

EXHIBIT NUMBER: DAU-006  
File Name: Dauphin  
Date: March 20/07  
Received by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Commission Secretary)

## CEC HEARING PRESENTATION

I have been on a couple of panels recently which also tried to assess the environmental sustainability of hog production in Manitoba – the Livestock Stewardship Panel in 2001, and the CEC hearings for the second shift for the Maple Leaf Hog Plant in Brandon in 2003.

In both cases, we were unable to evaluate environmental sustainability because of missing information, and we recommended studies. I hope this information is available to this panel.

The essence of our recommendations was a study which would measure nitrogen and phosphorus in surface and ground water emanating from fields to which hog manure was applied. We already know that nitrogen and phosphorus levels are trending upward in our rivers, with dire consequences for Lake Winnipeg, but the source of this additional nutrient has not been adequately traced back to the field level.

The study would involve selecting perhaps 10 hog operations representing the variability found in the current industry, and measuring N and P levels in runoff water from the manure spread fields, with sampling concentrated during the spring melt and during heavy rainfall events. Grain farms using commercial fertilizer would serve as controls, and would facilitate a comparison to rate the hog industry against conventional grain production. Of course, additional controls would also be useful, should similar data be available from forage production, pastures, and areas of natural vegetation. And measurements of nutrient escape to ground water as well, would complete the picture.

Until such a study is done, and we can assess the relative contributions of several styles of agriculture to the increasing N and P levels found in our rivers, it will be difficult for you to do your job.

Thank you,

John Whitaker  
Erickson, MB.