

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Held at Arborg-Bifrost Hall

Arborg, Manitoba

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007

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APPEARANCES:

Clean Environment Commission:

Mr. Terry Sargeant	Chairman
Mr. Edwin Yee	Member
Mr. Wayne Motheral	Member
Ms. Cathy Johnson	Commission Secretary
Mr. Doug Smith	Report Writer

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NO EXHIBITS MARKED

1 Thursday, March 8, 2007

2 Upon commencing at 1:02 p.m.

3

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, I think
5 we will get the proceedings underway. I would
6 like to thank you all for coming out here this
7 afternoon. My name is Terry Sargeant, I'm the
8 chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment
9 Commission, as well as the chair of this panel
10 that is undertaking the investigation of the hog
11 industry.

12 With me on the panel are Mr. Wayne
13 Motheral from Morden and Edwin Yee from Winnipeg.

14 I have a few comments by way of
15 opening comments. The Clean Environment
16 Commission has been requested by the Minister of
17 Conservation to conduct an investigation into the
18 environmental sustainability of the hog industry
19 in Manitoba. The terms of reference from the
20 Minister direct us to review the current
21 environmental protection measures in place
22 relating to hog production in this province, in
23 order to determine their effectiveness for the
24 purpose of managing the industry in an
25 environmentally sustainable manner.

1 Our investigation is to include a
2 public component, to gain advice and feedback from
3 Manitobans. This will be by means of public
4 meetings such as this one today, in the various
5 regions of Manitoba, to ensure broad participation
6 from the general public and affected stakeholders.

7 We have also been asked to take into
8 account efforts underway in other jurisdictions to
9 manage hog production in a sustainable manner.
10 Further, we are to review the contents of a report
11 prepared by Manitoba Conservation entitled "An
12 Examination of the Environmental Sustainability of
13 the Hog Industry in Manitoba."

14 At the end of our investigation, we
15 will consider various options and make
16 recommendations in a report to the Minister on any
17 improvements that may be necessary to provide for
18 the environmental sustainability of the hog
19 industry in this province.

20 To ensure that our review includes
21 issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel
22 has undertaken to hold 17 days of hearings in 14
23 communities throughout agri Manitoba. These
24 meetings started on Monday, this past Monday,
25 March 5th, and will continue through much of March

1 and April, with the final public meeting currently
2 scheduled to be held in Winnipeg on April 27th.

3 It is open to any groups or
4 individuals to make a presentation to this panel
5 on issues related to hog production in Manitoba.
6 For the most part, presentations are to be limited
7 to 15 minutes. Exceptions may be made in some
8 cases where a presenter needs more time, but this
9 must be arranged with the Commission secretary
10 prior to the presentation. All of those making a
11 presentation will be asked to take an oath
12 promising to tell the truth to this Commission.

13 Presentations should be relevant to
14 the mandate given the Commission by the Minister
15 and to the issues described in the Guide to Public
16 Participation in this review. If a presentation
17 is clearly not relevant, it may be ruled out of
18 order, and if a presentation is clearly
19 repetitive, it may also be ruled out of order.

20 Members of the panel may ask questions
21 of any presenter during or after the presentation.
22 There will be no opportunity for other presenters
23 to question or cross-examine presenters.

24 In addition to the public meetings,
25 the Clean Environment Commission is engaging

1 consultants to assist us in this review. The
2 results of those research endeavors will be posted
3 on our website upon receipt. For the most part,
4 this will be in late June. Parties and
5 individuals will be invited to provide comment on
6 any of those reports, if they so wish. A
7 reasonable but brief period of time will be
8 allowed for this.

9 Written submissions will also be
10 accepted. Information as to how to submit written
11 suggestions is available on our website. The
12 deadline for written submissions is May 7th.

13 We also realize that many persons are
14 reluctant to make presentations in public for a
15 variety of reasons. To address this, we have
16 engaged a person, a graduate student from the
17 University of Manitoba, to meet with or to talk on
18 the phone with people who would rather not speak
19 at meetings. These meetings will be kept in
20 confidence. Information as to how to contact her
21 is available on our website as well as at the
22 table at the back of the room.

23 Some administrative matters. If you
24 wish to make a presentation today, please register
25 at the table at the back of the room.

1 As is our normal practice, we are
2 recording these sessions. Transcripts will be
3 available on line in a day or so. You can find
4 the link to the transcripts from our website.

5 A couple of final comments. In
6 respect of cell phones, I would ask that they be
7 turned off, or that at least the ring tone be
8 turned off. If you must take a call, please leave
9 the room. I would also ask that there be no side
10 conversations in the audience. If you feel that
11 you must engage in a conversation, I would ask
12 that you leave the room for that as well.

13 That concludes my opening comments.
14 We have a number of people who have indicated they
15 wish to make presentations here today. The first
16 person on the list is Mr. Bob Cherepak.
17 Mr. Cherepak, would you please state your name for
18 the record?

19 MR. CHEREPAK: My name is Bob
20 Cherepak, Arborg, Manitoba.

21 BOB CHEREPAK, having been sworn in, presented as
22 follows:

23 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed,
24 Mr. Cherepak

25 MR. CHEREPAK: Thank you for the

1 opportunity to allow me to make this presentation.

2 When I was a youngster, I would take
3 my fishing rod and walk to the Icelandic River
4 which originated in the back end of our farm. I
5 would catch a half dozen pike for supper. If I
6 was thirsty, I would go to one of the springs
7 which trickled out of the river bank and have a
8 drink of cold clear water from a gem jar that was
9 left there for that purpose. I would be able to
10 stand on the bank and look at the fish lying under
11 the logs, along the boulders in the stream, as
12 they were easy to see in the crystal clear water.
13 I would be able to tilt back my head and suck in
14 the fresh clean air which, after a rain, would be
15 the most unbelievable refreshing experience, which
16 surrounded me. This was 1970.

17 Fast forward to 2005. I wake up and I
18 walk over to my tub to run a bath. The water
19 coming out of my tap is brown in colour. I had
20 the water tested a week before and it contained
21 coliforms and was not recommended for drinking,
22 cooking or washing dishes, but okay for bathing.
23 The water had been clean and clear until Manitoba
24 Highways had built a new road in front of my
25 property. Blasting of the limestone bedrock had

1 taken place to accommodate the new road. The loss
2 of water quality coincided with the blasting and
3 the subsequent run-off, the water run-off in the
4 highway ditch in the front of my property, run-off
5 from agricultural spread fields in my area.

6 After the bath in murky water, I made
7 breakfast, but not with the water from my tap, I
8 had to use water from the dispenser. I had to
9 purchase the dispenser a couple of weeks earlier
10 as my well water, after 25 years of good clean
11 water, was now polluted. Now I had to buy water
12 to drink, cook with and to do dishes.

13 I finished breakfast and I walked out
14 the front door to be hit by a wall of odour. One
15 or more of the hog factories in my area was either
16 agitating the manure storage tanks or spreading
17 the slurry on nearby fields. I was going fishing
18 to a lake an hour and a half to the north where
19 the water was still clean and clear. The
20 Icelandic River in my back yard is no longer able
21 to support pike year round. The air along the
22 river was no longer refreshing, as it has always
23 got the smells of agriculture in the wind.

24 I recently went down to that spring in
25 the river from which I used to drink. It was

1 covered with algae and was choking with lush green
2 aquatic growth, which wasn't there in the past.
3 Now the nutrient laded water irrigated the
4 vegetation and covered the cold spring, which I
5 wouldn't dare to drink from today.

6 What I have described is normal. It
7 was normal in the '70s and it is normal in 2007.
8 However, what was normal in the '70s is far from
9 normal today. The unfortunate part is, the
10 environmental degradation has been allowed to hide
11 behind the definition of normal. Where there is a
12 discussion on normal farm practices, the
13 production of 5000 hogs in one barn is a very new
14 normal. Many of the problems that plague the
15 Interlake, such as open crevices which allow
16 polluted water into the aquifer, remain
17 unaddressed. These areas have been brought to the
18 government's attention many times and nothing has
19 been done. I'm wondering if the new standard for
20 the condition of our environment, when we step
21 outside in the future and look at a desert that
22 resembles a lagoon more than it does a country
23 forest or marsh, will this also be called normal?

24 I have attached a document from my
25 records dated October 1992, where the Clean

1 Environment Commission discusses sewage lagoon
2 design, and I quote from that document,
3 "The intent would be to ensure the
4 design requirements and operational
5 guidelines adequately protect the
6 quality of surface and groundwater
7 resources in the province. The
8 Commission feels that some urgency is
9 attached to this need and that it
10 should receive prompt attention."
11 It goes on to state that the sewage lagoon
12 effluent will be dumped into the Oak Hammock
13 Marsh. Go figure. One day the Oak Hammock Marsh,
14 the next the Icelandic River, and tomorrow the
15 world. I guess the government is just acting
16 normally. Ladies and gentlemen, I believe we are
17 losing the war, and that is normal. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 MR. CHEREPAK: I have copies of my
20 presentation.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Good. Thank you,
22 Mr. Cherepak.

23 MR. CHEREPAK: Any questions?

24 THE CHAIRMAN: None right now, thank
25 you.

1 Mr. Ron Johnstone? Please state your
2 name for the record?

3 MR. JOHNSTONE: Ron Johnstone.

4 RON JOHNSTONE, having been sworn in, presented as
5 follows:

6 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed, Mr.
7 Johnstone.

8 MR. JOHNSTONE: Mr. Chairman and
9 committee members, thank you for the opportunity
10 to address this Commission this afternoon on a
11 very important topic that this community and many
12 others in the province are dependent on.

13 I would like to first speak to you as
14 the plant manager for Arborg Feeds. Arborg Feeds
15 is one of the three feed mills that Puratone owns
16 in this province and is located just south of
17 town. Our core business is the processing of hog
18 and poultry feeds for the Interlake region. The
19 mill operates five days a week, 24 hours a day and
20 employs 16 full-time staff. This mill was
21 purchased from the Loewen family back in the late
22 '80s, and was producing about 7,000 tonnes of feed
23 each year. With the expansion of the hog
24 industry, along with poultry expansion in the
25 Interlake, the mill now produces just under 70,000

1 tonnes of feed per year. This growth has helped
2 the entire region prosper, as the grain industry
3 has consolidated and closed regional elevators
4 while we have increased our feed grain volume,
5 purchasing over 1 million-bushels of feed grains.
6 This has benefited all feed grain producers by
7 increasing their wheat and barley prices. We run
8 three semi-trailer feed trucks out of this mill
9 and contract out all the incoming feed grains
10 coming in each day.

11 Each year we are faced with more and
12 more regulations with feed traceability and record
13 keeping, and are proud of our track record and the
14 Feed Assure Certification that we have passed for
15 the past three years. Feed Assure is a
16 comprehensive feed safety management and
17 certification program that allows feed companies
18 to become certified to HACCP standards.

19 Over the past 20 years we have
20 upgraded and reinvested in the mill, with the
21 largest expansion happening in 2000, when
22 1.8 million was spent adding a completely new
23 pelleting tower to the mill. We have continued to
24 reinvest approximately \$250,000 each year into
25 this facility to make it one of the most automated

1 mills in this province.

2 Puratone is proud to be a part of this
3 community and have contributed to many of the
4 capital projects in this community, including the
5 hall that we are meeting in today, along with the
6 assisted living complex beside us. We offer
7 scholarships each year in Riverton and Arborg and
8 support all of the curling, hockey and fundraising
9 events in this community. The hog industry, along
10 with the manufacturing growth, are the reasons
11 this community has grown over the past ten years
12 to be as successful as it is today.

13 Secondly, I would like to present to
14 you today as president of Paradigm Farms Limited.
15 This 2800 sow farrow to finish operation was
16 formed or started by over 50 local area residents
17 throughout the Interlake in the late 1990's. The
18 farms are scattered throughout the Interlake with
19 sites at Petersfield, Narcisse, Skylake and
20 Ledwyn. All of these sites were granted approval
21 for construction after a lengthy technical review.

22 I have witnessed the frustration and
23 anxiety that comes forward when a municipality has
24 not prepared themselves by being up-to-date on the
25 technical review process before going into a

1 conditional use hearing. I have also witnessed
2 other municipal councils, that have been prepared
3 and knowledgeable, handle a conditional use
4 hearing and allow everybody a chance to
5 participate, and have the knowledge to answer any
6 fears that arise instead of instilling doubt in
7 the public's eyes. I think it should be mandatory
8 that municipalities have a planning statement with
9 areas clearly marked out for agriculture and
10 intensive livestock, and stick to their statement
11 if a project meets all standards. In the past,
12 intensive livestock areas have been established
13 where there was the least amount of controversy
14 and opposition.

15 Air quality for both our hogs and our
16 neighbors was very important to us when we were
17 looking at ventilation designs, and we chose to
18 install chimney ventilation over the traditional
19 side wall vents. We felt that bringing in fresh
20 air under the roof soffits, while exhausting stale
21 air beside the inlet, was not the best.

22 Exhausting stale air from the barn up an exhaust
23 chimney not only gives the hogs cleaner air, but
24 also seems to dissipate the smell up and away from
25 the farm.

1 We are very fortunate in the Interlake
2 to have such good quality and plentiful supply of
3 fresh water which is very important to our
4 industry. We monitor our usage daily and are
5 constantly checking the quality, as this is so
6 important for raising healthy hogs. All of our
7 lagoons were designed by professional engineers
8 and approved by Manitoba Environment prior to
9 being commissioned. Each lagoon had to be built
10 with a holding capacity of 500 days, to allow
11 extra surge capacity in the event of a very heavy
12 rainfall in any given year, and the ability to get
13 on the farmland to apply this nutrient. This
14 design is the envy of many rural municipalities
15 that are now dealing with lagoon overload, caused
16 by lagoons built under capacity for their current
17 needs. Each lagoon was built with a monitoring
18 well system and many were built with a synthetic
19 liner as well. This design will monitor what is
20 happening under the lagoon to ensure our most
21 precious groundwater is not contaminated.

22 I have witnessed, since our operation
23 has started up, more and more regulations on
24 manure management, and we take the nutrient
25 management of our farms very seriously. We

1 welcome these regulations and have invested in the
2 most state of the art equipment for manure
3 analysis and application. We have been soil
4 testing the spread fields we apply manure on for
5 the past seven years and have been injecting into
6 the soil wherever possible.

7 We have watched over the years as the
8 nutrient has gone from a waste product to a very
9 sought after commodity with neighbors fighting
10 over it, who receives it. We have had to mitigate
11 with the neighbors around our farms to assure them
12 they would each be offered manure equally. I have
13 seen hayfields triple their productivity while
14 still maintaining a low reserve on nitrogen and
15 phosphorous the following year.

16 In the region serviced by our local
17 commercial fertilizer dealers, each year we import
18 into the Arborg area over 2600 tonnes of
19 commercial phosphate fertilizer. Our soil tests
20 around the Arborg area show on average we have a
21 residual phosphorous level of 10 to 15 parts per
22 million or 6.25 pounds per acre on average. An
23 average wheat or barley crop will use up 35 pounds
24 per acre, with a canola field utilizing up to
25 50 pounds per acre. At these levels there is

1 certainly a place for the hog industry in this
2 province.

3 I have watched over the past few
4 years, as many smaller hog producers have quit
5 producing hogs because they could not afford to
6 update their facilities to the new standards
7 without going into a huge amount of debt, and the
8 amount of debt they could afford to take on would
9 make their operation no longer feasible to produce
10 hogs. This reality has forced many local area
11 farmers to pool their resources and build larger
12 facilities that can be state of the art and still
13 feasible to operate. Some other producers in the
14 area have signed long-term agreements with other
15 producers such as Puratone, Hytec and Maple Leaf
16 Nutrition, to simply care for their hogs on a
17 price per hog basis with little risk back to
18 themselves. The farms that have been constructed
19 in the past 10 years are built to high standards
20 and most are built with engineered stamps on the
21 construction design along with the lagoons.

22 Paradigm Farms has filed a voluntary
23 environmental farm plan and has purchased a
24 Biovator to dispose of mortalities at one of its
25 sites, and has composters set up at the other two

1 sites to deal with mortalities. The Biovator is a
2 composting vessel that Puratone invented and has
3 delivered to the industry to deal with
4 mortalities. This vessel simply composts dead
5 stock along with a carbon source, we use straw and
6 water, produce a fully environmentally friendly
7 compost that can be reused to speed up the
8 composting cycle or spread as a mulch on the land.

9 In closing, I consider ourselves good
10 stewards of the land and feel that this moratorium
11 is unfairly singling out a small segment of
12 agriculture that may or may not be popular with
13 Manitobans. Please consider the value this
14 industry contributes to our economy in Manitoba,
15 both rural and urban. And I have left copies of
16 my presentation at the front.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
18 Mr. Johnstone. I just have a couple of questions
19 arising out of your presentation. You talk about
20 the community of Arborg and how it has grown over
21 the last ten years, and you say the hog industry
22 along with manufacturing growth. What is the
23 manufacturing growth in this area?

24 MR. JOHNSTONE: We have a fairly large
25 Mennonite background people north of here that are

1 doing a lot of steel manufacturing.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm aware of them. So
3 that is who you were referring to, or that is the
4 operation that you were referring to?

5 MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Could you tell me a
7 little bit more about Paradigm Farms? How many
8 barns do you have?

9 MR. JOHNSTONE: The sow barn and
10 nucleus barn is in Petersfield, we have a 7200
11 head finisher in Narcisse, two 2400 head barns in
12 Ledwyn, and one 6,000 head in Skylake.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: That is a finisher
14 barn?

15 MR. JOHNSTONE: That is a finisher
16 barn, yes. So it is a closed loop system.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: And so that would be,
18 you also referred to the lagoons, that would be
19 what, five or six lagoons? Was it five or six
20 barns?

21 MR. JOHNSTONE: We would have three
22 lagoons, and Skylake facility we are running on
23 straw.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

25 MR. JOHNSTONE: So it is different --

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that a hoop
2 structure?

3 MR. JOHNSTONE: No, it is a
4 commercially built barn with a concrete floor.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Wayne?

6 MR. MOTHERAL: Mr. Johnstone, I have
7 personally been struggling myself with the
8 phosphorous issue. I haven't got my head around
9 things properly yet. And I look at this level of
10 10 to 15 parts per million and the conversion of
11 6.25 pounds of residual left, and that doesn't
12 coincide with the -- is this the Olson test, or do
13 you know?

14 MR. JOHNSTONE: These are stats that I
15 got from our local Agricore in town. So they told
16 me it was simply a division of two to get parts
17 per million down to actual pounds.

18 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. And in the
19 information that I had previously when we had a
20 presentation of this is different, it is 10 to 15
21 parts per million would be equivalent to about
22 600 pounds per acre or so. And we will certainly
23 find this out. I thought maybe there was a
24 mistake in the decimal point, that is all.

25 MR. JOHNSTONE: No, I got that data

1 from --

2 MR. MOTHERAL: You got that from
3 Agricore?

4 MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes.

5 MR. YEE: Just a quick question. I
6 realize that Paradigm Farms Limited is several
7 different operations. Are they in different
8 municipalities?

9 MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes, they are.

10 MR. YEE: And is this where you have
11 noticed that there is a difference between the
12 conditional land use approvals in terms of the
13 knowledge of the individual municipalities?

14 MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes, that is true.

15 MR. YEE: Do you have any
16 recommendations on how that can be improved?

17 MR. JOHNSTONE: What we have noticed
18 is that the municipalities that take the time to
19 actually meet with the technical review committee
20 prior to the meeting can get their questions asked
21 and be a little more knowledgeable before they go
22 into the meeting, rather than public opposition
23 standing before them, and it can be quite heated
24 at times, and them saying, well, we don't know the
25 answers to that. It doesn't look good.

1 MR. YEE: Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: You mentioned 50 local
3 area residents that joined together in Paradigm.
4 Are they farmers or are they investors or --

5 MR. JOHNSTONE: They are both.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: They are both?

7 MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: So do a lot of these 50
9 actually operate and work these barns?

10 MR. JOHNSTONE: No.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: So it is just hired
12 staff?

13 MR. JOHNSTONE: That's right.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't have any more
15 questions. Thank you very much, Mr. Johnstone.
16 Darcy Pauls. Mr. Pauls, would you state your name
17 for the record please?

18 MR. PAULS: Darcy Pauls.

19 DARCY PAULS, having been sworn in, presented as
20 follows:

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

22 MR. PAULS: First of all, thanks for
23 the opportunity to talk to you today. So just to
24 give you an idea of who I am and try to put things
25 into context, I consider myself still a farm boy

1 who marketed his first pig when he was seven years
2 old, and through the benefit of my father who gave
3 us some pigs. And once we finished marketing
4 them, we paid him for the weanling and feed, and
5 that was the first money I ever earned.

6 From there, a young boy's dream was a
7 motorcycle, so I borrowed the money from my dad
8 and bought a motorcycle, and from there continued
9 to pay down my debt, and was contributing to
10 society, in my opinion, and learned some valuable
11 lessons at my age through farming.

12 My father sold the farm when I was 12
13 years old. He went on to continue to work in the
14 ag industry and sell ag equipment, and I ended up
15 working on mixed farms south of Winnipeg through
16 summer jobs. What you see in the presentation is
17 some pictures of the farm in the 1970s. You will
18 see that back then, you know, we did haul manure
19 to the land and spread it on. Certainly, we
20 continue to use manure as fertilizer, but just the
21 techniques and ways we do that have certainly
22 changed.

23 I graduated from the university with
24 an Ag diploma. After graduating, I went to work
25 in the sow barn. From there, I took a job on with

1 Puratone doing production service work, and in
2 1994 got back into farming with my brothers when
3 we built a 700 head sow barn. We had a local
4 farmer that was willing to sell us the land at a
5 reasonable price because he wanted to use the
6 manure as fertilizer. And much like the previous
7 presenter mentioned, we had the opportunity to
8 work with Puratone, and they provide the equity
9 and the livestock, which was probably worth about
10 half a million dollars, so that we could build a
11 facility of size that we could actually earn
12 enough money to support the necessary income for
13 our families.

14 I have continued to work with Puratone
15 and still do, and have managed -- was the general
16 manager of a production loop of 40,000 sows where
17 we market about 1 million pigs a year.

18 A lot of things have changed since I
19 was a youngster over the 40 years, but certainly
20 one thing has stayed true, is that my entire
21 family's income has always come from agriculture
22 and mainly the hog industry. Pictures that I have
23 selected have some amount of meaning and
24 reference. The first one being, if you are
25 allowed to use a picture of your wife, you are

1 only allowed to use a select few, and this is one
2 that I could use. And also it was where we
3 recently partook in receiving a reward on behalf
4 of Puratone as one of the 50 best managed
5 companies across Canada.

6 The second picture is me and my
7 daughter at a work function. I certainly enjoy
8 the ability to involve the kids in your place of
9 work. And the last one is just a beautiful
10 picture of the kids.

11 Just in regards to rural Manitoba, I
12 just want you to be aware that -- the red doesn't
13 show up very well -- the red dot on there is
14 actually my place of residence, the green is the
15 farm that we built that I referenced earlier. So
16 certainly I do have an understanding of what it
17 means to live in rural Manitoba. And yes, when
18 people do apply fertilizer on the land, it does
19 smell for a day while you are out there, but there
20 is also many benefits as well, like seeing the
21 stars, no traffic. Urban life will never be rural
22 life and rural life will never be urban life, and
23 to think that that can be true is just silly.

24 You will also kind of notice that the
25 darker spots, those are the size of the lagoons in

1 some of the surrounding farms. And I'm pointing
2 out some of the surrounding farms that I live
3 around. Just a point, this shaded area here
4 happens to be the most recently built lagoon for
5 the Town of Niverville, and in contrast, it's size
6 to the surrounding livestock operations around
7 there.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Are those sections
9 each --

10 MR. PAULS: This will be one section,
11 so you are looking at a quarter section. And you
12 will also notice the black line that runs through
13 there is a canal that runs directly into the Red
14 River and is the means by which rural
15 municipalities deal with their run-off,
16 their manure.

17 So what has my company, Puratone, done
18 to address environmental issues? We have adopted
19 principles under ISO1401, which is an
20 environmental management system where we both live
21 by the principles, but there are also annual
22 audits done externally so that we can maintain our
23 certification under ISO1401. In brief, the
24 commitments to that program is to comply with
25 environmental legislation and regulations,

1 continuous improvement, commitment to practices
2 related to pollution prevention, and community
3 relationships, address the environmental concerns
4 addressed by workers, neighbors and the wider
5 community, monthly reviews of the outcome, and
6 communication of the environmental policy,
7 outcomes and goals to employees, and the
8 significant aspects, mortalities, manure and
9 odour. And if you would like more details, there
10 is a web address posted at the bottom.

11 So the sustainability of a healthy
12 growing hog industry. What has been going on
13 while the industry has been growing? There has
14 been very specific diet formulas. We have moved
15 from approximately three diets during the growing
16 phase of a market animal as to as many as 12. And
17 one of the reasons this is possible is, if
18 everybody just had 100 pigs on their farm, there
19 would be about three loads of feed that would be
20 delivered during the growing phase of a group of
21 pigs. If you have 3,000 pigs on that one site,
22 there is as many as 35 loads that you can deliver,
23 so you can be much more specific in growing phase
24 and feeding formulas.

25 There has been the use of enzymes to

1 improve nutrient uptake; phytase, for example, to
2 improve the absorption of phosphorous and reduce
3 the excretion of phosphorous, that has improved
4 the situation by 20 to 40 per cent. There is even
5 Enviro pig that has been developed that has the
6 phytase gene, still in the research stage mind
7 you, but it will reduce phosphorous excretion by
8 56 to 67 per cent.

9 I just want to point out that if an
10 industry has politically motivated restrictions
11 put on it, the ability to fund this research
12 likely goes away, and we end up dealing with
13 issues like these and spend our time on this.

14 Productivity improvements from the
15 range of 15 pigs per sow year to 25. That means a
16 farrow to finish operation that was built some
17 time ago has productivity improvements and now
18 doesn't have enough space to finish all of the
19 pigs that are there. Puratone has run into this
20 situation in a couple of our facilities and
21 actually had planned to expand the finishing barns
22 this year before the pause was put in place, and
23 now we won't be able to do that. So what happens
24 when we have a pause like this put in place?
25 Companies that are looking at five-year business

1 plans start looking outside of the province for
2 opportunities instead of within.

3 Of course, a growing industry
4 increases job opportunities for all Manitobans,
5 and higher paying jobs for skilled workers. I
6 have already kind of told you my story and the job
7 opportunities that I have had because of the
8 industry. I just wanted to point out as well that
9 the pork technician, the people working in the
10 barn, has been recognized as a trade within the
11 apprenticeship branch, and they are trained both
12 on the job and in the classroom, and that means
13 there are skilled workers taking care of our pigs
14 and the environment. These doesn't happen if the
15 province legislates the industry to shrink.

16 So why have I focused on growth of the
17 industry? Certainly when the pause was announced,
18 I wrote a letter to Mr. Struthers, and he was kind
19 enough to send a response. His reason for the
20 pause was that the industry has grown. It has
21 grown by 124 per cent from '94 to 99. Between
22 2000 to 2007 it grew by 55 per cent, and a pause
23 is necessary to allow the Commission to conduct a
24 review in a manner that is both fair and objective
25 and thorough.

1 What I feel is missing in that point
2 is that apparently growth by less than 8 percent a
3 year in a business puts you in a position where
4 the government can halt your industry without just
5 cause, and the fact that just prior to the pause,
6 growth was just less than 2 per cent.

7 Certainly what is concerning is some
8 of the ads that have been put out on behalf of the
9 government. And what we as an industry end up
10 doing is focusing on the public issues around this
11 and the negative innuendos thrown out by our
12 Provincial Government. It might be a little
13 unclear in your topics, but I assume you have seen
14 these ads, so I won't get into them, other than to
15 point out how they certainly choose on referencing
16 the hog barns and hog industry as an issue around
17 water that needs to be feared.

18 So what has been missed so far?
19 These, of course, are rhetorical questions. Is
20 the CEC to help validate what the province is
21 already advertising, or is this just a case of
22 guilty until we are proven innocent? And does the
23 CEC really need a pause to do a thorough review of
24 an industry that is growing by two per cent, or
25 does a pause that the government feels only will

1 impact two per cent of the voting public best
2 serve its political desires? I, of course, hope
3 for an early release of the preliminary report so
4 that the political issues around this can be
5 resolved.

6 November 8th, new phosphorous related
7 manure regulations were put in place, and it was
8 only two weeks later that the CEC was asked to
9 review the industry and a pause was legislated.

10 Certainly, being involved in the
11 industry, you can internalize how this feels like
12 you have been stabbed in the back, after working
13 with government to make things better they say,
14 sorry, you are shut down.

15 So what are my hopes? A timely close
16 to your review before the industry is damaged even
17 more by this legislated pause, fair representation
18 of the hog industry based on its own actions, but
19 also as it would be compared to other industries.
20 I believe we are very environmentally friendly and
21 have a better environmental and sustainable story
22 to tell than many other industries.

23 Do I think we can do more? Sure, we
24 can. Everybody can. Lately you hear stories
25 about Al Gore, who is probably the green stamp,

1 and he has been criticized that his house uses too
2 much energy. I mean, we can all do more, I don't
3 doubt that.

4 This review will be forward looking,
5 assuming past environmental progress will continue
6 and that new regulations have already been passed
7 that we haven't even had a chance to implement.
8 When the CEC has completed their review and has
9 informed the government and the public of its
10 finding, that the government apologize for its
11 poor understanding of the hog industry and for the
12 damage it caused by burdening the people that work
13 every day in the hog industry with this pause and
14 the advertising campaign related to it.
15 Admittedly, my tongue is in my cheek a little bit
16 with that one.

17 Things do change. I need to realize
18 that, I have to accept that in regards to
19 regulations and how we need to improve things.
20 Our focus needs to be on our contributions to make
21 them better, not whether we can stop the change.

22 And I just show a picture, this is
23 what my dad's farm looks like now. Certainly it
24 is not a facility that he and his kids and his
25 grand kids could earn a living off of anymore.

1 Things have changed, so that we can continue to do
2 business in this province and feed my family.

3 Thank you very much.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Pauls.
5 Just a couple of questions about your own
6 operation. Do you still own a farm?

7 MR. PAULS: My brother still owns a
8 farm.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So you manage an
10 operation for Puratone now?

11 MR. PAULS: Yes, I'm an employee. I
12 don't manage a farm, I'm an employee of Puratone.
13 My title is actually VP of business development at
14 this time.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I should have
16 asked this earlier. Mr. Johnstone also used this
17 term, and it wasn't until I saw it on paper in
18 your presentation, I'm not quite sure what it
19 means, "production loop?"

20 MR. PAULS: How would I best describe
21 it -- so within any operation you have a farrowing
22 stage that sells farrow produced piglets, what we
23 will call the nursery stage where they grow from
24 about 6 kilograms to 25 kilograms, and then the
25 finishing stage where they grow from 25 to market,

1 120 kilograms. So you combine those three areas,
2 you will call them a loop.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: We guessed right. It
4 is sort of the three different stages, in my
5 understanding of the industry, this is done in
6 different barns and different operations, each of
7 those three?

8 MR. PAULS: It is one of the ways, of
9 course. There is also, as I mentioned earlier,
10 farrow to finish where you have kept them all in
11 one site.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, but the bigger
13 operations nowadays, I believe, are more into the
14 three separate?

15 MR. PAULS: The growth in the industry
16 has generally been around that, to be fair.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

18 MR. MOTHERAL: Just on an
19 administrative matter, maybe you do have a
20 feeling, that the CEC is an arm's length to the
21 government, and we did not cause the pause.

22 MR. PAULS: I understand that.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: We are here to get
24 information and we need time to do it. And we
25 hope that we can do it in a quick manner, as quick

1 as we can.

2 MR. PAULS: I understand. I'm asking
3 you to do it in a quick manner and get that
4 information back to the government, I agree, and I
5 am hoping you will be that independent voice to
6 them.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: There is a lot of stuff
8 to digest.

9 MR. PAULS: I understand.

10 MR. MOTHERAL: And that is literally
11 speaking too.

12 MR. YEE: Yes, Mr. Pauls, in one of
13 your slides you have discussed the use of the
14 enzymes and the Enviro pig, and it discussed
15 essentially spending money on research. But you
16 also noted that it was preferable to spend money
17 on research on these things rather than spending
18 on perception issues. Can I just ask your
19 clarification of what you mean by perception
20 issues?

21 MR. PAULS: I will answer the question
22 this way. Certainly, as an industry, when we deal
23 with a pause like this that the government has put
24 in place, one of the reasons why it can be put in
25 place is because they feel that the perception of

1 the industry is negative, and they can do such
2 without repercussions in votes. And so instead of
3 the industry -- there is only so much money to go
4 around, so you will end up putting out ads to
5 defend yourself in the public's opinion, so that
6 things like this can happen. So if government
7 educates themselves before they make these
8 decisions, instead of using someone like the CEC
9 to educate them after they have made their
10 decision.

11 MR. YEE: Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Although, I think, I
13 don't really want to get into a debate, but I
14 think by getting into some of these advertising
15 campaigns, you not only educate the government,
16 you educate the general public, and typically
17 governments react to public concerns.

18 MR. PAULS: I understand. No doubt
19 that we can't avoid that. It is just a matter of
20 balance and how much -- and where do you spend
21 your time?

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you tell us a
23 little bit about this Enviro pig? I read
24 something about it. Is it at Guelph?

25 MR. PAULS: That's correct. I don't

1 know a lot about it. I mean, type Enviro pig into
2 the internet and you will know more than I can
3 give you today.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you
5 very much for your presentation today.

6 Next on our agenda is Henry Traverse,
7 Jackhead Fisheries. Mr. Traverse, would you state
8 your name for the record, please?

9 HENRY TRAVERSE, having been sworn, presented as
10 follows:

11 MR. TRAVERSE: Henry Traverse from
12 Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation. I didn't write that
13 on my presentation, but that is the name of my
14 reservation, where I come from.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

16 MR. TRAVERSE: I guess my presentation
17 here today, I wanted to bring some people along,
18 and I informed quite a few of them. We are in the
19 midst of elections in my community right now. But
20 nevertheless, I guess I came, and I wanted to read
21 out our ancestral background to the area where we
22 come from. Like we live at the end of the road,
23 and our community, it is a small community, and we
24 have lots of diabetes in our community right now,
25 and it is growing. But I want to read this, my

1 presentation here this afternoon. I didn't come
2 here to say anything to anybody or anything like
3 that, I just came and I want to read this out this
4 afternoon.

5 To begin with, we are signators to
6 Treaty Number 5, which our ancestors historically
7 signed in 1875 in the central, east and west
8 shores of Lake Winnipeg. Historically, we agreed
9 to certain terms and conditions which the
10 government of the day has grossly violated. In
11 terms of sustainability, environment and
12 conservation, has done great harm to our homeland,
13 as well as fish, water, animals and birds. The
14 royal proclamation of 1763 and the Indian Act of
15 1871, along with the Natural Resources Transfer
16 Act of 1930, took over control of our lives and
17 land without consultation to the native
18 communities. Recovery process is not going to
19 happen in one year, or maybe not in 100 years.
20 The Creator, gave us our breath of life, along
21 with that to balance our life with nature. We
22 live with one of the oldest religions in the
23 western hemisphere, which is the sacred fire and
24 our holy medicines, along with our sacred sites.
25 And in closing, as a fisherman and grandfather,

1 I'm deeply concerned every day for my
2 grandchildren's future. That is the end of it.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr.
4 Traverse. Any comments, questions?

5 Thank you very much for coming here
6 today, Mr. Traverse. We have no questions.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Next on the agenda is
8 Jason McNaughton. Mr. McNaughton, would you state
9 your name for the record, please.

10 MR. MCNAUGHTON: Jason McNaughton.
11 JASON MCNAUGHTON, having been sworn, presented as
12 follows:

13 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

14 MR. MCNAUGHTON: Good afternoon,
15 members of the Commission. My name has been
16 stated, though I would like to give you a brief
17 background on who I am and what my position is
18 within the swine industry. I am the general
19 manager for a livestock nutrition company that
20 provides its services through the Western Canadian
21 Prairie Provinces. We at Standard-Max Pro
22 Nutrition directly employ 16 people here in
23 Manitoba. I'm a permanent resident of this
24 province where I was raised from my youth. I
25 have, through my employment, been a member of the

1 greater hog industry here in Manitoba for the past
2 12 years. Although I was raised in rural
3 Manitoba, my immediate family were not livestock
4 producers. We, as a family, left our city home
5 when I was seven years old and moved on to a
6 section of land in the Garson/Tyndall area of
7 Manitoba. Within one and a half miles of our new
8 home, there were two separate hog facilities and
9 one broiler chicken facility, from which new
10 odours emanated from time to time, new odours to
11 us. As new citizens in this area, we were taught
12 by our parents that these odours were the charm of
13 country living. We still as a family believe that
14 these pollutants, as some will refer to them, are
15 far more bearable than the ones we left behind
16 leaving the city, i.e, vehicle and industrial
17 emissions, but also noise pollution. To this
18 point, my parents now reside on an acreage just
19 north of Grunthal, Manitoba, the most dense
20 livestock area of Manitoba. My sister and her
21 family reside on an acreage near Landmark,
22 Manitoba. And my family and I reside on an
23 similar acreage in the Municipality of Ritchot.

24 My passion for the livestock industry
25 was spawned in my early years as I had employment

1 opportunities on farms close to home. When, as an
2 adult, an opportunity arose to start a permanent
3 career in the hog industry, it seemed like the
4 perfect fit for my upbringing. My family today
5 has only one income and that is thanks to the
6 Manitoba hog industry.

7 Due to my passion for this industry, I
8 can likely speak all day on how our industry has
9 been early adapters to all measures that improve
10 both the well-being of animals that we raise, and
11 also to the using of the manure fertilizer that we
12 produce. Given your need to hear from many
13 throughout your sessions, I have settled on a
14 couple of points that are somewhat unique to the
15 focus of our organization within the industry.
16 Hopefully, these points I make to you today will
17 be helpful in your deciding that the hog industry
18 is sustainable in our province, and that the
19 growth of our industry is still possible, as all
20 citizens and industries in our region make sure
21 that our environment returns to a healthy state.

22 As an industry our goal is and must be
23 to responsibly use the byproduct resources that we
24 produce, such as manure fertilizer and its
25 chemical makeup, in a way that poses no threat to

1 our environment. From this I would like to
2 present to you, from a nutrient management
3 perspective, a few ways in which our industry, and
4 especially our hog producers, are changing the way
5 that we operate in order to meet this goal.
6 Specifically, I will discuss strategies that we
7 and our clients have and will continue to adopt,
8 which are reducing the phosphorous in manure
9 fertilizer itself.

10 The management of phosphorous must
11 first begin at a starting point, which is its
12 introduction into the cycle. This happens through
13 formulation of our swine diets which must meet the
14 requirements of the animal in order for it to grow
15 and flourish. You have already heard some talk of
16 the phytase enzyme, which significantly reduces
17 the input need for hard rock phosphorous in our
18 diets. I'm not sure how technical your
19 understanding of this ingredient is, but not being
20 a nutritionist myself, I brought and will leave
21 for your review a technical data package of this
22 product which will possibly enhance your
23 understanding of phytase.

24 Our company employs three PhD and two
25 Masters degree nutritionists that have been made

1 available to your Commission should you need any
2 questions that need comment from this perspective.

3 Your Commission raised a question at
4 the Winnipeg session as to what percentage of our
5 industry in Manitoba is utilizing the phytase
6 technology. I wasn't certain that you were
7 satisfied that that question was answered, so this
8 will be the first thing I would like to address.

9 Now, unfortunately, we do not
10 formulate for the entire industry, so I won't be
11 able to completely answer your question, but you
12 may have a much better sense once other members of
13 the feed community have presented at these
14 sessions.

15 In answering your question regarding
16 phytase, I must also tell you that our formulation
17 team uses two different products to reduce
18 phosphorous outputs, the first being phytase
19 itself and the second being a product called
20 Maxizyme Plus. I would like to answer your
21 question by illustrating what percentage of our
22 total production incorporates the use of these
23 technologies. We at Standard-Max Pro Nutrition
24 feed mostly farrow to finish operations. We have
25 a strong market share with the Hutterite Colony

1 sector of the industry and we also feed a sizable
2 amount of privately owned facilities in Manitoba.
3 If you take all of these farms where our
4 consultants formulate exclusively, they will
5 represent about 460,000 hogs marketed annually
6 here in Manitoba. Through some analysis I have
7 arrived at an estimate that 70 per cent of these
8 460,000 animals are fed an enzyme product that
9 reduces phosphorous in manure fertilizer. I have
10 also reviewed our usage of both of these products
11 comparing 2006 and 2007 projected, and the usage
12 through our formulation of these enzyme products
13 has increased by 84 per cent for phytase and 85
14 per cent for Maxizyme Plus. Please note that this
15 growth demonstrates that our industry is moving
16 forward voluntarily to reduce phosphorous in
17 manure.

18 Although this process has maybe just
19 begun, I can expect that 95 per cent of our diets
20 will contain enzymes to reduce phosphorous within
21 the next two years. The momentum among producers
22 to utilize these products has begun. The research
23 is new and has been proven at the farm levels as
24 we speak. This is very important because all of
25 us take time to adapt to new technologies. Just

1 because cell phones were invented didn't mean that
2 everyone had one the next day. Although our
3 industry does realize the need to incorporate
4 these technologies quickly.

5 The next point that I would like to
6 make is on our focus of nutrient utilization as it
7 pertains to both feed conversion and feed wastage,
8 as these factors can and have contributed to the
9 amount of phosphorous left in our manure
10 fertilizer.

11 First of all, I will speak on feed
12 conversion. We that formulate diets in the swine
13 industry have incorporated again the use of
14 different enzymes than previously mentioned that
15 specifically hone in on certain feeds stuffs.
16 These enzymes increase the digestibility for those
17 feed stuffs and allow improved utilization within
18 the animal. The better an animal utilizes any
19 nutrient, the less feed it will need to reach its
20 market weight, thus reducing the amount of manure
21 fertilizer itself. The different enzymes that we
22 incorporate into our diets include xylanase,
23 glucanase, and cellulase and lysase, all of which
24 serve a different function with different feed
25 stuffs, but all respond in a way to improve

1 digestibility for the animal and thus reduce the
2 feed required by the animal. These technologies,
3 some of which were not available 12 years ago when
4 I entered this industry, but all which were
5 somewhat fringe at that point, are now common
6 place in all of our current rations.

7 Another technique that lends itself to
8 greater feed utilization is the balance of
9 particle size in our on-farm feed mills. This
10 serves two functions, the first is to provide the
11 animal with crushed feed stuffs which increases
12 the surface area of the ingredient, thus allowing
13 for greater breakdown of nutrients in the GI tract
14 of the animal. An improper particle size can move
15 through the animal too quickly before its
16 nutrients can be properly absorbed if too large.
17 Too small a particle size can remain in the animal
18 too long, potentially causing other ailments. A
19 proper particle size will enhance feed utilization
20 significantly. These are why our current feed
21 conversion rates are significantly lower than in
22 the past and are continuing to improve. Our
23 company works closely with on-farm feed mills to
24 ensure that their grind is optimal by travelling
25 with a feed sample shaker which analyzes particle

1 size at the farm.

2 Next we focused on feed wastage, which
3 is raw, unused feed matter that enters the manure
4 pit without going through the animal. Again, this
5 has changed so much with new feeder design that
6 supplies a constant and appropriate flow of feed
7 to the animal with special design features that
8 will not allow the animal to empty the feeder as
9 it roots around in the feed, as pigs like to do.
10 Most of these well-designed modern day feeders
11 were invented by a hog producer, one of which is a
12 good friend of mine who now makes his living here
13 in Manitoba manufacturing and marketing his
14 design.

15 In concluding, I hope that you serving
16 on this Commission can see that the hog industry
17 is progressive in finding and utilizing
18 technologies and techniques that will improve the
19 makeup of the fertilizer we produce, and that our
20 management of this fertilizer does not jeopardize
21 the health of our environment. I would like to
22 leave you with a question on my mind that I
23 believe I know the answers to. That is, would
24 there be a initiative started to improve the
25 environmental health of Lake Winnipeg if there was

1 no hog industry in Manitoba? Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
3 Mr. McNaughton. Wayne?

4 MR. MOTHERAL: I will have to read
5 this document, or pretend I read it, because it
6 gets very technical, I know that, but I will
7 attempt.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Anything?

9 MR. YEE: I'm not sure this is a very
10 accurate question to ask, but I actually heard the
11 other night from one of the presenters, they
12 mentioned one of the enzymes that you have listed
13 here in your presentation. I'm just wondering,
14 over and above the removal or retainment of
15 phosphate, using these enzymes, as well as
16 reducing the amount of manure produced, is there
17 any other beneficial effects? What was mentioned
18 is they noticed the manure was more liquid. I
19 don't know if that makes a difference or not. Is
20 there any other attributes to the enzymes?

21 MR. MCNAUGHTON: Yes, there is. It is
22 a great question. I think you are referring more
23 to the Maxizyme Plus. Phytase, as an enzyme, it
24 really keys in on phosphorous itself, but it is
25 also clinically proven, I'm not sure in that data

1 package if you will find it, but it does reduce
2 the need for hard metals within our diets as well,
3 and our formulation can adjust to the new findings
4 on the product.

5 The Maxizyme Plus product, you will
6 probably, as I illustrated by the amount of hogs
7 in the province that are being fed a product like
8 that, you will hear more and more on the product.
9 I'm probably not the best person to speak to the
10 product, and I do know that through your sessions
11 you are going to hear from somebody that will be
12 an expert on the product. But there are other
13 functions of it. Certainly there is odour
14 reduction properties, and that is proven with the
15 product. And there is also, the product uses
16 basically a bacillus type bacteria that attacks
17 the phosphorous within the diet. It attacks it in
18 the gut of the animal and it also attacks it after
19 it leaves the animal, it is a live bacteria that
20 continues its work, and it turns the hard
21 phosphorous into a liquid form somewhat, which
22 allows it to be more soluble to the plant. Okay.
23 So the plant can utilize more of the phosphorous
24 that we put on the fields, thus hopefully allowing
25 us to not spread quite as liberally, to just to

1 hit what the plant needs. But somebody may spend,
2 you know, a whole 15 minutes discussing that with
3 you guys, I hope.

4 MR. YEE: Thank you, I appreciate
5 that.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Maybe even more.

7 MR. MCNAUGHTON: Maybe even more.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: You started to answer a
9 question that I had, and perhaps we should wait
10 until we hear from somebody who you say will have
11 more expertise. I'm just wondering, what is an
12 enzyme and how does it work? I mean, you touched
13 on it a bit.

14 MR. MCNAUGHTON: Well, again, I am not
15 a scientist, but what an enzyme does, it is going
16 to attack a molecule and it is going to alter it,
17 it is going to break open a part of it.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Did you say it is a
19 bacteria?

20 MR. MCNAUGHTON: No, sorry, it is not
21 a bacteria, but it is a particle that is going to
22 attach itself to a molecule and open up that
23 molecule, you know, so what is inside of that cell
24 can be absorbed. You can tell I'm not a
25 scientist, but it is described fairly well in that

1 data package.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

3 MR. MOTHERAL: One more comment on the
4 fact that, if I have got this right, did you say
5 that when the manure is more liquid that it would
6 be more available to plants? Because I don't
7 believe that.

8 MR. MCNAUGHTON: No, my
9 understanding -- I understand what you are saying.
10 I will speak exactly to phosphorous. If the
11 phosphorous is more in a liquid state, my
12 understanding is it is more available to the
13 plant, not the manure itself, the phosphorous
14 within the manure. The phosphorous within the
15 manure makes up mostly the solids of the liquid
16 manure. So if a product can convert that into a
17 more liquid form, it is more available to the
18 plant in that form.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: And this Natuphos, that
20 is just a trade name for phytase?

21 MR. MCNAUGHTON: That is a trade name
22 of a phytase. There are a number of them.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. McNaughton, would
24 you have another copy of your presentation for the
25 record?

1 MR. MCNAUGHTON: You can have mine.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Next, Mr. Larry Hofer.
3 Mr. Hofer, could you please state your name for
4 the record.

5 LARRY HOFER, having been sworn, presented as
6 follows:

7 MR. HOFER: Good afternoon members of
8 the Clean Environment Commission, ladies and
9 gentleman of the audience. My name is Larry
10 Hofer. I'm a member of the Marble Ridge Hutterite
11 Colony and hog producer. I sincerely thank you
12 for the opportunity to present my comments
13 regarding the environment sustainability of the
14 hog production industry in Manitoba.

15 Marble Ridge is a colony that lives
16 and breathes agriculture. Agriculture is an
17 integral part of our lives. Naturally, it is a
18 major source of revenue and our livelihood is
19 dependent on it. Agriculture is a basis of our
20 way of life and it enables us to maintain our
21 independence, our Hutterian religion and sustain
22 our communal way of life. We truly are a family
23 farm. We need to be able to foresee growth in
24 agriculture to give our children hope for the
25 future and a guarantee of jobs that will keep them

1 in our community. You see, agriculture is
2 extremely important to the sustainability of our
3 colony, our way of life and our people. Who is
4 the stronger steward of the land than the farmer?
5 Who is more concerned about sustainable
6 agriculture than the farmer? We are concerned
7 about the protection of our animals and the land
8 that provides for our livelihood and we farmers
9 care about the environment.

10 To address the current concerns
11 regarding the environment and manure management, I
12 would like to address some of the things that
13 Marble Ridge does for phosphorous levels and odour
14 control in groundwater and water, surface water.
15 All of our solids from the barns go to a manure
16 separator. This process syphons out most of the
17 phosphorous -- I can say I have tests on it, it is
18 at 96, if I am correct, 96 per cent, 96.4
19 moisture -- reduce odour and makes it a lot easier
20 to transport the liquid manure. We decided to
21 take this extra step, even though it cost well in
22 excess of \$140,000, because it greatly enhanced
23 our ability to deal with the challenges of
24 handling waste in an environmentally friendly way
25 and with the neighbors.

1 This procedure seems to work quite
2 well. The separator is located on the colony, and
3 the water contents, after the separation, are
4 pumped into an earth lagoon with a liner in there.
5 The manure, before separation, was given a
6 phosphorous test and came back at 18.2 pounds per
7 thousand gallons to be spread on the field. The
8 test after separation was at 0.0227 pounds per
9 thousand gallons.

10 In November 2006, the government came
11 to us and said nitrogen and phosphorous is now
12 turned around. Up until now, we monitored our
13 manure being put on the field by how much nitrogen
14 we will spread on the field. Now it is being
15 monitored by how many, how high your phosphorous
16 levels are. If we do the math here, there is no
17 way we can inject enough manure into the ground to
18 get our phosphorous level to a 35-pound level.
19 Let's say per acre, if I'm correct, we did a
20 little math on it, we would have to put like
21 400,000 gallons of manure to get the phosphorous
22 level up there for the 35 pounds per acre.

23 We are also in the process of working
24 with a company from Quebec with a product called
25 Maxizyme Plus, which we have an additional annual

1 cost, we figure it will be around \$60,000 a year
2 to run this through our herd. We are doing this
3 because this product reduces phosphorous levels
4 and helps reduce odour, which we feel is important
5 for our neighbors and our livelihood. We also
6 believe this product will be very helpful to keep
7 our well water clean.

8 The tests we have taken showed us the
9 phosphorous levels went -- I dare say they were
10 half within eight weeks, when we put them into a
11 slurry tank with this discharge. In the barn, a
12 job we used to do, if we were washing down pits it
13 would take us 20 minutes of on your hands and
14 knees and washing it down. Now you basically go
15 in there and stir it up a bit with a hose, and
16 there will be like an inch left in there with this
17 product.

18 The environment is healthier thanks to
19 the soluble phosphates in the slurry and better
20 assimilation of nutritional elements by soil and
21 plants. The animals absorb feed better and their
22 immune system is reinforced. We breathe better
23 air and the neighborhood no longer has to tolerate
24 unpleasant smells.

25 It was quite impressive just last week

1 when one of our neighbors, who I might add had
2 quite a struggle to see a lagoon go up three
3 quarters of a mile from his house, he met with one
4 of our members in town, and this member was our
5 secretary, Darius, and he asked him, when do you
6 guys figure you will start up the lagoon? And
7 Darius was quite shocked when he heard this. He
8 said we started up the lagoon November 20th,
9 around there, of '06. This neighbour was taken
10 quite aback. He figured there was no manure being
11 pumped into this lagoon. So it was quite
12 impressive to hear that.

13 The Government of Manitoba's decision
14 to implement a pause in the building of barns
15 causes us grave concerns. Marble Ridge is forced
16 to sell weanlings because we do not have a
17 matching hog finisher barn to our sow production
18 facilities. This law only makes it tougher on us,
19 the farmer. I would like to add here, I think
20 these laws that you are making should not be just
21 for the big corporation. I think if there is big
22 problems out there in the lakes with the
23 phosphates, we have to start with the small guy
24 right to the big guy. There is a lot of problems
25 here and everybody has to get involved in this to

1 clean it up.

2 We live by the rules put in place, but
3 this pause makes it nearly impossible for us to
4 make a living and to develop future Hutterite
5 colonies which will house our young people. As
6 farmers and hog producers, we work hard to produce
7 safe quality pork for our customers in an
8 environmentally sustainable manner. We take
9 responsibility for wise stewardship of air, soil,
10 natural plants, wildlife and water resources very
11 seriously.

12 We support the Manitoba Government's
13 efforts to protect and maintain our surface and
14 groundwater supply for current and future use.
15 Manitoba's industry and Manitoba hog producers
16 very existence are tied to a sufficiently reliable
17 source of high quality water, water that is
18 critical to the raising of our livestock. Good
19 water is also important to me and my fellow
20 livestock farmers who live, work and raise
21 families on our colony. We must have the ability
22 to raise our livestock cost effectively. We must
23 have the ability and freedom to be able to grow
24 and make our living in a responsible manner.

25 We also concern ourselves with

1 nutrient management by testing all of our lands so
2 the right amount of nutrients are applied.
3 Phosphorous is a natural occurring mineral in
4 humans. It is the second most abundant mineral.
5 It is also important for crop nutrition, for
6 helping root development and helping crops grow
7 faster.

8 As most of us are aware, too much
9 phosphorous in water increases the presence of
10 algae blooms that threaten other plants and
11 organisms in lakes and rivers. However, only
12 about 13 per cent of the phosphorous in Lake
13 Winnipeg comes from agriculture, but one per cent
14 of phosphorous entering Lake Winnipeg can be
15 linked to hog farms. We can have a real argument
16 on that one.

17 If every pig in Manitoba would
18 disappear tomorrow, do you think one acre of land
19 would go unfertilized? The answer is practically
20 none. The question is, would you prefer to use a
21 chemical fertilizer or an organic hog fertilizer
22 in the form of liquid manure injected into the
23 soils to feed our crops?

24 Hog producers are not the only cause
25 for this increase in phosphorous levels. The

1 rising levels of phosphorous in Lake Winnipeg come
2 from a variety of sources, for example, industry,
3 human waste, cities and municipalities, natural
4 deposits, dishwasher detergent and lawn
5 fertilizers.

6 In our everyday life in our community,
7 we can remove phosphorous from our households by
8 using phosphorous free laundry soap. We make our
9 own. It came back testing -- we have got some
10 test reports here -- it came back at 2 per cent,
11 while the bought store was 18 per cent. So it is
12 quite a difference.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: What do you make it out
14 of?

15 MR. HOFER: All kinds of good stuff,
16 secret recipe. You can come and buy some. We
17 might have to start making our living with this
18 stuff. Plus, I dare say, it does twice the job,
19 that is a fact.

20 Dishwashing soap and lawn fertilizers
21 and reducing the use of car and truck wash soap --
22 that is another big one. When you watch a car
23 wash out there, and the soap they are using, I
24 think I can just about say that three of these car
25 washes make more phosphorous than our hog barn

1 does, when I watch them. It is quite feasible to
2 wash a vehicle mechanically without soap.

3 We believe that we are very
4 responsible in our manure management, along with
5 the rest of our day-to-day farm life. We invite
6 everyone and anyone to visit our colony and see
7 our lifestyle and our life on the farm and how we
8 go about with the manure systems. Thursday is a
9 good day, that is when we have our special chicken
10 and chips.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: We should have gone
12 there for lunch.

13 MR. HOFER: Yes, today is Thursday.

14 In 1970 the Government of Canada
15 banned the production of all detergents containing
16 more than 20 per cent phosphate. Exempt from the
17 ban were detergents used in dishwashers, car
18 washes and manufacturing. We are as concerned
19 with the protection of our environment as you are.
20 Attitudes of water consumers have evolved over
21 time and over many generations. There is no
22 question that we must be more careful in our
23 stewardship of this precious life sustaining
24 resource.

25 Agriculture is our livelihood and the

1 livelihood of our neighbors, but it is getting
2 increasingly harder to sustain. We have got four
3 neighbors at home right now, they left the family
4 at home, the kids, wives, the industry is not
5 there any more for them to get the farm going.
6 They are up in Alberta on the oil rigs. And that
7 is a very sad situation to us.

8 We don't want to see our children from
9 Marble Ridge Colony leave our Hutterite way of
10 life and our traditions to find work elsewhere
11 because our farming way of life loses its purpose
12 or is no longer substantial. This could lead to a
13 very sad future for our Colony and our way of
14 life. We are depending on a sustainable
15 environment in the future to offer hope to the
16 children on our colony so that they will have
17 choice to remain in the community, to work and
18 live.

19 Thanks for your time and consideration
20 of my comments and concerns. And as my grandpa
21 used to say, that we all got to go that extra mile
22 here. I think he had a good comment there. If a
23 man does only what is required of him, he is a
24 slave. If a man does more than is required of
25 him, he is a free man. Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hofer.

2 How big is the hog operation on your colony?

3 MR. HOFER: 1100 sows, and half -- we
4 have about enough finisher space for them, like to
5 finish them off in the colony. We either sell
6 weanlings or we will get other farms to raise them
7 for us.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Wayne.

9 MR. MOTHERAL: I'm a little more
10 curious, Mr. Hofer, you say that your solids go
11 through a manure separator. Can you describe that
12 process a little bit?

13 MR. HOFER: Well, it is a manure
14 separator, I guess what it is, it is a piston and
15 it plunges it through, and by the time -- once
16 that piston pushes it through, basically the dry
17 matter comes out one end and the water, it is
18 basically water that we could probably drink it.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: So you squeeze the
20 liquid out?

21 MR. HOFER: We squeeze it out.

22 MR. MOTHERAL: It is not like a
23 centrifuge or force or something, you are actually
24 just squeezing it out?

25 MR. HOFER: No, it is very clean water

1 coming out of there. We got this from Northwest
2 Labs. The moisture was 99.4 per cent, correction,
3 so that is pretty impressive, there is a .6 per
4 cent left in there, in that water content after
5 this separator takes care of it.

6 MR. MOTHERAL: Then what do you do
7 with the solids?

8 MR. HOFER: We have an old slurry at
9 home with a concrete floor, and we put them in
10 there in the winter time. In the summer we take
11 our phosphorous tests on them, and into the soil,
12 and we will spread them accordingly on the field
13 and work them in there, the good way.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: This particular
15 separator, I think you said it cost about
16 \$140,000?

17 MR. HOFER: With the building and
18 everything, it cost \$140,000.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: How many hogs could
20 it --

21 MR. HOFER: It is good for this
22 operation.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: So about 1100?

24 MR. HOFER: It could probably take a
25 1500 sow, farrow to finish.

1 MR. MOTHERAL: Was this your own
2 technology or was this --

3 MR. HOFER: I wish.

4 MR. MOTHERAL: I guess the answer is
5 no.

6 MR. HOFER: No. We bought it off a
7 guy who gave us, you know -- we weren't forced to
8 do this, we just did it for the environment and
9 for future.

10 MR. MOTHERAL: The reason why I ask is
11 that we are hearing lots of new technologies on
12 how to improve, as some people call it, waste or
13 the byproduct or the fertilizer, whatever. We are
14 hearing different technologies and I never heard
15 the squeeze yet.

16 MR. HOFER: It is a plunger and it
17 actually squeezes it through. And the liquids,
18 they are forced on one end, and it is an auger
19 type thing and it augers it out.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for
22 coming down here today, Mr. Hofer.

23 That brings us to the end of our list
24 of people who have registered for this afternoon.
25 We have three people who have indicated they wish

1 to speak after supper. If there are any others in
2 the audience right now who would like to make a
3 presentation this afternoon, please just stand up
4 and come forward?

5 Please introduce yourself, sir.

6 MR. HEDGES: I'm Murray Hedges from
7 Hodgson.

8 MURRAY HEDGES, having being sworn, presented an
9 follows:

10 MR. HEDGES: I was very impressed with
11 what I heard from the Colony, Marble Ridge. I
12 live approximately one and a half miles north of
13 the ridge, and they are higher than I am because
14 of the way the land flows from the south to the
15 north, to the lake.

16 I moved to Hodgson in 1990. And
17 around about 5:00 o'clock to 6:00 o'clock in the
18 evening, we would get this awful smell from the
19 Marble Ridge Colony. And as a joke we would say,
20 oh, they must be changing shifts, because the
21 smell came around the same time. Over the years,
22 I have knocked the way things were going and
23 disapproved of some of the things, but one of the
24 things that was always in the back of my mind was
25 that Marble Ridge was a family farm, not a

1 stockholders farm where shares are sold.

2 So common sense told me that the
3 Hutterite people would not be devastating their
4 own land and ruining their own water, because they
5 live there, not like a person who had shares in a
6 hog barn, couldn't care less what happened at the
7 hog barn as long as he got his dividends from the
8 shares. It was a totally different situation with
9 the Hutterites. But I do know from living there
10 that things have changed, a couple of 100 per cent
11 compared to what they were when I first went
12 there. We don't get the smell and that, and we
13 have no problems with anything there. So I would
14 congratulate the Marble Ridge Colony on the
15 achievements. And I wasn't aware of all of the
16 new technology that they had there. I knew they
17 did have new technology, but I wasn't aware of
18 what they were. So I would like to mention the
19 fact of that.

20 But I also, I'm concerned about large
21 hog barns which are just strictly a commercial
22 thing with shareholders, and really what is a
23 shareholder's concern about people that live in
24 the area? Couldn't care less as long as he gets
25 his dividends. And that is my argument against

1 large industrial hog barns. Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hedges.

3 Questions? Thank you, sir.

4 Bill Cochrane? Is Bill Cochrane here?

5 I will get you next, sir.

6 BILL COCHRANE, presented as follows:

7 MR. COCHRANE: I hold here in my hand
8 the first agreement that holds jurisdiction over
9 all of this land. My people agreed to share the
10 water because we couldn't sell it, the air because
11 we couldn't sell it, the land because we couldn't
12 sell it, the minerals because we couldn't sell it,
13 because we know it didn't belong to us. We agreed
14 to share. We have never ceded, we have never
15 sold, we have never relinquished, me being the
16 caretaker, the steward of this land, we have never
17 ceded.

18 I personally take offence at people's
19 inability to comprehend ecological terrorism. We
20 all know what terrorism is. My people have been
21 subject to that for 500 years plus. Now, many of
22 us are being subjected to ecological terrorism.
23 Where are my children going to get clean water?
24 Lake Winnipeg is already looking at losing its
25 commercial fisheries in 50 years because of the

1 pollution.

2 There are laws out there that state
3 specifically that I have jurisdiction, as a treaty
4 Indian, I have jurisdiction on whether that lake,
5 on who to hold accountable when that lake, if that
6 lake becomes polluted with pig shit and piss, or
7 human shit and piss. There needs to be proper
8 guidelines as how to deal with all of the
9 effluent -- one 6,000 hog operation produces the
10 same amount of effluent, that pig piss and shit,
11 as a city the size the Brandon. And yet it is a
12 farm, so you can just throw it on the ground,
13 throw it in the ditch.

14 That flows through my reserve. That
15 flows to all of the native people who live along
16 the lakes and rivers. Maybe you don't care, but I
17 care about my children. I care about your
18 children. I have jurisdiction and there is laws
19 providing that. I don't want to, but if I have
20 to, I will use them. Maybe no one else has enough
21 guts to stand up here and speak the truth, but
22 this right here is the truth. No one can lie to
23 this. And if anyone tries to lie to this, then
24 they will be the loser. I stand here and
25 challenge anyone to prove me wrong.

1 Think of your children. I'm telling
2 you right here, right now, I do not want piss and
3 shit in my native waters. There is no time now
4 for environmental and/or ecological terrorism. If
5 any of you here are thinking about the future --
6 one of our spokespeople is here and I am glad to
7 see him here -- approach your governments, demand
8 that there are strict guidelines in the disposal
9 of those effluents, and as a matter of fact, even
10 the air quality that comes out of those
11 operations, demand it.

12 Money can't buy you love, money cannot
13 buy your children's health, and anybody that
14 thinks it can, well, they are sadly mistaken.
15 Nitrates in the water, our drinking water, causes
16 us to have born mental problems, born physical
17 problems, anywhere from minimal to maximal damage
18 to our mind and bodies because of the nitrates in
19 the drinking water, a woman drinking that because
20 they are pregnant. You don't care because your
21 children are fine. What about their children? I
22 have seen it.

23 It is time to open our eyes. Where
24 there is smoke, there is generally fire. I demand
25 accountable actions now. I command you to wake up

1 your senses, wake up your heart, wake up your
2 spirit. This thing will not be made a lie out of.
3 I have spoken.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
5 Mr. Cochrane. The gentleman in the second row?
6 Please introduce yourself, sir?

7 MR. WIFT: My name is Joe Wift from
8 Broad Valley Colony.

9 JOE WIFT, after being sworn, presented as follows:

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, Mr. Wift.

11 MR. WIFT: I guess initially I was
12 asked to speak here, I thought I was on the list,
13 but anyhow, I will introduce myself. I'm Joe Wift
14 from Broad Valley Colony. Broad Valley Colony has
15 been there since 1974, it is in the Interlake
16 area. It is 11 miles west from here and three
17 north. And we have been hog producers for
18 approximately 33 years. I have been asked to
19 speak here on the challenges and the hardships
20 that we are faced, financially and physically.

21 The challenges that we face are very
22 stressful and you have to deal with them in
23 stride. We, at Broad Valley Colony, how it was in
24 1976 when we first started our hog industry,
25 versus 2007, it is a whole new era, it is totally

1 different. Mr. Hedges here said the Marble Ridge
2 Colony, and the way they were and the way they are
3 today, it is completely different. We don't
4 operate that way anymore.

5 Raising hogs has become a way of life
6 to our colony. We have become better farm
7 stewards now by managing our farm wiser, both
8 economically and environmentally. It is a big
9 concern to us in these two sectors.

10 In earlier years, I will give you some
11 background, in earlier years it used to be just
12 get rid of manure, and we used to spread where it
13 was most accessible, summer or winter, just to get
14 it out of there, that was the way it was. Today
15 that is not anymore. We have a drag hose system
16 and we can apply hog slurry up to three miles from
17 our slurry storage system. We have a metering
18 system on the injection tool and we set the
19 injection tool according to what our manure
20 management plan advises us to do.

21 The next thing is, today we have
22 enough storage on our farm for 400 days. In other
23 words, our thousand sow, farrow to finish
24 operation, we have 400 day storage there. And we
25 can do it, all of our manure injection, after

1 harvest when all our fields are accessible.

2 Today the government provides a manure
3 management plan it is called, which all hog
4 producers have to comply with. And the way they
5 do it is they send us an application, and we have
6 the soil tests on the particular fields we have in
7 mind, and we will always do two to 3,000 acres and
8 send the results back. And they will either issue
9 a permit for that particular field or they won't,
10 if it is too high in nitrogen or phosphorous.

11 Today we have learned that hog manure
12 has valuable nutrients. We got our hog manure
13 tested years ago, 1,000 gallons of manure had
14 22 pounds of nitrogen, and that is in the hog
15 slurry. So if you are putting it on 4,000 acres,
16 4,000 gallons an acre, you are getting 80 pounds,
17 and that is equivalent to \$40 an acre at today's
18 nitrogen prices which we would be saving. And a
19 ton of phos today is around \$550 a ton, and to do
20 the same math, it is \$18.36 an acre what we are
21 putting on there. So, in other words, yes, the
22 \$18.36, plus the \$40, which is around \$58 an acre,
23 so why would we be wasting it? That is \$58 an
24 acre in savings that we are saving already.

25 And it says here today, and for spring

1 annual inputs there is approximately 1100 acres
2 every year which we do not apply fertilizer,
3 either nitrogen or phosphate. We don't, no spring
4 inputs for those fields.

5 At Broad Valley Colony we have one
6 well, one well with a 15 horse submersible pump
7 down there. It feeds the entire Colony, the
8 livestock, the kitchen, school, dwellings,
9 everything. Lakeshore School Division, they come
10 and test our water semi-annually. And our feed
11 nutritionist, they come and sample our water in
12 the barns. And always those tests, they always
13 test the tests, they are fit for human consumption
14 and livestock consumption.

15 In our pumphouse, compared to
16 different colonies in the south, they have
17 filters, they have chlorine injectors to cleanse
18 and purify their water. We don't have anything
19 like that, we have no chlorine, we have no
20 filters. We drink the same water that the
21 livestock does.

22 As for surface water quality, I
23 mentioned before we used to spread hog slurry at
24 any given time of the year. If you spread on
25 frozen field, there tends to be run-off. Now to

1 correct that problem we inject all hog slurry four
2 inches deep in the fall time, when the ground is
3 not frozen, which results in virtually no run-off
4 or odour.

5 We, as hog producers, have come a long
6 way in the last ten years in being better farm
7 stewards. We at Broad Valley Colony believe that
8 we have to keep our water quality and air quality
9 healthy. It is not only for us, it is for our
10 neighbors, it is for our kids, it is for our
11 future. We don't want to drink hog slurry.

12 So we are just asking you, please be
13 careful about what you decide on this hog
14 moratorium. You are faced with very serious
15 decisions. First and foremost, we have to protect
16 our water and air quality, but at the same time
17 the government has in place strict regulations
18 that hog producers have to comply with. We have
19 straightened out our act as hog producers, and I
20 think it is time to quit pointing fingers at hog
21 producers and find out who the real polluters are.

22 Somebody here mentioned that one per
23 cent of the phosphorous level in Lake Winnipeg
24 comes from hog producers. Where does the other 99
25 per cent come from? That is my question.

1 Manitoba has natural resources, and
2 one of them is cereal grain growing. Years ago
3 the government used to pay the freight of the
4 grain going to the shipping ports in Vancouver or
5 Thunder Bay. They subsidized the farmer to pay
6 the rate. They did away with that. The
7 government, if you have sold any grains to any
8 elevator lately, which we did two weeks ago, we
9 sold some to Agricore, and out of 85 tonnes we got
10 deducted \$3,986.40, deductions that is in freight,
11 Keystone levy, weight inspection fees, removal of
12 dockage. Mr. Johnstone, when he was sitting here,
13 the manager of Puratone, when you take a little
14 bit of wheat over there, they only charge you half
15 a percent shrinkage. That is the only deduction
16 there is. If you want to sell to these people,
17 Agricore or the Wheat Board, you are faced with up
18 to dollar a bushel in deductions. So why not keep
19 these grains in Manitoba? Why not keep it here?
20 Let us benefit from it.

21 And another thing is, it is scary how
22 our young people are leaving the province, the
23 city, small towns. Don't think it is in the big
24 towns only or -- you go to Fisher Branch or Broad
25 Valley there, it is a small town. There is old

1 people there. What happened to your young people?
2 Well, they went out west, they went to the oil
3 patch, that is where the big money is made. This
4 is happening in colonies too, our young people are
5 leaving. If you take away our livelihood from us,
6 what is going to attract our people to stay in
7 colonies?

8 And in closing, I want to tell you a
9 story. I'm a Christian, I don't want to preach to
10 you, but when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan
11 River approximately 2,000 years ago, he walked on
12 this earth, he was a man, he was 5'6 feet to
13 6 feet tall. He got baptized when he was 30 years
14 old. And it was said that he could look down from
15 his waist, he was waist deep in water and he could
16 see his toes, his sandals. That is clean water.
17 Today I got this flyer from Israel, not today a
18 week ago, that same river that Jesus was baptized
19 in, it says Jordan River is a health hazard
20 because of sewage dumped into the Jordan River,
21 there are springs along the way which replenish it
22 a bit, but unfortunately it has become a dumping
23 yard of countries. And it says Israel, Jordan and
24 Syria are each grabbing as much clean water as
25 they can, and sadly it is the sewage that is

1 keeping the river alive today.

2 And we don't want that. We feel for
3 these people. We feel for our kids. We don't
4 want to pollute, but in the last 15 to 20 years we
5 have become better, we have become smarter. We
6 have straightened out our act, I think we did.
7 So, it has cost us hundreds of thousands of
8 dollars. We have enough storage at home, like I
9 said, for 400 days which is 10 million gallons.
10 And we have brought in a hose injection system
11 which is virtually no spillage or nothing
12 contaminating roads or ditches anymore. And it is
13 a very nice metering system, you can apply to your
14 field very uniform. We are not over-applying
15 anymore. So, if they are going to pressure us
16 more, it won't be feasible for us to raise hogs.
17 That is all. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
19 Mr. Wift.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: One question. Do you
21 cover your septic field or wintering field?

22 MR. WIFT: No.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: You don't need to.
24 Okay.

25 MR. WIFT: The question has arisen,

1 our neighbors north of us, that is where the smell
2 tends to go. We have asked them -- and there is
3 some here today if you would like to ask them if
4 they smell anything. But I have asked them and
5 they said only when the winds, sometimes they get
6 a whiff of it, but not like it used to be. You
7 see, on ours at home it tends to make its own
8 natural cover. There is a crust on top about two
9 inches thick, and it kind of seals off the liquids
10 below. It is a natural covering.

11 MR. YEE: My only question was, what
12 size of operation do you have?

13 MR. WIFT: We have a thousand sow,
14 farrow to finish, but there is 2,000 pigs in straw
15 in -- whoever did the presentation before, when we
16 first initially started the hog operation, we only
17 had 18 piglets to a sow, now we are up to 25, so
18 we ran out of space and we had to construct these
19 alternative barns.

20 MR. YEE: Are those the hoop
21 structures?

22 MR. WIFT: That is the ones, yes. And
23 there is 20 feet by 40 in front where the feeder
24 and the water is, and then the back, it is straw
25 where they sleep.

1 MR. YEE: Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you use any of the
3 enzymes or technologies that Mr. Hofer from Marble
4 Ridge talked about?

5 MR. WIFT: Yeah, we do, we use it in
6 our barns to -- it is like he said, the guys
7 before, they had to wash and wash and wash just to
8 get these enzymes going so they could really flush
9 it. Now there is really nothing. You just pull
10 the plug and there is an inch of manure left, that
11 is all. We do use it in our hog feed, yes.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
13 Does anyone else wish to make a presentation this
14 afternoon?

15 Mr. Caners, would you state your name
16 for the record, please?

17 ALVIN CANERS, having been sworn, presented as
18 follows:

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

20 MR. CANERS: Mr. Chairman, members of
21 the panel, my name is Alvin Caners. I take this
22 opportunity to address this public hearing today
23 because I operate an Agri-business directly
24 related to the hog industry. I own equipment and
25 custom apply liquid hog manure on annual crops and

1 forage land. I'm also a grain farmer.

2 I would like to address the
3 application of liquid hog manure to farmland, and
4 know that this liquid waste is an economical and
5 environmentally sustainable implement for
6 increasing crop production. It also provides an
7 efficient waste management system for the hog
8 industry. The nutrients in hog manure, in many
9 cases, replaces commercial fertilizers and
10 provides a value to the farmers.

11 I know that getting the maximum value
12 out of liquid hog manure requires applying manure
13 at proper rates and using good application
14 methods. I'm also well aware that overapplication
15 and improper application can lead to nutrients
16 leaching into the groundwater or throughout
17 overland flow.

18 Our business relies on GPS systems
19 that give accuracy to every application. The best
20 management practices for manure application is
21 very essential for our business, because it gives
22 our customer the accuracy of application.

23 The following steps that our business
24 takes ensures accuracy and keeps errors of
25 application at minimum or nil. Manure nutrient

1 analysis are required prior to application. Soil
2 testing is required to determine the amount of
3 nutrients that the soil requires. Matching crop
4 nutrient demand to nutrient applied must be done
5 to get optimum crop results. Using a GPS gives
6 the best accuracy of application for each field.
7 Keeping good records and monitoring those records
8 closely is very important to keeping the soil and
9 water quality healthy.

10 The intensive hog farmers or corporate
11 farm factories, as many refer to, are so regulated
12 by the Province of Manitoba. A manure management
13 plan must be filed with the Province of Manitoba
14 prior to each manure application and has to be
15 approved prior to spreading. The process also
16 sees random audits done on fields to monitor
17 accuracy of application.

18 It is of the utmost importance that
19 the Clean Environment Commission study the effects
20 of nutrients, specifically nitrogen and
21 phosphorous, entering into our water. But you
22 must do so by not only attacking the intensive hog
23 farmers, but you must consider all aspects of
24 agriculture, small or large -- yes, as well the
25 small family farm. Everyone has a part to play in

1 making sure that the soil and water remains
2 healthy for future generations. You must also
3 monitor large industrial corporations as well as
4 study the effects of municipal and city lagoons,
5 discharge and waste disposal sites.

6 You are playing with the mind of
7 intensive hog farmers and their futures being held
8 at ransom. The public has a perception and has
9 painted a dismal picture of the way they feel that
10 the hog industry has contributed to the pollution
11 of Lake Winnipeg. I would like to think that this
12 industry has been regulated way more than any
13 other in the province. I feel that those
14 regulations were set to give direction to the
15 industry, of which I'm sure is complying well
16 within the regulations, and not only because they
17 got regulated but because they reap the benefits
18 of clean water and healthy soil. This is their
19 future. This guarantees them economical
20 sustainability, one that will see them farming the
21 land for future generations.

22 My only hope is that the government of
23 the day isn't going to succumb to public pressure
24 with a provincial vote looming in the near future,
25 but rather the decision will be made by the

1 scientific data collected to determine the
2 polluters, including every sector of the
3 population and not just people who are producing
4 safe meat products for all consumers. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Caners.
6 Mr. Caner, is it correct, do you or people that
7 apply manure to fields, do you have to have
8 certification of some kind?

9 MR. CANERS: Not yet, that is very
10 close.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Will you be
12 grandfathered in? Not alluding to your age but --
13 you will have to go and get the certification?

14 MR. CANERS: You will have to get
15 certified.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Even though you have
17 been doing it?

18 MR. CANERS: Yes.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
20 Mr. Caners. Anybody else wish to make a
21 presentation this afternoon?

22 State your name, sir?

23 MR. PLETT: My name is Ron Plett.

24 RON PLETT, after being sworn, presented as
25 follows:

1 MR. PLETT: Thank you for this
2 opportunity. I am an Ag producer and poultry
3 grower locally, just north of town here. I want
4 to echo what has been said here today, that we, as
5 a small family farm, we greatly care about the
6 water, we care about the environment, we are very
7 concerned to keep the water and the environment
8 there for our children and grandchildren.

9 A few of the things we have done to
10 address some of these is we have, I think we have
11 come to realize the value of manure. On our farm,
12 we treat it as a very valuable fertilizer. It is
13 in our best interests therefore not to over-apply
14 and to grow crops that use up the nutrients. We
15 have also, one of our operations we have converted
16 from liquid manure to dry manure, which greatly
17 reduces the volume of manure, and also a lot less
18 odour and easier to apply.

19 I had the opportunity of taking the
20 environmental farm plan about a year ago, and that
21 was an excellent workshop in helping me identify
22 various concerns and addressing them on our farm.
23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Plett.
25 How big is your operation?

1 MR. PLETT: We have 8,000 layers and
2 we grow 26,000 pullets annually, on two separate
3 operations.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you
5 very much. We don't have anybody else on the list
6 but the last two or three weren't on our list
7 either. I'm going to take a break now for about
8 ten or fifteen minutes. If any of you wish to
9 make a presentation, please speak to me or Cathy,
10 or Joyce at the back table, and just let us know,
11 or come back up again when we reconvene in about
12 ten or fifteen minutes.

13 (Proceedings recessed at 3:01 p.m.
14 and reconvened at 7:00 p.m)

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening, welcome
16 back, we will now continue with our proceedings.
17 We have had three individuals indicate that they
18 would like to make presentations this evening. If
19 there are any others, would you please identify
20 yourself to Joyce at the table by the back door?

21 The first person we have on the agenda
22 for the evening is Joe Leschyshyn.

23 MR. LESCHYSHYN: My name is Joe
24 Leschyshyn, I live in Poplarfield. I don't have
25 too much to say.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: We just need to
2 administer the oath, Mr. Leschyshyn.
3 JOE LESCHYSHYN, having been sworn, presented as
4 follows:

5 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

6 MR. LESCHYSHYN: Yes, stewards of the
7 land, air and the water, Mr. Chairman, panel,
8 ladies and gentlemen, good evening. It may take
9 me more than 15 minutes, but I will still be
10 honest and I might be very critical at times, but
11 that is the only vehicle that I have left to
12 convey with, to tell the truth.

13 Someone has taken away my goodwill for
14 the last 15 years. My finger points at what I
15 call the order, the assembly of politicians,
16 bureaucrats, and other rats, and the hog industry,
17 who without any respect have caused enormous
18 strain on our well-being and more so on our
19 environment. We can't live our lives without
20 being affected by this sordid industry.

21 This same order has continually fudged
22 the real intent of the citizens and denied us of
23 our rights. This order has no respect for
24 democracy. When the trumpets blew last November,
25 with the moratorium in the air, its facts were

1 slowly trimmed. A little more than a handful of
2 areas were selected for the hearings. Our First
3 Nations, who unknowingly suffer from the
4 consequences, were left out of these
5 presentations. I know that we can communicate by
6 letter and that, but there is nothing like the
7 real thing like we have here. But they are not
8 forgotten on election day. We have no right to
9 pollute their sacred water. It is the essence of
10 their survival.

11 Your economic contaminants pour into
12 their communities as if it is poured out of a
13 factory. There are provisions for prosecution for
14 polluting their water, no political balls. This
15 order even has the power to have me leave my
16 birthplace where my family farmed and worked very
17 hard, by simply ignoring me and not answering my
18 requests for rectifying anything. Do nothing, say
19 nothing, he will move on his own. That is what I
20 had to do. One consolation was to prepare me for
21 the old folks home.

22 A person by the name of Ruth Pryzner,
23 who I'm sure you are well aware of, has given me
24 consent to endorse her many questions that she has
25 provided to your department, and no one is

1 answering. I'm asking on her accord that these
2 questions be answered to me as well in due time.
3 Section 238 of the Criminal Code provides
4 certification to this cause, but it could be cost
5 prohibitive -- cost effective. It should not cost
6 anyone to secure the truth. I am not asking for
7 military secrets, neither is she. These questions
8 are in reference to her observations of the state
9 of the art hog industry.

10 And I don't want -- I take exception
11 to the beautiful picture on television that the
12 government is portraying of a native child and the
13 beauty of clean water. It is a total farce. It
14 is to fudge our minds. In reality that child
15 should be standing beside a pool of filthy water,
16 not a clean pool of clean water. That way
17 television could even be more realistic.

18 Our vast array of laws and regulations
19 have a numbing effect, they are more crooked than
20 a dog's hind leg. These numerous laws only give
21 the culprits a chance to sneak around and hide in.

22 More important than anything else is
23 the question of jurisdiction in your hearings. Is
24 the CEC bound by the Charter of Rights and
25 Freedoms of 1982?

1 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't know where it
2 would be relevant.

3 MR. LESCHYSHYN: Regardless, okay,
4 let it be irrelevant.

5 Back in 1985 when Harry Enns endorsed
6 the building of a barn in Chatfield, he stated
7 that regardless of what Interlakers think, the
8 barn will be built. Further, he sent his regional
9 director, Andrew Dickson, who crashed our meeting
10 at the RM chambers in Inwood and rudely stated
11 that Harry Enns said that this project goes
12 through, whether we like it or not. This order
13 again has had control over us since. Obviously,
14 this order is not working for the people.

15 Further to my interest, people with
16 the likes of Mr. Enns and others will continue to
17 dictate to us and against our wishes. It is
18 because they are serving us in an uncharted
19 jurisdiction and to our detriment.

20 A reference to section 25, section A,
21 paragraph A, sorry, of the Canadian Charter of
22 Rights and Freedoms of 1982, of which we are all
23 bound to, it states, that all lands not ceded or
24 surrendered to George III are lands reserved to
25 the Indians. Section 25, paragraph A, deals with

1 pledges laid down by George III in his Royal
2 Proclamation of 1763 as enunciated from his
3 private abode, the St. James Palace.

4 I have also found no evidence that any
5 bona fide treaties which would have caused the
6 Royal Proclamation of 1763 to have been abandoned
7 since 1763, and I hold the CEC to the strictest
8 proof that the land currently under scrutiny have
9 been ceded or surrendered by the Indians to Queen
10 Victoria. My research has yielded that Ottawa's
11 authority and the elected officials that carry on
12 business under the guise of being our elected
13 members of the legislatures and the parliament,
14 are in point of fact trespassing on Indian
15 territory in violation and out of contempt of the
16 royal instructions and pledges as found in the
17 Royal Proclamation of 1763.

18 We will require a quorum in order to
19 make any consensus practical and binding. We can
20 not have a small percentage of people making a --
21 for you to make a consensus on for the rest of
22 Manitobans. We have a million Manitobans and only
23 a few are responding to the hearings. We should
24 not be able to have that happen. I think we need
25 a quorum, more than 50 per cent at least, to

1 qualify to be put into law, that either we sail or
2 else we don't. It is not fair that such a small
3 majority of participants have to name the rules of
4 the game after the hearings are heard and done
5 with.

6 Thank you. Any questions?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: No. Thank you, very
8 much, Mr. Leschyshyn.

9 MR. LESCHYSHYN: Thank you. Pardon
10 me, I do have some literature that I understand
11 might be pertinent to your cause from other
12 jurisdictions. Would you like to have it?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, please.

14 MR. LESCHYSHYN: I will do that after
15 the program.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Peter
17 Marykuca.

18 MR. MARYKUCA: Yes. My name is Peter
19 Marykuca.

20 PETER MARYKUCA, having been sworn, presented as
21 follows:

22 MR. MARYKUCA: Chairman, panelists,
23 ladies and gentlemen, my name is Peter Marykuca.
24 I live on a small acreage not far from the Silver
25 hog barns. I'm not a farmer.

1 I welcome this panel to Arborg and
2 thank you for taking a genuine interest in some
3 serious issues. My presentation consists of
4 exhibits and documents, photographs, to bring into
5 focus and better explain my views, opinions and
6 conclusions.

7 I would like to say that I'm sure that
8 governments must already know that there are
9 health and environmental problems in Manitoba
10 stemming from hog barn activities. There have
11 been many boil water, no swimming notices posted
12 throughout the province in recent years. As well,
13 David Green reported -- stated that the Icelandic
14 River basin was in toxic phosphorous overload. It
15 made front page news in the Interlake Spectator a
16 number of years ago.

17 The physical properties of the
18 Interlake. The Interlake is mainly gently rolling
19 land dotted with potholes, sloughs, much of which
20 is marginal, non-arable land.

21 Poor soils and substrates. The land
22 is drained by various rivers, creeks, drainage
23 ditches that eventually point to Lake Winnipeg.
24 The land was once fairly uniformly populated by
25 settlers with hundreds of homesteads and hand-dug

1 wells. Fortunately, for some homesteads, they
2 even had Artesian wells. Natural springs also
3 occur in frequent locations, with high water
4 tables and sink holes if the water table drops low
5 enough, thus making a direct conduit to the
6 aquifers in many known and unknown places.

7 A dangerous pollutant. The creation
8 of this liquid hog waste byproduct called hog
9 slurry is not regulated under the Dangerous Goods
10 and Handling Transportation Act. It should be.
11 Liquid hog manure contains known pathogens,
12 viruses, bacterias, parasites and other known hog
13 diseases, and residue from hormones, antibiotics,
14 detergents and disinfectants. It is passed off as
15 a fertilizer. It doesn't get transferred -- it
16 does get transferred and occasionally spilled on
17 public roads where there is public travel and the
18 possibility of exposure. As if that risk was not
19 enough, many of these pathogens, hormones and
20 antibiotics are systemic to plants and find their
21 way into the food chain, demonstrated by the
22 recent contamination of spinach from the Salinas
23 Valley in California. I think the headings were,
24 "E coli Outbreak Takes Its Toll in California's
25 Salinas Valley."

1 As the public is getting aware of
2 healthier living lifestyles and conscientious of
3 their food intake, I remind you that liquid hog
4 slurry is not organic. Therefore, we must be
5 cognizant of what we are allowing to enter the
6 food chain through agriculture.

7 The documents and exhibits. Number 1,
8 the documents that I have touch base on the
9 following things: The municipality of Bifrost,
10 November 12, 1993, writes a letter to Interlake
11 Weanlings Inc. and carbon copied to the
12 Conservative Filmon government officials and
13 others, that mentions negative impacts.

14 Number 2, the transmission of diseases
15 from hog barns is possible, air, water and soils,
16 and from animals to people and from people to
17 animals. You have a copy of that exhibit.

18 Staying back on number 2,
19 cryptosporidium is even more resistant to chlorine
20 than giardia. In 1996 an outbreak of
21 cryptosporidiosis, an intestinal illness similar
22 to giardia, was reported in Kelowna where an
23 estimated 15,000 people became ill. In Dauphin,
24 Manitoba, in 1996, the latter incidents involved
25 over 30 confirmed cases of giardias. And that was

1 published by the Manitoba Government, 1997. And
2 that is in exhibits 2, 3 and 4.

3 A contributing factor to Lake Winnipeg
4 by means of sewage entering drains -- a
5 contributing pollution factor to Lake Winnipeg by
6 means of sewage entering drains from agriculture
7 operations is no longer acceptable in the
8 Interlake region. Native people and fishers of
9 Lake Winnipeg must be considered when it comes to
10 their health and their families as they are
11 constantly working in that environment. I guess
12 we all need to find out from the CEC just where
13 does the hog industry relate to when it comes to
14 the medical clinic?

15 Now, that would be indicated up here
16 on the screen. If you look on the screen there,
17 that was a picture taken of a drainage ditch, and
18 you can see the algae, and that is near the
19 headwaters of the Willow Creek which drains into
20 Lake Winnipeg just south of Gimli. And that is
21 off, about a mile, mile and a half west of -- or
22 east of number 7 highway at Malontin.

23 Number 6, transmission diseases from
24 hog barns is possible by air, water and soils and
25 from road spillage. So you can look into here.

1 This picture shows a tanker truck, actually two
2 tanker trucks making deposits of fertilizer on
3 cattle pasture, probably an old homestead, most of
4 them are in the area, particularly near the Silver
5 barns and other places.

6 It is with, I would say condolences,
7 and unfortunately that three people died when they
8 were overcome by poisonous gas from their liquid
9 system a few years ago in a local colony. If it
10 was treated and regulated as a hazardous byproduct
11 in an industry, it should not have happened. It
12 should be.

13 The Municipality of Bifrost imposes a
14 restriction on the importation of hog manure from
15 the outside of its boundaries because Mrs. Kay
16 Bergman presented council with a letter from her
17 doctor stating that the stench from the hog waste
18 contributed to her medical condition. You have in
19 your package, there will be an affidavit from Kay
20 Bergman, and now I came up with the actual note
21 from her doctor.

22 This is an interesting one. Number 7,
23 obvious overapplication in 1995, it shows the
24 ponding on selected spread field. I want to draw
25 to your attention to that area right there, okay,

1 that was a spread field that you can see was
2 flooded. Okay. What is this here? Okay.

3 I requested the CEC delegate the
4 Environment Department to do a complete study of
5 any seepage at this Interlake weaning operation,
6 including their lagoons, as well as all other hog
7 barns located in the Interlake and make their
8 findings public.

9 Now, even though it was in 1995,
10 nothing has changed. That stuff has got to go
11 some place. And yeah, there are scientific means
12 of doing this and we should find out exactly what
13 is going on underneath that soil.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Where is that,
15 Mr. Marykuca?

16 MR. MARYKUCA: That is on the west
17 side of the Interlake weanling hog barn on road
18 number 124, and about half a mile west of east 15,
19 mile 15 east of this principal meridian on highway
20 124, 124 north of the 49th parallel, which is a
21 border, it is 149 miles, I believe, north of the
22 Manitoba border, okay, which gives you your
23 east/west roads and the principal meridian is
24 running north and south. That is exhibit number
25 9.

1 Now, staying with this one, this is
2 their lagoon, okay. You see this? What is this
3 here? Now, I don't expect you to answer that
4 because you don't know, so I'm going to tell you.
5 Unfortunately, they had an accident, the roof
6 collapsed, I think it was seven pigs died in the
7 first year, first or second year of operation, and
8 this hole ended up there. As I did not trespass,
9 we flew over the site. Why? Because that is a
10 thing that I had to do. Same as the other
11 gentlemen who were with me. So I took that
12 picture, and then I have sat on it until this
13 time. I might be old but I have got a real good
14 memory. That is why I want it checked, I want to
15 know what is going on, because these are marginal
16 lands. If this untreated sewage is so great a
17 fertilizer, why are some producers spreading it on
18 marginal land and cattle pasture without
19 incorporating it into the soil? I heard two
20 people, and I commend them, Mr. Hofer, Mr. Wift
21 said, yeah, we did things wrong in the past, here
22 is what we are doing now. They were men enough to
23 stand up here and say we made mistakes. I don't
24 hear anybody else saying I made a mistake. I
25 commend them.

1 And I am saying this is cattle
2 country. As I said, I'm not a farmer. Cattle
3 pasture, that grass is going to grow with their
4 stuff or without it, because they are using
5 marginal land. Not being incorporated, as in
6 exhibit number 2, when Dr. Joe Cummings said it
7 should be. Why is it not?

8 They selected the sites, gentlemen,
9 not us. And it was approved by the regional
10 advisory committee and the municipalities. If
11 they don't know what they are doing, I suggest
12 that they be man enough to stand up and say they
13 made a mistake too.

14 Why is it even allowed to be spread on
15 marginal land, considering that government
16 officials publicly stated that there was plenty of
17 arable lands near Silver? I guess they were right
18 to say that because there is, but not for pig
19 barns. Weasel words -- these are nothing but
20 evaporation fields as far as I'm concerned, and
21 they contribute to global warming.

22 Exhibits number 9 and 10, which were
23 there, the CEC should investigate the damages done
24 to pastures and Crown lands if used from untreated
25 sewage. And why I say untreated sewage, because

1 in exhibit number 10 it also refers to, by a
2 letter from a Mr. Gary Plohman, engineer, dated
3 back in 1994, that these are not meant to treat
4 the sewage, it is just raw sewage, keep it for a
5 year and throw it on the land, so it is untreated
6 sewage.

7 The reference made to Crown lands
8 used, or any other arable lands, to receive this
9 untreated sewage, and on pastures, in exhibit 12
10 it covers chronic copper poisoning in sheep
11 grazing pastures fertilized with swine manure.
12 Number 12 is, the Municipality of Gimli puts in to
13 action a bylaw, number 10-96, prohibiting the
14 importation and spreading of hog manure from
15 outside of their boundary, inside to their
16 boundary.

17 We had some new hog barns being built
18 just recently, just west of Silver, and number 14
19 covers a question that I have asked the
20 Environment Department about to check the water in
21 the ditch that flows past that area because it
22 looks very, very sensitive to me. I am not a
23 professional engineer, I am not an agricultural
24 specialist, I'm Peter Marykuca. And I asked for
25 the Environment Department, before these barns go

1 into action, come and do a sampling of the water,
2 because I know you can look at it, it is crystal
3 clear, I wouldn't be afraid to drink that water
4 because it is Artesian fed by many wells in the
5 area, and springs, okay. And there it is, and the
6 barns are like a hop, skip and a jump away, just
7 so they can have some legal thrust that they can
8 put into play if -- not accusing anybody -- but if
9 something was to go wrong, if there was run-off,
10 and this water we got contaminated where fish
11 frequent, it comes under the Department of
12 Fisheries and Oceans, and they in turn say, no, it
13 is a Provincial authority. So you have the
14 documentations there with the copies of letters
15 that I sent, and we will keep, or maybe somebody
16 will keep their eye on it.

17 We need to scrap some laws, and we
18 have to put into place, like that of the U.S.A.,
19 under the defence Criminal Code investigation,
20 responding to terrorism, where people get fined
21 \$1 million plus court costs for polluting a river.

22 There is also a number 17 exhibit, a
23 review of the effects of livestock industry on the
24 environment and human health. That is by Dr. Eva
25 Pip. She said I could use this information and I

1 am. You have a copy of that.

2 The Peguis people printed in the
3 paper, wary of nitrate levels. A couple of
4 comments were made, they were printed in there, we
5 will all be dead in 50 years. Another gentleman
6 said, yeah, I have children, and a question was
7 made about three 15,000 tankers hauling water
8 every day, paying for it by tax dollars, on the
9 roads and the trucks, et cetera, just concerns of
10 that particular paper.

11 Number 17, corporations and investors
12 appear to be more concerned about their cost of
13 production than health and the environment. This
14 attitude, in my opinion, was not acceptable then
15 and nor is it now. Sometimes you wonder who we
16 are dealing with, or who do they think they are
17 dealing with, or who do they think they are. No,
18 it doesn't work like that.

19 We have questions here regarding
20 contaminants in Lake Winnipeg. That was the hog
21 industry calls government's action to the manure
22 spillage.

23 Some contaminants like ammonia,
24 nitrogen are not common to groundwater. Somewhere
25 from someplace it has percolated down through the

1 soils into the aquifer because there is traces in
2 my well. I don't know where it came from. It
3 might have been there for five years, it could
4 have been there for 1,000 years, who knows? But
5 it is not common to groundwater, which brings us
6 up to the porosity of the substrates of the soil
7 in the Interlake region. They are susceptible to
8 pollution.

9 And exhibit 21, the government
10 authorizes Interlake swine breeders to spread
11 slurry in water hazardous zone, which was this
12 one.

13 Number 22, the CEC should take and
14 check out every law pertaining to agriculture
15 production to make sure that they were not
16 deliberately written to be unforcible, as
17 described by Mr. Markus Buchart, laws that can't
18 be broken.

19 Exhibit 23, handling of dead livestock
20 always needs to be investigated to make sure dead
21 animals be identified as to why and how they died.
22 They often, the mortalities, who are they reported
23 to? The wildlife must be protected. All pig
24 farms should be identified by GPS location and
25 then unannounced random inspections be done by the

1 health authority without restriction. That is a
2 picture of something that happened years ago where
3 dead carcasses were piled on the side of the
4 Icelandic River, but I believe I read in the paper
5 that there was another minor incident, that these
6 things have to be looked at again.

7 I would request that the CEC please
8 request and provide me information from the Water
9 Resources Branch, and detail the monthly and
10 yearly water consumption for each barn to
11 ascertain the total number of billions of gallons
12 of sewage that we are dealing with in this
13 province. As well from each and every barn, large
14 or small, that are utilizing slurry in the RMs of
15 Armstrong, Bifrost and Fisher, showing the amounts
16 and the exact GPS location of all of them,
17 including their storage facilities. I thank you
18 for that information in advance.

19 Effect of population and environment.
20 It has been shown and well publicized for the last
21 many years, it has been shown to be severely
22 detrimental to population environment. For
23 example, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Walkerton, Ontario,
24 Salinas, California, Kelowna, B.C., Dauphin,
25 Manitoba, and in our local area where groundwater

1 had been polluted by animal waste. We have not
2 yet had a major catastrophe here, but Mrs. Kay
3 Bergman's health was affected, three hog barn
4 workers did unfortunately die as a result of the
5 poisonous gas from liquid hog manure.

6 Conclusions: In view of these facts,
7 our soils are very porous and much land is not
8 arable. Liquid manure is a dangerous material.
9 The effect on the environment and the population
10 is detrimental if not catastrophic. All vectors
11 of disease must be identified and secured. My
12 logical conclusions causes me to believe that
13 these factory style barns, with their liquid
14 manure, as well as those with massive amounts of
15 solid waste, have no place in the Interlake. The
16 proliferation of hog barns has been hasty and
17 reckless. We have had our share of defective
18 construction on a building, a faulty lagoon, and
19 overspreading of manure. We do not need -- do we
20 need a judicial inquiry into negative effects on
21 the health and the environment?

22 Once findings have been published,
23 then an educated decision can be made by the
24 public, including the suspension of any further or
25 current construction to stop immediately, that

1 there be a public referendum on the acceptance or
2 rejection of the hog industry in Manitoba. If
3 there is to be continued pollution posing a health
4 threat to my children, my grandchildren, then I,
5 or we, the people, shall decide, not the
6 government. If we are not careful of what we are
7 dealing with when it comes to public health and
8 environment, sooner or later, we will have a
9 catastrophe like that of Milwaukee, Walkerton,
10 Salinas, Kelowna. As for Dauphin, we were lucky
11 to some extent, but maybe not the next time.

12 Gentlemen, I thank you for your
13 consideration that you give my presentation.
14 There is also an amendment, an addendum that I
15 have included because of some information that
16 just came out, where the Manitoba Pork Council's
17 general manager, Mr. Andrew Dickson, stated
18 instead the government should be looking into
19 collaboration with the producers, investing new
20 research, perhaps offering tax incentives. That
21 is what he said on March 6th. Also Dickson and
22 others from the Pork Council said that the public
23 fails to appreciate the rigorous environmental and
24 planning regulations that hog barns already
25 follow, so new barns that comply with the rules

1 get the kibosh by municipalities caving into
2 public pressure that is fueled by bad science. It
3 puzzles me that Mr. Andrew Dickson would make a
4 comment. Is he suggesting that they need more
5 research? I thought all barns were state of the
6 art.

7 Secondly, I think, asking governments
8 to participate is an admission that the hog
9 industry is in fact not sustainable. Does
10 Mr. Andrew Dickson agree with the science that
11 injection of slurry is required of good -- is a
12 requirement of waste management? Could it be that
13 Mr. Dickson felt before these meetings the hog
14 industry was not sustainable and was not being
15 held accountable? Also, saying new barns that
16 will comply with the rules often get kiboshed.
17 Are there some new barns that comply to the
18 rules -- pardon me, are there some that don't, Mr.
19 Dickson, is the question we should be asking him.
20 I request that Mr. Dickson give a complete
21 up-to-date list of GPS locations of every barn and
22 spread field that has ever been used in Manitoba.
23 I read in the paper 1,400 producers, 1,700
24 producers. How many barns are there? How many
25 producers are there? How many sewage facilities

1 are there? How many evaporation fields are there?
2 Yes, sir. And also ascertain -- the spread fields
3 be ascertained on non-arable land without
4 injection.

5 Basically, I think that there is a lot
6 of work that has to be done and answers, questions
7 for all of these answers, so we can make the
8 decision as to what direction we are going to end
9 up with. Maybe we will reach the saturation
10 point. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
12 Mr. Marykuca.

13 MR. YEE: Just one question for you,
14 Mr. Marykuca. In your presentation you noted that
15 liquid hog slurry is not organic. Can you clarify
16 that statement?

17 MR. MARYKUCA: Certainly. Liquid hog
18 manure that contains known pathogens, viruses,
19 bacterias, parasites, and other hog diseases, and
20 residue from hormones, antibiotics, detergents and
21 disinfectants is passed off as fertilizer. Has
22 anybody thought to ask an organic farmer if this
23 is organic? Has anybody thought to ask anybody if
24 this is spread on a field and if it comes to pass
25 in three or four or five years time that the land

1 was bought by an organic farmer that it will be
2 designated as organic? I'm not the specialist.
3 That is your job. Thank you for asking the
4 question. Now you should find out by asking
5 somebody who can confront the Organic Association.
6 I read in the paper the other day that Barber
7 House in Winnipeg, they said they found -- that is
8 in Point Douglas, it is an historic building --
9 that they found traces of copper, zinc, and there
10 was another trace element in there, and it is
11 going to cost \$100,000 to remove it. So tell me,
12 when you turn around and say that sheep could die
13 from overgrazing on land that has been placed with
14 manure, hog manure, because of the abundance of
15 copper. Do you know why they give animals copper?

16 MR. YEE: The reference to organic
17 means by use of organic farming; is that your
18 context of organic?

19 MR. MARYKUCA: Yes, organic farming,
20 but is it organic? How could it be organic with
21 all of the stuff that is in it? Has anybody done
22 an analysis on that stuff? We know it is in there
23 because it is in those documents that I gave you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
25 Mr. Marykuca.

1 MR. MARYKUCA: Thank you for listening
2 to me. Do you people want this disk or do you
3 have some related information there?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: We have this -- we have
5 the exhibits that you have given us.

6 MR. MARYKUCA: And the point I'm just
7 trying to make with that, for example, that could
8 be a homestead with hand dug wells. We don't know
9 where that stuff is ending up.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: We accept your point.

11 Next up is Mr. Gary McLean, is Mr.
12 McLean here? I guess not. Does anybody else wish
13 to make a presentation this evening? Going
14 once -- this will be the last opportunity, unless
15 you want to come to Morden on Monday. Anybody
16 else wish to make a presentation this evening?
17 Okay.

18 Thank you very much for coming out
19 this afternoon and this evening, I think we had
20 some excellent presentations on all sides of the
21 issue presented today, and it will give us a lot
22 more food for thought over the next few weeks and
23 months as we consider this very important issue.
24 This will adjourn our hearing here in Arborg, and
25 we do reconvene Monday in Morden, and next week we

1 have a series of meetings in southern Manitoba.

2 So thank you very much again and good night.

3 (Adjourned at at 7:40 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, CECELIA REID, duly appointed Official Examiner in the Province of Manitoba, do hereby certify the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of my Stenotype notes as taken by me at the time and place hereinbefore stated.

Cecelia Reid

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