

April 4, 2007

Manitoba Clean Environment Commission  
305 - 155 Carlton Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3H8  
Fax: (204) 945-0090

EXHIBIT NUMBER: VR-008  
File Name: Hog Review  
Date: April 16, 2007  
Received by: [Signature]  
(Commission Secretary)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: Current Hearings - Sustainability of the Hog Production Industry in Manitoba

Before any new hog production is scheduled for the rural areas couldn't we please clean up the present mess we have.

It is really hard to think Clean Environment when with my own eyes I see so many controversial scenes.

We live in Archie Municipality which is 14 miles wide and 18 miles long with boundaries on the west by the Saskatchewan border and 4½ miles on the east by the Assiniboine River and 13 ½, miles on Miniota and Wallace Municipalities.

As I write this letter all the major creeks and even the little streams that don't always run are flowing full tilt east to the river. In one creek in particular the water is pouring through one 6' and one 4' culverts from west to east and on the east side in the swirl the foam is 3' to 4' thick and deep and the water is pure brown. Remember all this is going 5 more miles directly into the Assiniboine River. All of this water pouring in from the west is draining from the large farming areas, feed lots and concentrated cattle country of eastern Saskatchewan.

Five years ago when HyTech came into our municipality and wanted to set up 36 hog barns the people rose up in protest. We have gone through some terrible times in our municipality. It has split our community. You might say it was the demise of our small town of McAuley as well as neighbours, relatives, families and friends. We had a very desirable town and area to live in but not anymore. I don't know what would have happened if the development had taken place.

The protest was in part because we have two barns in our community and over the years we have seen many rules and regulations broken and misused. By this I mean, dead animals piled up outside in the winter (I believe this has been rectified.), and every fall manure is spread illegally through the creeks beds and sloughs. This year the manure was spread just before November 15, 2006. The ground was frozen solid before this but the manure was spread anyway and the same thing has happened. The run off of the fields is now taking all this manure as well as all of the chemical and fertilizer residue right into the creeks and streams. And as you are aware most of the large feedlots and cattle and hog operations seem to exist close to creeks and streams. The two barns I speak of are 4 miles from town and on many days throughout the year the odor is very offensive.



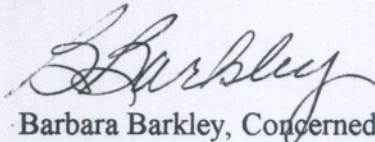
All this is taking place without any monitoring for compliance. When questioned, the government departments say they don't have enough manpower or time to follow up. It looks to me like they think because it is out in the rural area and not in the urban area it doesn't matter. No one is being held accountable for their actions and no one seems to care.

I think the government is on the right track with the legislations being introduced such as the protection of the riparian areas, and the Water Council which is, to quote the Water Stewardship Minister Christine Melnick, 'supposed to work directly with Manitobans on how best to preserve the health of our waterways', but if there is no follow up or monitoring and no one is being held accountable for their actions, what's the use.

I am not against development, but if isn't going to be done right for the environment and monitored and compliance assured, then don't do it.

Thank you for your time.

Yours truly,



Barbara Barkley, Concerned Citizen  
P.O. Box 82  
McAuley, Manitoba  
ROM 1HO

c.c. to Norma Fefchak .....correction...Norma Tibbits-Fefchak