.)

My name is George Matheson and I live 1 1/2 miles south of Stovewall where I farm with my wife of 26 years and our four children ages 10 to 20. I have been a hog producer for 25 years and have capacity for an eighty-five sow farrow to finish operation. I am one of just a few remaining hog producers in the Stovewall area.

I consider my operation to be environmentally safe and sustainable with minimal disease and odor problems. My barns and sheds are approximately 200 metres north of my house and in the same yard. Most of my pigs are raised outdoors in deep straw bedded sheds. This includes all hogs from 50-250 lbs. as well as all gestating sows. Only farrowing sows and pigs less than 50 lbs. are kept in a climate controlled environment indoors.

I have about 530 acres of cropland. A years supply of manure from my pigs would cover about 100 of those acres. Thus, every 5 years my land has the potential to be spread with manure. This is more than enough land base for this size of operation. The manure has been very good for the soil as the straw becomes like compost and adds a lot of fibre. My farm's soil is classified as a clay-loam and I am pleased with its quality. I avoid spreading close to ditches so that surface water run-off is protected. I have soil tested and will add extra nitrate nitrogen, sulphur, and



and potash where applicable. Because the manure is spread over such a large land base, I have never had any ground water quality problems.

I grow four different crops and rotate from an oilseed to a cereal. The rotation is wheat, flax, barley, and canola and each crop will utilize the soil's nutrients in a different way. It is a very sustainable farm in terms of soil quality.

My barns and outdoor sheds are about 300 metres from the nearest road. Straw bedding is a great way of reducing odours and I am inclined to spread long distances from public roadways so that what odours there may be are not a nuisance to my neighbours. I have seventy acres of natural trees on my property and they reduce wind movement and erosion and this further reduces odour transfer. Mortalities are composted in a straw layered system.

Our hogs are produced for the commodity market and I also sell government inspected pork products direct to a growing public clientele interested in a naturally raised product which I feel is of superior quality. Like all hog farms in Manitoba my facilities and animal husbandry practices must meet C. Q. A. (Canadian Quality Assurance) standards to insure that the public receives a safe product. This means that all production records are reviewed annually, and all

farms to a minimum by introducing new stock only once or twice per year from a high health herd.

In some ways my hog farming methods are not typical in today's provincial industry. It is just one of many methods producers use to raise hogs in an environmentally safe and sustainable fashion. The Manitoba prov. manure regulations are among the toughest standards in North America.

I am proud of my farm's environmental record, soil quality, minimal odour emissions, and humanitarian animal husbandry methods.