

EXHIBIT NUMBER: VIR-009
File Name: Hog Review
Date: April 16 2007
Received by: [Signature]
(Commission Secretary)

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My name is John Shepherd and I operate a mixed farm in the R M of Wallace with my family. I would like to thank the C.E.C. for hearing my families concerns but why has it taken so long for the Manitoba Government to wake up to this?

Six years ago my family took two thirteen year old boys into the Manitoba Legislature over this same issue. Premier Doer couldn't or wouldn't even take five minutes out of his busy schedule to at least meet the next generation who would like to have a clean environment to live in and perhaps raise a family. Instead they met with Agriculture Minister Wochuck who talked down to the boys instead of talking to them. She along with two other ministers signed a document stating and I Quote

"The Manitoba Government has a responsibility to guide this development and ensure that industry growth does not occur at the expense of the environment or our quality of life" unquote. This taken from the Livestock Stewardship 2000.

I guess she meant her quality of life. When the boys questioned her about the signed paper and that these factory style hog operations were indeed being allowed to ruin people's environment and quality of life, her response was that she was late for another meeting and had better get going. So the next generation's environment didn't seem too important to her either. Personally these factory hog operations have taken **BOTH** my families clean environment and quality of life away.

Under the Health concerns there are a number of points I would like to address.

- 1: Our daughter has allergies and goes to a reflexologist. Two years ago she tested for H2S and methane in her system from these factory hog barns.
- 2: When we have to work in the fields next to this factory hog operation there are days when your eyes start to burn inside the tractor cab from the intense odor.
- 3: The stress of worrying about our drinking water well getting contaminated as it is only 1/2 mile away from these operations. Our well is a shallow well with sand right at the surface. In the spring the water is usually 2-4 feet from the top of the ground.
- 4: The flies that are breeding in these open pit lagoons, what pathogens or disease are they carrying to our farm yard 1/2 mile away? We used to have flies but nothing compared to now.

5: When we open the windows at night to cool the house off so we can sleep, the stink wakes us up at 2 in the morning. What does that do to our bodies when we can't even get a good night's sleep?

6: The anger and frustration that we feel when we can't go out and enjoy our own property because of the stink from these factory barns. If I lived in a city and did something in my yard that infringed half as bad on the neighborhood as these factory barns do to us, I would be fined, thrown in jail or both but I would be made to stop.

The Technical Review Committee stated that there was no need to worry about our water well, as the lay of the land everything runs from NW to SE anyway. Quite a statement to make from a Government body that is supposed to be siting these operations properly. Also on one Technical Review of a factory hog operation next to us it was stated that the soil tests indicated that the soil is **marginally acceptable** for an earthen manure storage. Operation Approved. The last four barns to be built next to us according to the papers we received, the Technical Review was done on the wrong section all together. When time came to vote on approving this operation the Proponents walked into the R.M. of Wallace Council chambers with the Technical Review Committee at their side. One man from the Technical Review Committee said it was a typing error. Operation Approved. To us it seems that the people on this review committee, made up from different government departments must be getting a second paycheck from the pork industry.

The proponents never had to prove anything different to the R.M. Council, but when the question about our water getting contaminated by these barns arose, we were told to Prove it, Prove it, Prove it. It's been almost nine years we have been asking questions and raising our concerns to our local R.M. Council and yet we are still waiting to get them answered. Council also puts conditions on these operations, but when conditions are broke nothing seems to get done about it. Two years ago one operation was dumping liquid manure onto snow that was blowing across the frozen ground. I have the pictures to prove it.

Potholes and runways that are usually dry enough to plant, but run and hold water in the early part of the spring are being injected with liquid waste. To us it seems that Manitoba Conservation and these local R.M. Councils attitude is that if we ignore it, then maybe it will go away. Well it's not going away but instead it's getting worse. Our lakes and rivers are telling us this but because of the greed for the almighty dollar we still seem to deny it. One condition put in place by the R.M. of Wallace

Council was that three rows of trees had to be planted. The proponents complained that three rows of trees would only invite birds to nest and bring disease to their pigs. It was changed to two rows. Trees don't work anyway for the reason that by the time they are big enough to do any good, the barns will be old and decommissioned. A friend of mine said that the planting of trees really does work because he couldn't smell the barns once he got ten miles away. Kind of a sad joke don't you think?

Who do you go to that isn't controlled by the governments or the proponents of these large scale ILO's. These factory style operations are not sustainable. All you hear is how the pork INDUSTRY is doing everything properly. Treat them as such then and rezone and reassess them as industrial so that they have to abide by Industrial laws and be taxed accordingly instead of hiding behind the word **farm**. There are only guidelines for these ILO's which basically means they have no laws or regulations to adhere to, therefore guidelines are a joke. The Petroleum Industry is heavily regulated, why isn't the intense livestock industry? If you take a pail of water and put some oil in it, the oil floats to the top. Do you think that if you did the same thing with liquid hog manure that it would separate from the water and float to the top. Not likely.

Maybe Manitoba should be like Iowa and pass legislation that in order to build an ILO the owner has to live in the same yard and work so many hours a week in that operation. If the owners of these factory style barns had to live and raise their children in that environment, and hear their own children complain that they don't feel good or don't want to go outside and play on a beautiful day because of the flies and stink, then maybe things might change.

I used to help an old gentleman whose house burnt down in the early 1980's. When he bought a mobile home he wanted to put in a small lagoon for his own household waste, but was told that this was against the law and that he couldn't. Today it is okay to dig a big hole in the ground and fill it with waste from thousands of pigs.

These ILO's and the problems we and many other people are dealing with are much more than a nuisance. We all have a right to good health which includes, clean air, clean drinking water (which for us means untreated), and healthy soil to grow our food in. Everyone today lives with enough worry and stress, this type is not necessary if we all respect the environment.

I am not claiming to be an environmental saint but I am also not out there bulldozing trees and draining sloughs and potholes because I need the acres to inject on either. I do not believe that our family are affecting our neighbors environment and their quality of life. There needs to be laws put in place and people to enforce them to protect our water, soil and air. Before this moratorium ends, laws need to be put in place to protect the environment around the people whose backyards these operations are put in. If proper action is not taken, then there will be nothing left. What are we leaving for the future generations?

Thank you for listening
The Shepherd Family