

## **Letter # 1**

January 20, 2007

Terry Sargeant, Chair  
Manitoba Clean Environment Commission

**Title:** Human, Wildlife Health and Environment issues, related to the sustainability of hog industry in Manitoba.

**Firstly, I would like to say that, the whole hog industry does need to be regulated as such, because it is an industry. It was deliberately designed in a way to avoid the need for any potentially *negative health and environmental studies*, by the previous conservative government of Manitoba, to make it easy for everyone to get into the massive hog barn industry, by some what implying that it was an extension of the family farm. Which in reality is not true.**

Years ago in the fall ( about 1993 ) we were invited to public meeting at the town of Silver, in the RM of Armstrong was hosted by then Reeve Garry Wasylofski, some provincial officials and Garry Ploeman, Andrew Dickson ( Advisory Committee ). The proponent was Puratone along with their engineer Mr. Dennis Hodgkinson. They wanted to build an Intensive Livestock Operation with hogs in the RM of Armstrong that bordered both RM's of Bifrost and Gimli. This information meeting was held to get the blessing of local residents. When it was found out that this meant thousands of animals in huge barns and lagoons ( hole in the ground ) the size of the Winnipeg Stadium that hold millions of gallons of raw untreated sewage, that would be dispersed locally, the red flags came up. The flag was also raised when it was discovered that the Reeve of Bifrost could have been in conflict. A question was asked of health safety of the untreated sewage called liquid manure, were told it was totally organic and safe. Their pitch was value added, jobs, taxes, most of all local farmers could grow grains for feed to be sold. Concerned citizens still said no !

The governments of the day forced these factories upon us in the Interlake, that they called farming, regardless of location and our total environment was ignored.

### **Lets talk about health:**

1 - Unfortunately three people died at the Broad Valley Colony years ago, because someone neglected to instruct them that hog slurry is a hazardous waste by product ! This waste is known to be toxic world wide, so why is it not regulated and controlled as such ?

2 - Why is it never mentioned that hog slurry is not considered or recognized as an organic fertilizer ? Since when are all the known pathogens, virus's, bacteria's, parasites, other known hog diseases ( PRRS ) and residue from hormones, antibiotics, detergents/disinfectants recognized as a nutrient fertilizer ?

### **Lets talk environment about issues:**

**Soil** - I see places used in the Interlake as spread fields that have no crops planted in them at all ! I see land used that is brush, mostly cattle pasture, open fields where prairie chickens nest, is habitat for song birds and wildlife, that

ingest the residue ? Why are none arable lands in the Interlake allowed to be utilized as a spread fields ? Just spread it in the ground and leave it to be dealt with by the elements of nature. Again I refer to the *Interlake Spectator* July 31.1995 Dr. Joseph Cummins said " hog manure slurry should be drilled fairly deep into the land " Does it mean because he is a genetics professor from the University of Western Ontario his comments mean nothing in Manitoba ? Is that why I see green algae in the ditches this spring, that are in close proximity to hog barn operations, that eventually drain into Lake Winnipeg ? These various water courses are also spawning grounds at high water times for a number of Lake Winnipeg fish.

**Water** - Could this be why over the past years we have had increased numbers of Boil Water and No Swimming Health Notices posted through out this province ? ***Be reminded that the vast sensitive Interlake area, is documented by Mr. R N. Betcher water rescources in his report stated the most necessary to protect. It's porosity of the soils makes most locations unsuitable and are susceptible to nutrient over load.*** This reason alone is why the pork industry should no longer be allowed expand or to introduce any more intensive hog barns here, as well maybe other places in Manitoba. We all know unfortunately what happened at Walkerton Ontario and else where when waters became contaminated.

As the Interlake Region is one of the larger ground water recharging areas in Canada, because of the porosity of the soils, I request that this data be part of the earthen lagoons construction and material obtained for them, along with ground water quality data be part of this review.

**Air** - Hog waste aerosols and their cargo of sometimes disease causing micro-organisms can be carried great distances, even miles, serious concern is a parasite called Cryptosporidium can be air borne or water transmitted ! An out outbreak in Millwaukee in 1993 accounted for 100 deaths ! .

The accumulation of added road dust from additional traffic trespassing into people homes and property should also be investigated for health related issues and nuisances.

#### **Lets talk about family farms:**

So just how has the Industrial Hog barn Industry affected the traditional family farmers ?

So I ask you just what is the average family farmer selling to the feed plants in the way of grains to feed the hogs ?

Is Manitoba importing any feed types from outside the province ?

#### **Lets talk about some past complaints and violations:**

Someone needs to get every complaint and violation registered with The Farm Practices Board and Manitoba Environment over the past 12 years to see if there is a common happening amongst those involved, have there been repeat offenders ?

The spreading of their contaminated liquid waste on nearby fields were left flooded. The stench from their barns and surrounding area it wanted to make you

puke ! I'm sure that they thought we were being a pain in the ass. So they had a worker drive by now and then stop her car and roll down the windows, take a sniff and leave, this went on for a while. Then one morning we saw her stop. My wife opened a window as she asked us what's that smell, my wife replied you should know you work there. I hollered out that you should get your nose checked, with that she drove off. **The air smelled like dead decaying animals.** On one occasion our former Reeve who farmed the quarter to the west of our home, was working his land, we spoke he too said the stench was terrible. Well we got to be even a bigger pain in the ass. Eventually what ever they were doing changed. So what negative health affects did we or did we all not suffer ?

Is this industry exempt from air pollution as well ? Maybe it's time for the Commission to roll up it's sleeves and dig into it completely and impose a strict Regulation like it should have done years ago, that protects the public and our environment, not the hog industry.

What was the out come of each incident and what was the fine amount levied and who got the money ?

**The outcome of this so called sustainable industry is now what:**

For the Doer government to impose a moratorium on the hog industry at this time is justified, considering the magnitude and reputations of the hog industry in Manitoba, it makes sense to have done so. What caused this to happen at this time ?

**Summery:**

The whole hog industry does need to be regulated as such, because it is an industry. It was deliberately designed in a way to avoid the need for any potentially negative health and environmental studies by the previous conservative government of Manitoba. They have made it too easy for anyone to get into the massive hog barn industry. That's why they allowed, the construction of a faulty lagoon at Washow Bay Barns, another faulty engineering design caused the roof to collapse and kill several pigs at the Silver Hog Barns and over application of raw liquid sewage was spread near the Chatfield Barns. and else where, next to peoples homes. A local resident had a letter from her Doctor that said the stench of the hog waste may have contributed to her illness ! These barns were all termed as being State of the art. A written report state from Manitoba Environment stated that the Icelandic River Basin was in toxic Phosphorus over load ! So just why did all these negative results occur, why were some allowed to continue ?

**Conclusion:**

The out come now is that there are serious problems from this industry that can be dealt with by, eliminating the threat.

I request that there be an inquiry into all the hog barns in this Interlake Region to study and record any and all negative impacts to both human health and the environment as a whole. A complete study will require the cooperation of both qualified Public Health and Environmental Officials.

**Inclosing:**

*The Interlake Spectator* wrote Monday Feb. 7, 1994 "Farm practices act proclaimed - Good for everybody, says Enns" " Agriculture Minister Harry Enns believes the recently

- proclaimed farm Practices Act will Address the concerns of citizens worried about the affects of farming operations on health, safety and the environment" "This board will shut an operation if it is found to be in none - compliance Enns said." Mr. Harry Enns was a former Conservative Agriculture MLA at the time. Did he mean that unannounced regulation health studies and environmental inspections would be done regularly at each and every facility and those not in compliance would be terminated without compensation ?

Deeply concerred

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## **Letter # 2**

Arborg MB.

March 8, 2007

Manitoba Hog Industry Review

### **Introduction:**

#### **Chairperson, Panellists, Ladies and Gentleman**

My name is Peter Marykuca I live on a small acreage not far from the Silver Hog Barns. I welcome this Panel to Arborg. I thank you for taking a genuine interest on this serious issue. My presentation consists of Exhibits of documents and photographs to bring into focus and better explain my views, opinions and conclusions.

I would like to say that I'm sure the Governments must already know that there are Health and Environment problems in Manitoba stemming from hog barn activities. There have been many Boil Water, No Swimming Health Notices posted through out the Province in resent years. As well the David Green report stated that the Icelandic River Basin was in **Toxic Phosphorus Over Load** was front page news years ago in the Interlake Spectator.

#### **Physical Properties of The Interlake:**

The Interlake is mainly gently rolling land dotted with potholes, sloughs, much of which is marginal none arable land, porous soils and substrate. The land is drained by various rivers, creeks, and drainage ditches that eventually point to Lake Winnipeg. The land was once fairly uniformly populated by settlers with hundreds of homesteads with hand dug wells. Fortunately for some homesteads they even had artesian wells. Natural springs also occur in frequent locations. Unfortunately some of these springs alternate between functioning as springs with high water

tables and sinkholes if the water table drops enough. Thus making a direct conduit to the aquifers in many known and unknown hidden places.

#### **Dangerous Pollutant:**

**The creation of this liquid waste by-product called hog slurry, is not regulated by *The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act*. It should be. *Liquid hog manure containing known pathogens, i.e.. virus's, bacteria's, parasites, other known hog diseases and residue from hormones, anti-biotic, detergents/disinfectants is passed off as fertilizer ! It does get transferred and occasionally spilled on public roads, where there is public travel and possibility of exposure. As if that risk was not enough, many of these pathogens, hormones, antibiotics are systemic to plants and find there way into the food chain demonstrated by the recent contamination of spinach from the Selines Valley of California. (E. coli outbreak takes its toll on California's Salinas Valley) As the public is getting aware of healthier living lifestyles and conscientious of their food intake, I remind you that Liquid Hog Slurry is not Organic. Therefore we must be cognisant of what we are allowing to enter the food chain through agriculture.***

Documents and Exhibits:

1 - Municipality of Bifrost November 12, 1993 writes letter of concern to Interlake Weanlings Inc, and CC: The Conservative Filmon government officials and others, that mentions "negative impacts."

Exhibit # 1

2 - Transmission of Diseases from hog barns is possible Air, Water, Soils and from animals to people and from people to animals.

" Cryptosporidium is even more resistant to chlorination than Giardia. In 1996, an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis, an intestinal illness similar to giardiasis, was reported in Kelowna, British Columbia, where an estimated 15 000 people became ill."

"In Dauphin, Manitoba, in 1996. The latter incident involved over 30 confirmed cases of giardiasis (Government of Manitoba 1997)."

Exhibit # 2, 3, 4

3 - Contributing pollution to Lake Winnipeg by means of sewage entering drains from agricultural operations, is no longer acceptable in the Interlake Region. Native people and fishers of Lake Winnipeg must be considered when it comes to their health and their families, as they are constantly working in that environment. I guess we all need to find out from the CEC just where does the hog industry relate too when it comes to the Medical Clinic?

Exhibit # 5

4 - Transmission of Diseases from hog barns is possible by Air, Water, Soils and from road spillage.

Exhibit # 6

5 - Unfortunately three people died when they were overcome by poisonous gas from their liquid manure system a few years ago, at local Colony. If it was treated and regulated as a hazardous industry, that should not have happened.

6 - The Municipality of Bifrost imposed a restriction of the importation of hog manure from outside its boundary, because Mrs. Kay Bergman presented council with a letter from her Doctor stating that the stench from the hog waste contributed to her medical condition.

Exhibit # 7, 8

7 - Obvious over application in 1995 shows ponding on a selected spread field, I want to draw your attention to the area at the bottom of the picture, I request that the CEC delegate the Environment Department to do a complete study for any seepage at the Interlake Weanling operation including their lagoons, as well as all other hog barns located in the Interlake and make the findings public.

Exhibit # 9

8 - If this untreated sewage is so great a fertilizer then why are some producers spreading it on marginal land and cattle pasture without incorporation into the soil. Why is even allowed, considering that government officials publicly stated that there is plenty of arable land for the barns near Silver, I guess they were right to say that, because there is, but not for the pig barns, again weasel words? These are nothing but evaporation fields. That in total are also adding to global warming. This is a reason for the Phosphorus to get more concentrated, as the Nitrogen and liquid evaporates. I request a complete study and GPS identification on every spread field to be done to ascertain if old hand dug wells and others were properly sealed to keep out contamination. Adjacent ditches can also be marked and tested again for run off as well.

Exhibit # 10, 11

9 - Years ago when it was mentioned that the focus be on Phosphorus instead of Nitrogen officials were not paying attention. Is this why we are here today?

- When a request was asked to the Regional Advisory Committee to produce a permit for the human sewage holding tank at the Interlake Weanling ( aka; Silver Hog Barns ) site after it was in production they stated that a Minister gave them permission to blend in the human waste as well and no septic tank was needed. The CEC should get that ruling changed as soon as possible, they are spreading filth. Elected officials should play no part in this process, that is why I will refer to the hog slurry as untreated sewage of unknown constitute! Some are permitted to spread their waste on the substrate after being told more that once that the porosity of soils in the Interlake Region make it very sensitive to pollution. The reason people near OKNO just north of Arborg needed to make use bottled water is because somehow their wells got polluted !

10 - CEC should investigate just what damage is done to pastures and Crown lands if used, from the untreated hog sewage.

Exhibit # 12 "Chronic copper poisoning in sheep grazing pastures fertilized with swine manure."

11 - Rural Municipality of Gimli BY-LAW 10-96 to regulate and restrict the spreading of hog manure.

Exhibit # 13

12 - New hog barns allowed to be constructed, in what appears to be a another sensitive area .

Exhibit # 14

13 - " Risks of animal confinements are known ( Des Moines Register ) 12-7-06 " " Asthma rates in children " " But, we seem to live in a state where even though we know it is immoral to poison our children, it is not illegal "

Exhibit # 15

14 - We need to scrap some laws we have and put into force like that of USA's Clean Water Act

Exhibit # 16 DCIS (" Office of the Inspector General Assistant Inspector for Investigations ") Responding to Terrorism

15 - For your knowledge and information " A review of The Effects of The Livestock Industry On the environment and Human Health"

Exhibit # 17

16 - "Peguis members wary of Nitrate levels " " that we'll all be dead in 50 years anyway " " I'm Married. I have small children."  
"Three 15,000 tanks hauling water all day every day: that's your taxes, you pay for the roads, the highways,the trucks." he said.

Exhibit # 18

17 - Corporations and investors appear to be more concerned about their cost of production then to protect our health and environment. This attitude in my opinion was not acceptable then nor is it now. Regardless who they are or who they think they are.

Exhibit # 19

18 - As some contaminants like Ammonia and Nitrogen are not common to ground water wells. Somehow, from someplace it has percolated down through the soils into the aquifer. There are traces in my well water!

Exhibit # 20

19 - " Government authorized Interlake Swine Breeders to Spread slurry in Water Hazard Zones "

Exhibit # 21

20 - The CEC will need to check out every law pertaining to agriculture production to make sure they are not deliberately written to be unenforceable. As described by Mr. Markus Bucharth " Laws that can't be broken "

Exhibit # 22

21 - The handling of dead livestock always needs to be investigated as to make sure dead animals be identified as to why and how they died. How often and by whom are mortalities reported and recorded. The wildlife must be protected. All pig farms must be identified by GPS location and unannounced random inspections be done by the Health authority without restriction.

Exhibit # 23 Was taken years ago, however that's not to say that this is not still being done.

22 - Will the CEC please request and provide me information from The Manitoba Water Recourses Branch in detail the monthly and yearly water consumed from each barn, to ascertain the total number of billions of gallons of sewage we are dealing with in the Province. As well from each and every hog barn large or small that is utilising slurry in the RM's of Armstrong, Bifrost and Fisher showing the amounts and exact GPS location of them all, including their storage facility capacity and location. For this I thank you in advance.

#### **Effect on Population and Environment:**

Has been shown and well publicized for the past many years , has been shown to be severely detrimental to the population and environment.  
Examples are: Milwaukee WI. / Walkerton, ON. / Salinas CA./ Kelowna BC. / Dauphin MB. and our local area of OKNO where ground water has been polluted by animal waste. We have not yet had a major catastrophe here, but Mrs Kay Bergman's health has been affected. Three hog barn workers did unfortunately die as a result of the poisoning gas from liquid hog manure.

#### **Conclusion:**

##### **In View of the fact that :**

- 1 - Our soils are very porous, much of the land being not arable .
- 2 - Liquid manure is dangerous material.
- 3 - The effect on the environment and the population is detrimental if not catastrophic:
- 4 - All vectors of diseases must be identified and secured.

That my logical conclusions causes me to believe that these factory style barns with their liquid manure as well those with massive amounts of solid waste, have no place in the Interlake. The proliferation of hog barns has been hasty and reckless. We have had our share of defective construction of a building, faulty lagoon and over spreading of manure. Do we need a judicial inquiry into negative effects on the public health and environment ? Once findings have been published then an educated decisions can be made by the public. Including the suspension of any further and current construction be stop immediately. That there be a public **Referendum** of acceptance or rejection of the hog industry in Manitoba, if there is to be continued pollution, posing a health threat to my children and grand children then I / we the people shall decide not the government.



If we are not careful of what we are dealing with when it comes to the Public Health and Environment, sooner or later we will have a catastrophe like that of Milwaukee, Walkerton, Salinas CA, Kelowna BC. As for Dauphin MB. we were lucky to some extent, but maybe not the next time.

Gentlemen I thank you for your time and in anticipation I thank you for the consideration you give my presentation.

Thank you !

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**Letter # 3**

**Addendum:**

CEC Review

Arborg

March 8, 2007

Winnipeg March 6, 2007 "Andrew Dickson, the pork council's general manager, said more regulations are not the answer and should be a last resort. Instead, he said the government should look at collaborating more with producers, invest in new research and perhaps offer sales tax exemptions to encourage investment in new technology."

Winnipeg March 6, 2007 "Dickson and others from the pork council said the public fails to appreciate the rigorous environmental and planning regulations hog barns must already follow. Even so, new barns that comply with all the rules often get kiboshed by municipalities caving to public pressure that's fueled by bad science."

It puzzles me that now Mr. Andrew Dickson would make these comment, he is suggesting that they need more research, I thought all barns were state of the art ! Secondly I think that asking for governments participation as an admission that the hog industry in fact is not sustainable.

Doe's Mr. Andrew Dickson agree with the science that injection of slurry is a requirement of waste management ?

Could it be that Mr. Dickson felt that before these meetings the Hog Industry was not sustainable and was not being held accountable? But also saying " even so new barns that comply with all rules often get kiboshed", Are there some that don't Mr. Dickson? I request that Mr. Andrew Dickson give a complete up to date list with GPS locations of every hog barn and spread field that have been used in Manitoba. So that the CEC can consider a complete assessment on every location for total compliance including and seeded crops grown on them. Also to ascertain how many of the locations used are spreading on none arable land without injection. The CEC could

appoint qualified none biased officials and public scrutinizers, to gather the information. That they inspect all spread field located by GPS that have ever been used in the past 12 years. The can do runoff and soil testing on them as well.

I feel that a full judicial inquiry into the happenings and promotion of this industry is in order it should proceed by going back to the Filmon Government's introduction to this current date. Then the public can decide it's out come by means of a Referendum. I feel that a full judicial inquiry into the happenings and promotion of this industry is in order it should proceed by going back to the Filmon Government's introduction to this current date.

I apologize to the CEC for any duplication or suggestions to my concerns

Again I say, Thank You for listening

Peter Marykuca

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## **Letter # 4**

March 9, 2007

CEC Review panel oh Hog Barn Sustainability

Dear Chairperson and panel

I want to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the CEC Chairperson who gave me a gracious time extension to hear my presentaion. I also thank the panel and all persons concerned for their patience and undivided attention.

Thank you

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