To: Clean Environment Commission

Further to my presentation at the St. Claude Review hearing of March 14, 2007 I am finally finding time to respond, as requested, with a few suggestions on improving the approval process.

1) Standard planning approval of an intensive livestock operation should be governed primarily by the environmental assessment and the conditional use hearings.

2) Technical reviews should be given greater status in influencing an approval because it is the main source of information for councilors on issues they may not be familiar with and may not understand. For example, our Council in the M.D. of Lorrie views the technical review as the primary authority. Unfortunately, most often they do not follow the review because no law mandates them to do so. As a result, economic concerns usually govern councils final decision.

3) Through the planning act give local councils more power to deny a proposal on environmental grounds and perceived negative effects on surrounding neighbors quality of life.

4) Municipal councils ought to be held responsible for water stewardship for water quality within their jurisdiction. This can be done
THROUGH THE PLANNING ACT AS WELL BY ALTERING EXISTING MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES TO CONFORM TO WATERSHED DISTRICTS SO THAT WATERSHED GOVERNANCE BECOMES THE NEW MUNICIPAL NORM FOR GOVERNANCE.

5) TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEES SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST TWO NGO MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THE HOE INDUSTRY IN ANY WAY TO GIVE A MORE BALANCED INPUT.

6) CONFLICT OF INTEREST LAWS MUST BE CREATED TO GOVERN MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS AND REEFS. HOWEAVINIG MANITOBA HAS DOCUMENTED MANY INSTANCES OF INVOLVEMENT IN INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS BY VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS IN MANITOBA. 'OUTED' COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO 'SIT OUT' COUNCIL MEETINGS WHERE I.I.O. APPROVALS ARE BEING DISCUSSED AND VOTED ON. UNFORTUNATELY, MEETINGS ARE NOW HELD OUTSIDE OF COUNCIL OVER LUNCH OR COFFEE WHERE THE OUTCOME OF A PROPOSAL REQUEST IS DECIDED BEFORE THE COUNCIL RETURNS TO CHAMBERS TO VOTE.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST LAWS WITH STIFF FINES INCLUDING EXCLUSION (FORCED RESIGNATION) FROM COUNCIL BUING TO BE GIVEN A VERY HIGH PRIORITY.
7) Local municipal councils, through the Planning Act must be given the ability and authority to impose more stringent environmental regulations on any new or expanding hog operation above and beyond current provincial government standards. Currently this is not permitted. A result of this change may well result in increased commitment and stewardship by our councils.

8) Ban liquid manure and go to straw bedding and manure composting.

These are my additional suggestions up to this time. I would also encourage the committee to view the video illustrating the pure lean pork method of raising hogs in large numbers indoors with natural light, straw bedding, roamy stalls, no sow stalls (gestation cages), in-house composting and more. This method lowers both water consumption and pollution and greatly increases public acceptance of the industry; particularly by immediate neighbours to these types of operations. I'll try to find a copy of their video. They may have a websight if you care to search for it.

Thank you for your indulgence with my scribblings. Good luck with your recommendations. I hope the government will follow through. Sincerely, W. (Bill) Harrison, 
Ardrossan, MB.
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