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

Presentations:

LORNE TANNAS                         1809
BERT SWANN                               1861
GARRY TOLTON                         1866
LYLE KEATING                           1890
ROGER DESILETS                        1896
MICKEY HERSAK                         1918
SCOTT ROUTLEDGE                      1927
CLAIR ENGLISH                         1938
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NO EXHIBITS MARKED
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007

UPON COMMENCING AT 1:20 P.M.

THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon.

Welcome to our hearing today in Hamiota. My name is Terry Sargeant. I'm the chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission. I am also the chair of this panel. And with me on the panel are Wayne Motheral and Edwin Yee.

I have a few opening comments. First of all, I would like to apologize for starting late. As of 12 o'clock today, we only had one person who had registered to speak this afternoon, and he is scheduled to come at 3:00. And then, in addition to that, I think some of us who ordered grilled food at the restaurant put a bit of a strain on the grill and it was a little long getting our lunch.

However, we are here now, and we have had two more people indicate that they wish to make presentations. I have some brief opening comments that I will make, and then we will proceed with the presentations.

The Clean Environment Commission has been requested by the Minister of Conservation to conduct an investigation into the environmental
The Terms of Reference from the Minister direct us to review the current environmental protection measures in place relating to hog production in Manitoba, in order to determine their effectiveness, for the purpose of managing the industry in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Our investigation is to include a public component to gain advice and feedback from Manitobans, and this meeting today is part of that process.

We have also been asked to take into account efforts underway in other jurisdictions to manage hog production in a sustainable manner in those jurisdictions.

Further, we are to review the contents of the report prepared by Manitoba Conservation entitled, "An Examination of the Environmental Sustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba."

And at the end of these investigations, we will consider various options and make recommendations in a report to the Minister on any improvements that may be necessary to provide for the environmental sustainability of hog production in Manitoba.
the industry.

To ensure that our review includes issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel has undertaken to hold 17 days of meetings in 14 communities throughout the agricultural part of the province. These meetings began in early March, and are continuing this week and next, with the final meeting scheduled for a week Friday, the 27th, in Winnipeg.

At these meetings, it is open to any group, or individual, to make a presentation to this panel on issues in relation to hog production in Manitoba. For the most part, presentations are to be limited to 15 minutes. Exceptions may be made, in some cases, where a presenter needs more time, provided that a request has been made with the commission secretary prior to the presentation.

Those making presentations will be asked to take an oath promising to tell the truth. Presentations should be relevant to the mandate given to the Commission by the Minister. Members of the panel may ask questions of the presenter during or after the presentation. There will be no opportunity for other presenters to question or
cross-examine presenters.

In addition to these public meetings, the CEC is engaging consultants to assist us in this review. The results of those research endeavours will be posted on our website upon receipt which, for the most part, will be in late June.

Groups, and individuals, will be invited to provide comments on any of those reports, if they so wish. And a reasonable, albeit brief period of time, will be allowed for this.

Written submissions will also be accepted. The information as to how to submit those written suggestions is available on our website. And the deadline for such submissions is May 7th.

We also realize that many people are reluctant to make presentations in public, for a variety of reasons. To address that, we have engaged a graduate student from the University of Manitoba to meet with, or talk on the phone with, people who would rather not speak at meetings. These meetings, or phone conversations, will be kept confidential. Information as to how to
contact this person is available on our website, as well as at the table by the entry.

Finally, some administrative matters. If you wish to make a presentation today, if you haven't already done so, will you please let Joyce know at our table by the entrance. As is our normal practice, we are recording these sessions. Verbatim transcripts will be available on the website in a day or so. You can find the link on our website.

Finally, in respect of cell phones, I would ask that they be turned off, or at least that the ring tone be turned off. And if you must take a call, I would ask that you leave the room. And on a final note, please don't engage in any conversations while people are making presentations. And that's it for opening comments.

We have two people who have indicated they wish to speak this afternoon, or immediately, as well as a third later on this afternoon. First is Mr. Lorne Tannas. Please go to this table over here, sir. State your name for the record, please?

MR. TANNAS: Yes, my name is Lorne
Tannas.

LORNE TANNAS, having been sworn, presents as follows:

MR. TANNAS: I have trouble with my hearing. I can't hear you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just try the headphones.

MR. TANNAS: Sorry about that.


MR. TANNAS: I've written this today on a personal basis for my farm and my family. And after I have done this, I have a little bit to say about some ideas that I've come across in the last few days since I have actually prepared this. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak here today to the community and to the Commission.

Fifteen minutes doesn't seem like a lot of time to talk about something that could greatly affect the future of my family, and my farm, and my grandchildren and so on, but I will try to keep it brief and keep it to stay to the point.

THE CHAIRMAN: We are not really
pressed for time today, so if you go over, it's okay.

MR. TANNAS: Thank you. My family has been farming for many generations in Canada. My great-grandfather had hogs, my grandfather had hogs, and my father had hogs, all on a mixed family farm. Now I am farming in Hamiota with my wife, my son, my daughter on a hog farm north of town.

Over the generations, we have made many changes to the farming practices by implementing best practices, emerging technologies, adhering to self-imposed health, safety and environmental standards and regulations.

We have moved livestock from outside lots indoors because of health and animal welfare issues, and have virtually eliminated things like trichinosis and other diseases. I remember when I was a kid, our family -- there was six children in our family. And we would line up twice a year and we would all get our spoonful of de-worming medicine. And nowadays, the consumer doesn't even think of those things because of the clean health product that we are producing today.
The use of antibiotics has been greatly reduced by new practices like all in all out rearing and multi-site farms. And this is one of the reasons why we have gone this direction. It is not so much that we see all farming has increased in size, and the farms have increased, but, really, we have done this for a better product and for better animal welfare.

The environment has always been a very important part of my family's farming. Long before the government became involved in these issues, our family was preserving the land for future generations. We worked to get the best results, while sustaining the soil and water for the next generation that would farm this land. Manure or organic fertilizer contains many important nutrients that the land does not get from petrochemical or rock fertilizers.

I was brought up in a family that understood the balance of nature. My niece and nephew, in 2003, earned the Emerald Award for environmental stewardship in Alberta. This is the highest award for environmental stewardship in Alberta. In 2005, my brother and his wife earned this same award. And last year, another brother
was nominated for three Emerald Awards. And he earned, for his work with environmental stewardship, two of these awards. We are focused on sustaining long-term farming, and I'm in that same boat as they are.

Here are the farming practices that I have adhered to in this area. Over ten years of filing Manure Management Plans -- and, I'm sorry, not in this area, but I have been doing this in other provinces, too. I have just been living here for about three years. But over ten years, I have filed Manure Management Plans with the Provincial Government. Over 30 years, we have done nutrient management. And that means soil testing, having crop nutrient and rotation of plants planning.

And I have included three copies of soil tests, what the soil shows. And I think you have copies of them there. And they show that the soil is either marginal or deficient in phosphorous, okay.

The second thing that I have done is alternating spreading of organic fertilizer. And, you know, this is important, as well. The land gets manure every second year to allow for greater
use of the soil -- greater use of the manure and
the soil needs.

There are many other essential
nutrients and fiber in manure, rock phosphorous
and petro-nitrogen fertilizers are used on
alternative years. So if these soils come up
deficient, then the fertilizers are used. And I
have done this practice for ten years, as well.
We have alternated with manure. And that's
because we have lots of land to be able to do that
on.

The next one, which is a very
important one, is the use of phytase for over ten
years. This enzyme improves the absorption of
phosphorous from the grains by the hog by 35
percent, reducing the use of rock phosphorous in
the diet. This improvement continues on by
reducing phosphorous applied to the soil by up to
50 percent through the manure. If the crop
nutrient needs for phosphorous is greater than
what is in the manure, it can be achieved by
additional rock phosphorous on the land. This is
cheaper and makes more sense than putting
phosphorous through the pig and directly onto the
land through rock phosphorous.
I just want to point out that it is important to grow healthy, good crops. And that they need these nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, and other nutrients. And that if I don't put it on with fertilizer manure, then we will be putting it on to get the sufficient level with rock phosphorous, okay? And especially in this area of Hamiota, where we are deficient or marginal.

The next one is number 4, which is the injection of manure. For generations, we have known that the nutrients in manure have been a very important part of growing good crops and sustaining the soil. As a kid, every farm, that I knew of, had a manure spreader, and people would spread manure. We have moved away from this method of spreading because of improved farming practices.

And it showed that banding the nutrients to the level that the crop roots can take on nutrients, we can apply to the crops' needs and not overapply. So we have banded down to the level of four inches to six inches, to where the nutrients are going to be absorbed more readily by the plant. And we don't have to put on
as much if you are banding, as putting it on the
top and the nutrients have to reach down to the
plant.

Secondly, by banding the manure, we
prevent nutrient loss by evaporation or leaching.
Manure is an important commodity to the farmer.
He does not want to lose any nutrients at all, not
any. I have sold this manure for $25 per acre,
and know of some people that are paying over $40
per acre to have it applied to their land.

Injection of slurry manure adds the equivalent of
1/8th of an inch of rain. This small amount of
moisture enables for quick absorption into the
soil, banded down four to six inches, again, to
prevent evaporation and leaching. Phosphorous, by
its nature, does not travel very little in the
soil. It is not like nitrogen, in that way, and
can, therefore, be very effectively managed
through banding.

THE CHAIRMAN: Sir, can I just ask you
to clarify that?

MR. TANNAS: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think you made a
mistake. You said: "phosphorous does not travel
very little". You want to say it travels very
MR. TANNAS: It travels very little, that's right.

THE CHAIRMAN: That's what you've written.

MR. TANNAS: And I said it differently. Thank you very much. Sorry, for those of you that are listening.

In summary, Manitoba has some of the best and most productive hog farmers in the world. This is known through the record-keeping that we call Pig Channel, and it's from all around the world. In piglet rearing, we have a competitive edge over the United States, and other provinces, of up to 2.8 pigs per year.

This, along with the advantage of our historical lower dollar, has seen some rapid growth in the industry, especially here in Manitoba. During that time, we have improved farming practices by methods that I have stated above. These improved practices have enabled growth by being responsible and accountable. My son, daughter and grandchildren will be hopefully hog farmers in 10, 20 and 50 years from now by implementing sustainable farming practices. We
are the keepers of the land. And we wear that label with pride and shoulder the responsibility. Long before there were environmentalists, there was the farmer.

The other thing that I wanted to talk about, and I didn't have it written down, was a week ago Bill Barlow, from the Lake Manitoba Watershed, I think he's the president, I believe, he got up and spoke at one of our seminars. And he talked about the amount of phosphorous getting into Lake Manitoba. And his goal was to see that those levels of phosphorous going to the lake would be back to the 1970 levels.

And I sit and I look at where we are and what we've done in the hog farming industry in that period of time. The industry has grown, and that's true. But in that time period, we have had things like phytase come along, since the 1970s, which is reducing phosphorous by -- that we put into the minerals to the animals by 35 percent. And then an additional, according to a Brandy Street, a researcher with the Government of Manitoba, is up to 50 percent reduction of phosphorous through the animal.

We, additionally, have seen our feed
conversion go from three pounds per pound of
grain, or a 3:1 ratio to about a 2:6. We have
seen our sow herds, and some of the older people
here will know, that probably in the seventies we
were getting 20 pigs per sow per year. Well, now
it is very common to see 26. And so we have
improved that by another 20 percent.

We have gone to this banding, or
injection. Instead of spreading manure on top of
the soil, we are banding it down to where the
nutrient needs to be. And so we might be close to
that 1970 level that he is trying to achieve. And
I would like to see some research done into that
to see exactly if we are at that level. Because I
think if we are, we are very, very close. Even
though our industry has probably grown by doubling
or tripling in that period of time, the decreases
that we have made each time have make a difference
to that, as well.

We also understand that the nutrient
levels that we are putting into the farm, or my
farm, especially, is that we are putting it on the
low level, through the manure, and then we are
supplementing it with rock phosphorous. And I am
doing it every other year because I want to spread
the other nutrients that are so important to the soil, and so important to growing good crops, and the sustainability of our farm, that I also want to be able to spread it on to more of the land that I have around the place. And so those were the other things that I wanted to bring forward, or that has come forward, in the last couple of weeks.

THE CHAIRMAN: And we have seen some other lab reports before, but they are in a different format. Could you just briefly explain this one? And you have said that the soil tests indicate that the soil is naturally low in phosphorous?

MR. TANNAS: Do you have the reports there?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. TANNAS: Yes. It is showing that it has a level there that you can see.

THE CHAIRMAN: And that's the zero to six inches?

MR. TANNAS: That's right.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has got 20 for phosphorous?

MR. TANNAS: That's right, yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: So what's that, 20 parts per million?

MR. TANNAS: I'm assuming that's pounds, pounds per acre.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. TANNAS: And probably they are looking for something like 40 to 60, that would be what they are looking for. And you can see the graph on the other side. And that is what they are probably looking for to be able to grow a normal crop.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, down below they have got --

MR. TANNAS: Can I come up, come forward?

THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

MR. YEE: 30 to 35.

MR. TANNAS: There is the "P" there. And it needs to be up here to be sufficient. You can see that it has to go quite a bit more to get the phosphorous to grow the crop. And so we are not putting it on with manure. And this is done by our local people in town here that do our soil sampling for us.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have a couple or
three questions. You wrote that:

"The use of antibiotics has been
greatly reduced by new practices."

MR. TANNAS: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: And so you are saying
that by the practice of being in almost sanitary
farms --

MR. TANNAS: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: -- that has reduced the
need for antibiotics?

MR. TANNAS: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: And so the concern
about antibiotic residue or distribution from hogs
would be lessened?

MR. TANNAS: Well, not only that. We
have -- in this province here, you can't even sell
to Maple Leaf here to be slaughtered unless you
are C.Q.A. registered.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. TANNAS: Quality Assurance
registered.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. TANNAS: And, therefore, you would
have to -- if you are caught with residues, and
they test periodically, then you would be shut
down. And you would not be able to ship animals. And I think that the penalty is one full year that you would not be able to ship animals. It is very stiff.

THE CHAIRMAN: So does that mean that you can't use antibiotics period or only certain amounts?

MR. TANNAS: You can use antibiotics, but you have to follow the label's prescription. And you have to follow a veterinarian's prescription.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has to be prescribed --

MR. TANNAS: Absolutely.

THE CHAIRMAN: -- for the individual pig?

MR. TANNAS: Yes, for individual pigs. And you can group with the feed, but, again, it has to be prescribed, and it is going to be followed. And it is followed right to the finishing barn or to the slaughter plant what is being done.

THE CHAIRMAN: You also note that one of the advantages that Manitoba has had is the historically low dollar.
MR. TANNAS: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Which certainly contributed to the rapid growth during the nineties. Has the -- what effect has the increase on the dollar, over the last four or five years, had on the industry?

MR. TANNAS: Well, it has not been four or five years. But over the last two years, I don't know of a single barn that's being built in the last two years, a sow barn being built in the last two years, simply because of that difference in the competitive dollar has changed a lot.

THE CHAIRMAN: So it has hurt the market?

MR. TANNAS: Well, it has definitely affected the market, yes. And the one thing that has good for Manitoba is that we produce a healthy, clean animal that is wanted by the States.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, the other -- and I have asked this of one or two of the other hog farmers that have appeared before us, and I am still not quite clear on it. With the use of phytase, this reduces the phosphorous in the
manure?

MR. TANNAS: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: But then does that make the manure phosphorous deficient when you put it on the field?

MR. TANNAS: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: And you have to add other phosphorous?

MR. TANNAS: Rock phosphorous. But it is cheaper to do it through -- by not going through the pig. It makes no sense to put phosphorous in through the pig to put it into the soil.

THE CHAIRMAN: But if you don't give it the phytase --

MR. TANNAS: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: -- it will produce more phosphorous?

MR. TANNAS: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: And you will have to use less rock?

MR. TANNAS: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: But is it still more efficient to pay for the phytase than to put on the rock phosphorous?
MR. TANNAS: Yes, it is. It's cheaper to do. The pig is not a good factory for producing phosphorous, when we can produce phosphorous from rocks direct. I mean, it doesn't make sense to put it through the pig. The pig is taking the phosphorous more effectively out of the grains. Otherwise, they would have gone right onto the soil.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. TANNAS: So this way here, we are taking it out of the grains. And we are not putting -- you see, we have to put minerals and vitamins into our rations, as well, in rock phosphorous. And so what we are doing is minimizing the amount of phosphorous that we are putting in the diet, reducing the phosphorous. Does that help?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, your last comment there.

MR. TANNAS: Having to add rock phosphorous to the diet.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, the run-off that Bill Barlow and others are concerned about, so what's the difference whether it is manure phosphorous or rock phosphorous?
MR. TANNAS: I don't know.

THE CHAIRMAN: And, I mean, if there is too much applied, or if it is not applied properly, whether it is rock or manure, it is still going to be a problem in the lake, is it not?

MR. TANNAS: Whether it's rotting vegetation, whether it's -- whatever, exactly, that's exactly right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. TANNAS: The whole point, the whole thing of what I focus on, is being responsible for my farm.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. TANNAS: I am not responsible for someone else and how they are doing it. But I know that what I am doing is the best of all of the technologies. Like I said, I am a fourth generation farmer. And my son is farming right now north of town, as well. And I have grandchildren, and we want to be here 50 years from now.

THE CHAIRMAN: And you say you've only been here three years in Hamiota?

MR. TANNAS: In Hamiota, yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: What size operation do you have?

MR. TANNAS: We run a 2,600 sow isowean operation. And it's a multiplier for breeding stock, and it's an isowean. It's about 3 -- don't quote me here, but I think it is about 380 animal units is what they say.

THE CHAIRMAN: And how much land do you have?

MR. TANNAS: We have a quarter section, and then we have caveats for the manure. But we have farmers fighting over -- I have farmers phoning me up complaining that they are not getting their share all the time. But do I it on rotation. I have always done it. For ten years I have done rotations. And I am just telling them: Sorry, you have to wait until next year.

THE CHAIRMAN: So you have no problem getting rid of it?

MR. TANNAS: No. No.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.

Wayne?

MR. TANNAS: Sorry.

MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you,
Mr. Chairman. Most of the questions the chair has already mentioned. I was just curious on the number of acres and also the demand for the product. Some call it waste, some call it manure. I am just making a joke there. So the new phosphorous regulations, when they came out, did not affect you whatsoever?

MR. TANNAS: No.

MR. MOTHERAL: Because of your levels.

MR. TANNAS: No, because of my phosphorous levels.

MR. MOTHERAL: I see that.

MR. TANNAS: And also my practice of a rotation every second year. And I have never been concerned.

MR. MOTHERAL: Your 300 or so animal units, the hog waste, or manure, whatever you want to say, that comes -- does your quarter section -- do you cover your whole quarter section every other year, right?

MR. TANNAS: Yes.

MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. And how much -- how many acres in excess does that do? I mean, does somebody else -- how many other farmers do you have contracts with or does it have to be --
is it -- what's the distance? Is it right beside your operation?

MR. TANNAS: Yes, it's right beside the operation.

MR. MOTHERAL: So it is piped?

MR. TANNAS: Yes.

MR. MOTHERAL: And then you just inject it?

MR. TANNAS: Yes. Again, I have to test the manure every year. Historically, we have been running about ten pounds of nitrogen to the 1,000-gallons. Like, this is -- to me, this is a very effective way of doing it. Like, slurry is a lot more effective than using rock, because I have so much leeway with 1,000-gallons. You know, I can be a lot more exact on how much I put in and where I'm putting it. You know, it's a very good way of doing it.

MR. MOTHERAL: You, obviously, have an earthen lagoon, do you?

MR. TANNAS: Yes.

MR. MOTHERAL: Is it covered?

MR. TANNAS: This is an excellent question. We are just like the town. Like, the town here has earthen storage, and all the towns
do. And I have been an advocate for years and years and years not to cover that lagoon. And I'll tell you why. Recently, we have just had, in the United States, where they had the E. coli poisoning through the spinach and the different -- remember, the crops and that? We have to -- just like the earthen lagoons here, we need the sun to penetrate down and kill the E. coli and kill the salmonella. I will fight tooth and nail to not cover those lagoons because I don't want E. coli and salmonella on my land. If I have complaints from my neighbours, I will cover the solid salad. But to this day, I have never had those neighbours that are getting manure ever complain about my farm.

MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you.

MR. TANNAS: But that's the reason that I fight tooth and nail is because we don't want E. coli and salmonella on our land, and we are keeping that out by allowing the sun to do its job.

MR. MOTHERAL: Because we have heard reports from some people who do cover that say that actually increases the nitrogen content. But, of course, in your operation, that wouldn't
be that important.

MR. TANNAS: No. To me, I don't want the salmonella and E. coli. And I think that if you look at some of the problems that you have seen with feed lot in Alberta, with it in the soils, the E. coli and salmonella, we don't need those problems here.

MR. MOTHERAL: Do you think you would win your argument if the government suggested or said that everybody, every hog farmer, should cover their lagoon?

MR. TANNAS: Would I win my argument?

MR. MOTHERAL: Yes.

MR. TANNAS: No, I wouldn't. I am very practical.

MR. MOTHERAL: I am just putting something out there because who knows what the future holds here.

MR. TANNAS: Well, I don't know. I don't know where we have escaped from using science and common sense. I don't know what has happened.

MR. MOTHERAL: Well, the reason for the covering, of course, is just for the smell.

MR. TANNAS: Yes, I know.
THE CHAIRMAN: And your reasoning for doing it is for disease. And so it's two different things.

MR. TANNAS: My son lives with my grandchildren right on the farm.

MR. MOTHERAL: Just out of curiosity, where did you come from, or is that not any of my business?

MR. TANNAS: Sure, I don't mind. I spent -- I spent -- I have been in the province for six years. I have worked at a private farm for a farmer managing his unit. And then I bought this farm here with that fellow in 2004. Prior to that, we were in Saskatchewan working for a company there. And I was there for how many years, Vickie?

MS. VICKIE TANNAS: That was four years.

MR. TANNAS: And then before that, I worked at the Research Station in Lacombe. And I managed the swine unit there. And the Lacombe Research Station is for meat health, meat safety and hygiene. I have done a lot of work in those areas with swine and that. So those years of working there, I have a lot of good -- a lot of
practical information and technologies that have applied.

And going back and looking at it, we ran hogs inside and outside of the swine unit there. And every pig went through the lab, for example. And every pig that there was looked at for calcification and looked at for traces of trichinosis or worms. We never raised a pig in ten years, on an outside lot, no matter how much de-worming medicine we poured into those pigs, that didn't have worms in ten years. And in ten years, we never used any de-worming medicine on pigs, and we never had a worm in the pigs that were raised on concrete.

THE CHAIRMAN: Inside?

MR. TANNAS: Yes. And, again, about disease, it is the same thing. It is the same thing. You just cannot clean the disease out of the dirt. And I would not be surprised if, in Europe, we will see -- you know how we talked about free range chickens? We will eventually see that they do not want them because of the bird influenza. And we want to move them outside. And we think that is better for the animals and better for their health and all of that, but I do not
think so. That is why we worked on this research
for safety of the animals and for the animal
health issues.

MR. MOTHERAL: Just one more question.
And I don't want to hog them all. I'm sorry, Ed,
but we have lots of time here today. When you
applied for a license, of course, to run your
operation, did you get great cooperation with your
municipality? Were you pleased with the process
or is there anything that you think could be
improved?

MR. TANNAS: Yes. I think when we
have these hearings, we have hearings, or open
hearings for people to come and speak. I think
people should be allowed to come up and speak
without being interrupted. And the hearings like
this are a good example. I think people have
concerns, whether it's smell, odour, disease,
anything that they are afraid of, they should have
a right to come up and speak. But they should be
able to come up and speak without being harassed
by people in the audience from either side. And I
think that's the biggest thing that I think is a
fault.

MR. MOTHERAL: That could be a
wonderful suggestion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, so far, and this is our 14th or our 13th day, and we have had no problems in that regard. People have been treated with respect, no matter how strong their positions were, from one end of the spectrum to the other. But that's a very valuable comment.

MR. TANNAS: That's good. But I have been at hearings, and not here, but others, I have been at hearings where the farmers got into name calling.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have heard about some of those municipal hearings.

MR. MOTHERAL: So at 380 animal units, there was conditional use hearings?

MR. TANNAS: Yes. I didn't build a farm, though. We bought this farm.

MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Tannas, just a few questions, since I think you have answered most of the questions that I had, as well.

One question that I would have is, could you explain the "self-imposed health and safety"? You mentioned that:

"...implementing best practices,
So could you describe, sort of, the health and safety?

MR. TANNAS: Yes. Well before there was even the C.Q.A. came along, we were implementing most of the safety and health and stuff, where we would, you know, impose for injections. And, for example, loading animals, we wouldn't load our market animals with a prod, hitting animals or heat. Like heat stress, cold stress, those sorts of things. You know, years ago, when I was a kid, we used to raise our pigs outside, you know. And I don't know about you guys, but a pig is a hair animal, just like you and I are. And we have had some harsh, harsh conditions out there. And at 40 below if you were outside, or even 40 above outside, it is not a good thing for animals.

And so we have kind of changed to make that animal more comfortable, and those things, more practical. The United States were actually ahead of Canada in C.Q.A. When I was with the Federal Government at Lacombe, I actually went
ahead and got the C.Q.A. regulation that they had at that time. Our Canadians have adapted and, actually, have a much better one than they had there now. But at that time, there was nothing here. And so I adopted all of those regulations. And other things, like, again, as these technologies, like all in, all out came about. Injection, as opposed to top spreading, spreading manure, I mean. And I don't want to knock other industries, and I apologize if I do. But that I can remember dairy farming, and spreading manure on top of the snow, and that's just horrible. And we have adopted those, but we don't do those. We store the manure and apply it so that we don't lose the nutrients. Does that make sense?

MR. YEE: Yes, that's great. I can relate to that because my uncle farmed out by Westburn there, so I know how the pigs were dealt with before.

The other question I have is, as you have mentioned, and I think that you have specified Lacombe and Saskatchewan, and that you filed manure plans for about 30 odd years. And, in your experience, have you noticed more
1 stringent regulations in Manitoba, or more
2 stringent requirements and approvals, like the
3 conditional use permits, is it more difficult in
4 Manitoba than it is in Saskatchewan or are there
5 comparisons?
6 MR. TANNAS: I don't think that it's
7 more difficult, it's just different. The growing
8 conditions -- and it's different in different
9 parts of Manitoba. The growing conditions in
10 Saskatchewan, you will remember, they may only
11 crop every second year. They may not be
12 continuous cropping. The crops we produce here in
13 Hamiota, compared to the crops they produce down
14 at Morris, I mean, the nutrient needs are so much
15 different. So to me it's -- yeah, the conditions
16 may be harsher here in Manitoba because they don't
17 take, maybe, enough into account of where exactly
18 we are in the province. Again, look at the land I
19 have available for me to spread my manure,
20 compared to maybe somewhere else, where they do
21 not have that availability. But the nutrient
22 uptake in those areas may be greater than what I
23 have here and that. And so I don't think -- I
24 have never had a problem here because I have
25 always been below the standards. And I have
always been able to be better than what the
requirements are asking, so it's never been an
issue or a problem for me. So I don't know if I
have answered that very well, but that's not ever
been a problem.

MR. YEE: Okay, that's fine. And just
one other question. And I might have missed this,
but you have mentioned about piping the manure.
Is it applied by yourself or is it commercially
applied?

MR. TANNAS: The manure?

MR. YEE: Yes. Do you have a
commercial applicator?

MR. TANNAS: No. I hire that out. I
hire people to put that on, yes.

MR. YEE: Okay, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: I just have one further
question. You talked about your experience, I
think it was at Lacombe, where you said that in
ten years no pig raised outside did not have worms
and no pig raised inside had worms.

MR. TANNAS: There is a double
negative there.

THE CHAIRMAN: How about in hoop
barns?
MR. TANNAS: We did not have hoop barns, but we did have huts. And we had huts for them to go into, and then a concrete pad for them to eat on and feed on. But we don't have hoop barns at that facility. But we did raise a lot of pigs for -- we did meat quality, meat safety and meat hygiene. And it was just a continuous issue, for the research scientists doing research on hygiene, to bring a pig in that had trichinosis. The consumer will just not stand for it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, hoop barns are on concrete, though?

MR. TANNAS: They are on dirt.

THE CHAIRMAN: They are on dirt?

MR. TANNAS: Well, I don't know if there is somebody here who is raising them in hoops. But I think that they are either clay based or they can also bring in a sand base and straw.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we will ask that of someone who raises in a hoop barn.

MR. TANNAS: When you have someone come through.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Tannas. Thank you for coming here this
afternoon.

Next is Bert Swann. Please state your
name for the record?

MR. SWANN: Bert Swann.

BERT SWANN, having been sworn, presents as
follows:

THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

MR. SWANN: It is time for a
commercial break. I want to thank the Commission
for this opportunity to come before you to express
a positive side from the community standpoint.

I'm the Economic Development Officer for the
Hamiota Economic Development Corporation. And we
are funded by the Town and the R.M. of Hamiota, so
we have a vested interest in this issue. We
create, promote and facilitate growth of our
economy.

The HEDC have supported the
establishment of hog barns in the R.M., the
National Swine Genetics, Genetic Pork and the
Foxtail Farms. You just heard from Lorne. He is
a wealth of information. We have supported these
barns from the beginning, and will continue to
support future hog barns.

These barns we have now, and we are
looking forward to more, together have almost 30 employees that shop in our stores. Their children
go to our schools. They enjoy the lifestyle. And they contribute significantly to our economy,
retail and the tax base.

According to last year's census, the surrounding towns and R.M.s, outside of the R.M. of Hamiota, have lost over 10 percent of their population during the past five years, while the town and the R.M. of Hamiota lost only five percent.

We need to keep on trying to create the stability and promote growth of hog farms, in order to stop this population drain and sustain a strong economy, amongst other projects as well.

The HEDC will continue to support the hog industry, and recognizes that, with the technology we have today, we shouldn't need an economy/environment trade-off.

Clearly, we should be able to engineer the bio-digesters, for instance. Perhaps the government could help fund the farmer, in this regard, for alternative energy. We should clearly establish a healthy environment and a sustainable economy, without jeopardizing the lives of our
fellow citizens or the future of the hog industry in Manitoba.

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: How many -- more or less, how many significant hog operations are in the R.M.?

MR. SWANN: There is another three, I believe, outside of the R.M., outside of the Hamiota R.M. There is three inside.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is three inside the R.M.?

MR. SWANN: Yes. Plus other individual farmers have hogs. But the hog barns themselves, there is three.

THE CHAIRMAN: And how long have they been in this area, the significant sized ones?

MR. SWANN: Okay. Tom, help me out here. Randy, help me out here. Just to clarify, I have been here only about nine months.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are saying about 2,000 were the first ones of a significant size. So about six, seven, eight years. Okay, six years. And you've noticed a significant impact on the community?

MR. SWANN: Absolutely. We would be
lost without them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other towns, of any size, in the R.M. or just Hamiota?

MR. SWANN: Hamiota is the significant one with people.

THE CHAIRMAN: Of the ones in the area?

MR. SWANN: Yes, the ones with schools and hospitals and dentists.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you.

MR. MOTHERAL: Well, I should be asking you, and maybe you don't know, maybe if you don't know, I have known Tom for a number of years, so maybe he could help out. Does the R.M., with the new additions to the Planning Act, there is a requirement, I believe, that municipalities have a livestock operation -- operating policy by the year of 2008, am I right there? I am just wondering if the municipality has one going now or are they like others awaiting the report of this commission before they make their livestock operation policy?

MR. SWANN: I would have to say the latter, yes.

MR. MOTHERAL: I was just wondering
that. It is a wonderful opportunity, I know, to -- obviously, you are welcoming operators here or the hog industry into your municipalities so it would probably be beneficial to have an operating policy.

MR. SWANN: Absolutely.

MR. MOTHERAL: To welcome those kinds of things. That's all.

MR. YEE: Yes, Mr. Swann, you mentioned in your presentation 30 employees. Are those 30 employees directly related to the hog farm operation?

MR. SWANN: Hog farm, yes.

MR. YEE: Are there any other ancillary things like feed mills or other things that are ancillary but related to the hog industry that have come into the community?

MR. SWANN: Right. Egg service centers and we are looking to expand those as well.

MR. YEE: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: The 30 employees, are they sort of locals who were hired or did any of them come from other places to take these jobs?

MR. SWANN: Oh, they have come from
other places, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. SWANN: And some commute and some are living in the R.M.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, thank you very much for your presentation today.

Now, we were given copies of another presentation but there is no name here so I am not sure who this is.

MR. TOLTON: I'm early.

THE COURT: Well, you're here. Would you state your name for the record, please?

MR. TOLTON: I'm Gary Tolton from Newdale, Manitoba.

GARY TOLTON, having been sworn, presents as follows.

MR. TOLTON: I've given you the written part of what I want to say. Actually, in the year 2000, I had a detached retina. And although growing older, I have a different problem than everybody else. They claim their arms aren't long enough. But I have to have it very close to read. And talking into a mike would not be good. So, with your indulgence, I will just deviate a little bit, and not read what I wrote, but say
what I wrote.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, that's fine.

MR. TOLTON: Well, they told me that I would never read again. And I kind of beat it, but not as well as I would like to.

In 1974, my wife and I purchased a farm in Newdale. I had farmed some land before that. And we grew our first crop in 1974. And we also raised the pigs in the barn on the farm, the old-fashioned way, with a fork every couple of days and straw.

Our crop in 1974 was very disappointing. And after that, we soil tested and found out that, although we had purchased some land that everybody said was really great, half summer fallow, half crop, no fertilizer applied, our nutrient level was just about zero. Our organic matter was low. Basically, the land had been mined and we had to start over.

We raised cattle and hogs for a while. And my main ambition was to build a hog barn. In 1977, I finally had the financial resources to build the first feeder barn. I built that barn in '77 and used the technology of the day, which was pits under the barn and liquid manure. I started
spreading manure. And I was really waiting for
this nutrient build-up. And, actually, I found
out that we could spread 25 to 30 acres a year
from that barn, and that we would get almost
enough nutrients on those acres to grow a crop.
So as we spread it around the farm. And it took
us about six years to get back and spread on those
acres again. And we saw some significant
improvement, but we never, ever, at any time that
we ever took soil tests, did we ever get up to the
point where we were anywhere close to what they
were recommending for either phosphorous or
nitrogen.

And that has held true. The soil
tests that we took in 2001, was for an experiment,
where they did -- basically, every spot was done
by GPS. And they took 50 spots off of 50 acres.
And there was no spot -- well, no, I believe there
was one spot that seemed to have a high, high or
almost high, phosphorous level, but only one probe
out of that whole farm. So it really never did
become a problem. And I never did solve my
nitrogen and phosphorous problem. I am still
buying fertilizer. And I can say that today I
would like to have a hog barn beside me because it
is getting more expensive all the time.

During the time that we were raising these hogs, we realized that -- and some of the neighbours jokingly said that the smell of manure was the smell of money. But we also realized, and they also realized, that if there was any smell of money, it was my money and not their money, so we took as many precautions as we could. And we were spreading on the land on about a monthly basis.

And so if we knew that they were going to have a family event, we always tried to be at least seven days away from spreading. We wouldn't spread seven days before. We did the same kind of thing for community events. If they were having a snowmobile derby fairly close to the valley, if you are having a canoe derby, we avoided spreading manure at least a week in advance so that the community wasn't affected by our barns. We didn't want, you know, any bad neighbours, if we could possibly avoid it.

We also had our own feed mill at the time where we were purchasing grain. And we always purchased local grain, provided it was high quality. I had neighbours thinking pigs ate anything, and always came over wanting a fairly
good price for something they couldn't sell to anybody else. Unfortunately, I had to explain to those guys that it just didn't work. If we are going to raise a high quality animal, we are going to have to use high quality grain. But overall, we tried, over the years, to use as much local grain as possible. We paid premium for it most of the time.

We tried to use local contractors when we built our barns, and we built three times. We actually built in '77. And then we built a farrowing barn in the early eighties. And we used a barn that we used as a dry sow barn later in the eighties. And at that point in time, we were able to take our sows that we were pasturing outside and put them inside. This allowed to us go to minimal disease, which made it a whole lot easier on C.Q.A. We used very little medication after that. It was definitely the way to go, to have everything confined inside and on a health program.

And when we got into the nineties, we again thought of building again. But by then, it seemed that, in my part of the country, it had become very much a spot where people would
complain about it. It wasn't my neighbours beside me. It was people quite a bit farther in the municipality that were definitely opposed to hog barns. You know, some of them were suggesting that it was a good place to be hog-free. They haven't figured out what else they are going to do to bring people in. And I was hearing things like: We have to stop the pig barns. Because if we could just stop all of these darn pig farms from being built, we would get the Crow Rate back. The only crow that ever came back is the one that annoys me in the tree. And I was hearing that.

And I guess I lucked out. If I should use my kids' inheritance, it didn't bother me really all that much. I told them that a couple of times. But my retirement fund, if I was going to put it in to build a farm to really feed it, I just really couldn't see why I would have that. So that forced us to change. We rented some more land and did not go ahead with that. And at times, I deeply regret maybe not trying, because I would have liked to have gotten to the point of having an earthen manure storage. We would have used the manure much more efficiently if we could have had earthen manure storage and dragline
technology and spread the whole field. Because the way we did it, we were winter spreading. And even in the summer, if you are spreading down the field and you have got 15 feet to go, and you are a long ways away from home, you probably don't go back. And so then you have to put up with a little bit of poorer crops there. I think that this manure technology would have really been good.

The councils that we were dealing with, they thought they would err on being safe. In fact, I did come home one night and say to my wife: You know, if we had had this for 100 years, we would still be using horses because they are safer than gas. But we just couldn't see any way that we could move ahead.

And, anyway, you know, as I considered it and I thought about it, I thought the things that we have really to tell you is, you know, people want to move ahead. We have to be larger to use the technology, such as what Lorne is talking about. I mean, those are fantastic. They will definitely help the environment. I mean, he has been able to spread his manure better. I still winter spread. I don't feel that it's a
real problem, you know, because I am basically wanting all of the fertilizer value that I can get out of the manure, so I am not going to spread it where I am going to waste it, either. And, like him, I am going to try to get all of the value possible.

So, actually, in concluding, my recommendations, first of all, I believe that we have to do research. I would like to see research done on where this phosphorous is coming from. I know that we are talking about it and wondering here -- I guess, I wonder if, you know, all of agriculture is changing. You know, is the phosphorous being leached off the ground or are we doing other practices?

And, you know, I think at home that we now have a lot of crop residue. It wasn't many years ago when everybody threw a match in the fall and they burned it. So maybe we put a lot of phosphorous up in the air those days, and it's there now, so maybe that's part of the reason. And maybe all of the tall grass decaying is part of the reason, maybe. You know, maybe some of it, if we overapply on the land, it is gone. But I think we have to continue a lot of research. And
I would like you to recommend and continue research so we know what we are doing. We are all environmentally friendly. We don't want to pollute the lake. But we have to find the answers, not just blame somebody else.

And I guess I talked about winter spreading. And I have to, you know, emphasize that there are not many of us left. We're a small number that are still winter spreading. You know, in a lot of cases, we would like to get away from it. But maybe many of us are close to retirement, and this is the operation we are going to run. If we are not, if I could have expanded and had an earthen manure storage, and if we had over 300 animal units, we are going to stop it. And so, I guess, that I would ask that that not really be a consideration. Because I feel that looking at how few operations there are, and how small of amount of animals they represent in the hog industry. And probably compared to other industries, like beef that are swathe grazing, I mean, it is almost like going out and trying to swat a fly in your house with a sledgehammer. You will do a lot of damage, but you probably won't get the fly.

I guess I would also like to talk a
little bit about the family farm. Lorne talked about his family farm. It is a fairly big family farm, but that's what it takes today. If we're going to have a family farm, it's not going to be one person anymore. It's going to be a group, whether it's a father and some sons or nephews. You know, we are seeing family farms, but they may have six or seven families that can use their resources much better, both financially and on a workload.

I think I grew up -- my father had the thought that if I took Sunday off I was really being bad. You had to go out and do some work on Sunday. My son informed me that that wasn't the way he saw it anymore. He would much rather have weekends off. And, you know, that's agriculture today. We should all have those weekends off. So the only way we can do it, is to have operations that are big enough that you have employees to take your turn at working a weekend, if you don't want to work every weekend.

And the other end is the financial part of it. And I think I have heard of presentations talking about peasant farmers. And compared to industrial, well, I don't think there
is many young people today that are going to take
over agriculture that want to start off on a
peasant farm. They want to make a living. They
want to make an adequate living, just like
everybody else in society. So that means that we
are going to have to have what we call commercial
agriculture.

And, you know, if you want to look
back to the good old days, when one person had a
little bit, there isn't going to be anybody to
take it over. You know, we are going to see, in
the next ten years, that a lot of people my age
that are going to retire. And if we don't try to
promote that kind of agriculture, it is sort of
like we will get older until we die. And then,
you know, I don't know, but I look at home and,
actually, it scares me. I went in for coffee the
other morning to talk about agriculture. And
there was only two of us, and we didn't get an old
age pension cheque at the end of the month, and so
we have to reverse that.

I guess we are looking at land use
planning. I think we have to try to streamline
land use planning. Because had my council been a
council that wanted to understand a little bit
about liquid manure, and not just put their head
in the sand and say it's bad. I listened to a lot
of rhetoric. I heard that Steinbach was
disappearing because the hog barns were forcing
people out. I guess that's why they only had 20
percent growth this year. You know, that was
being floated around. The councillors were --
actually, a councillor told me that I could easily
pollute with liquid manure. His cows were on a
ravine that runs into a lake. I have to wonder.
I thought if I was there maybe, I wouldn't talk.
But, anyway, I think we need a land
use planning. And I don't think councillors
really have the science to base -- to make a sound
decision. I think that they should make the
decisions for the municipality. But when it comes
to the science and where we should put these
buildings, I think it should be done by people
that are qualified.

Finally, I would like to suggest that
a moratorium on any part of agriculture, probably
any part of business, is bad. You know, I got
neighbours that are actually now scared. I mean,
they are in agriculture. And they are saying,
well, should we do the hogs this year? If we
don't like chemicals at the whim of somebody, and we will just have one year of organic farming.

And the cattle industry is saying: Could they look at us? I think this has done a lot of harm to the industry. And it can't -- it won't be corrected for a long time. The fact that the government put in a pause is, by some people, taken as: You were guilty. We just don't know how guilty.

Thank you for the chance to make a presentation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Tolton. I am just curious about your concerns about any potential of stopping winter spreading. What would it mean for your operation, or for other small operations, if winter spreading were completely outlawed?

MR. TOLTON: Well, an operation such as the way mine is sitting today, I would have to get -- I would have to put in an earthen manure storage which, probably on a 50 sow, farrow to finish, unit would be prohibitive. We haven't really cleared that hurdle yet where there would even be earthen manure storage. I think my municipality would still fight tooth and nail
1 against me getting a permit for earthen manure.
2 They would want an upright one, which would be
3 totally out.
4
5 I don't think -- those last people
6 that are living, they are either going to have to
7 expand, and just do it, or else they are going to
8 be leaving. And, finally, getting -- having a
9 barn that you don't have to pay on. You know,
10 they may have some maintenance, but don't have to
11 make this farm payment. And they would like this
12 last five years or six years to get out. It is
13 going to disappear. We know it is going to
14 disappear. And just the way it is set up today,
15 it can't -- those people that are doing it
16 probably won't survive if it is outlawed. They
17 will probably all just quit.
18
19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
20
21 MR. YEE: Mr. Tolton, you mentioned --
22 I think you mentioned considering expanding your
23 operation at one time. Like, you had problems
24 that you felt that the municipality wouldn't
25 approve it. Could you just expand on that a bit
26 for me?
27
28 MR. TOLTON: Well, we basically
29 started seeing a group that were relatively
opposed to it. And, I mean, I did talk to the
council. And I only had two out of six that even
thought that a hog operation should exist in the
municipality. But, I mean, at 35 years old, I
might have said, yeah, it's worth the fight.
Being about 50, I thought, you know, I might not
even get this barn built before I'm thinking of
retiring. And, you know, it just seemed that it
come from the eighties when I walked into the
municipality: Yeah, I am going to build a barn.
Yeah, that's great.

When we hit the nineties, there was
just too many people, and they weren't my
neighbours. That's the part that really hurt.
They weren't the neighbours living around me. The
people living close to the barn were all in
favour. It was people living 15 miles away that
didn't want it. But they definitely had the
council's ear and were just going to stop it
mainly on principle. I mean, it was mainly based
on: If you build anything bigger than what you
want to work in yourself, it's a factory farm and
we don't want it.

MR. YEE: I guess I just -- this is
probably not a question, more of a comment. One
of your recommendations mentioned that perhaps the land use planning should be more of a provincial jurisdiction, rather than the municipal. And I think you went on to state "because the councillors have no expertise". But they do rely on Technical Review Committees. Do you have any comments on that? Because there are Technical Review Committees that are involved in the conditional use and the applications for these operations?

MR. TOLTON: Well, once you get to the point of a technical review, yeah, they listen to -- if they are in favour of putting a barn in, they are probably listening to them. And if they are really worried, you know, at this point, they still have the absolute authority to reject it, just like: We don't have to listen to it. So if my ratepayers -- I'm sorry to suggest that they don't want the barn. I don't have to listen to technical review and the science, I can just ignore it.

So, I mean, even if there is a policy that, yeah, it's proven that it is going to be good and you can do it, they know there is some certainty. But, you know, it is a lot of expense
to get started to think about building one of these barns. And if you are at the whim of six people that were voted by -- in my municipality, actually, cottage owners are the biggest amount of residents. It's a little scary.

MR. YEE: Thank you, Mr. Tolton.

THE CHAIRMAN: What municipality are you in?

MR. TOLTON: Harrison.

THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you. I gathered that from your comments -- I have had some municipal experience. And it's unfortunate that that's the way it is, but municipalities do have the final say. And that's the way -- well, that's what it is. And in some cases, they like that final say. But the part is that they don't have to be accountable for whatever the reason is. I can understand your frustration. I enjoyed your presentation. I'm a farmer myself, and I know what you've had to go through. And in order not to be able to expand, it's unfortunate, that's all there is to it.

Do you think that in the future, in your municipality, that if there is -- they do
have to come up with a livestock operation policy
with the new Planning Act. Do you think that they
will cooperate there? Or would the present
council say: No, we don't want hogs, and just
make their operation livestock operation policy
that way?

MR. TOLTON: I have a little more
faith. Actually, I have talked to the people for
the cottage owners. And they kind of understand
that I don't want to build a barn near your lake,
but please understand agriculture. They are
starting to talk. We may have a little more
sensibility right now.

I think the interesting fact is that
they have to look at this not with a -- not
looking at pigs. If they bring this policy in,
there is a lot of cattle guys that are in a lot of
trouble. Because, you know, they won't even --
they won't even claim now that we have any cattle
operations over 400 animal units. And there is
probably seven or eight in the R.M. So if they
don't bring the policy -- you know, if they bring
in a policy, it's a livestock policy, not a pig
policy.

MR. MOTHERAL: And so maybe one of
your recommendations would be to have education, then?

MR. TOLTON: Well, yeah. I mean, I actually did try, you know, at times to educate them. I guess, to sit here and be truthful, I am a director on the Manitoba Pork Council. And I have been in other municipalities. And I actually asked the Reeve one time how many ILOs they have in their municipality? None. They don't have any pig barns. How many cattle? Oh, maybe I will tell you that outside afterwards. So they know that they are there. They are just hiding them. And I think agriculture has to be agriculture. You know, if we are looking at Lake Winnipeg, I think probably phosphorous from cattle is just as serious as phosphorous from hogs.

MR. MOTHERAL: Yes. And I noticed one of your recommendations was continued research, and you probably meant in that area. We have been hearing that across the province. There are some organizations who have undertaken that on a private basis, one of them being Deerwood Soil Management Group. They are doing some excellent work down in southern Manitoba with the watershed off the Tobacco Creek. And they have been doing
work on phosphorous, and these are the kinds of things. And our Commission needs to find out in these different areas where there is this research being done. And phosphorous is something that we need to know more about, I know that. Thank you.

MR. TOLTON: Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just before you leave, Mr. Tolton, I would just like to go back to the land use planning stuff and your recommendations. You were in Virden yesterday. You heard Professor Dolecki talk about his experience in the R.M. of Daly where they had a petition, apparently supported by over 90 percent of the residents. I mean, we are hearing two fairly opposing views on this. You know, we hear from you and from other hog farmers who think that the province should take it over. And that as long as the farmer meets the stated expectations, the license should go through. But then we are also hearing from people like Joe Dolecki that if the people don't want it then democracy should prevail. Any thoughts on that?

MR. TOLTON: Well, yeah, I have listened to it. Democracy is a little bit funny.

I would have to question that you take out a
petition, and you go and you pound on that door.

If you don't happen to be the hog farmer there, it is relatively easy to sign it. I have seen my mother sign petitions, and I've asked her afterwards: Why would you sign it? Why would you want it? Well, somebody asked me to sign it. So I don't think their 90 percent is right. And, yes, a certain amount of that percentage is right. But, you know, if many people don't want change, don't want to go and see, see about the change. And if we can paint a bleak enough picture about what's going to happen, of course they are going to be opposed to it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I mean, we also hear from -- you know, putting aside the petitions. And your observation on petitions probably has a lot of truth to it or a lot of accuracy to it. We also hear from municipal officials who don't want to give up that ultimate authority to say "no". So, you know, we -- I don't know, at this point, how much we will delve into this issue, but I think a reasonable amount. But we are caught between those who would like it to be strictly a provincial decision and municipal officials, and municipal residents who think that
some of the power should reside locally. And you
don't necessarily need to comment on that. It's
just that if you have got any comments and
thoughts in helping us to come to our decision on
that?

MR. TOLTON: Yeah, you know -- I
guess, you know, from the municipal -- I suppose,
you know, maybe a councillor is looking at it. If
you can't make a decision, why are you a
councillor? On the other hand, you would think it
would ease the burden if you didn't have to make a
real controversial decision. And I can think of
all of the barns built in 2000, I mean, there were
municipalities that were totally against it. The
people that were against it -- and being a
councillor, I mean, you probably wanted -- maybe
you wanted that authority to say "no".

And yet I know in Strathclair, they
built one of the barns in, I believe, it was 2001.
And it was a pretty bad meeting in Strathclair one
afternoon. And it was my first experience of
being in a meeting at home. I have been at some
bad meetings, but they weren't home. And this one
was seven miles from my place. Everybody was
opposed to it. And yet the other day, I was
having coffee and the barn doesn't smell. Nobody
smells the barn. And they don't even know that it
is there anymore, and they think it is good. And
there was some other people that really told me
what they thought that day, and it wasn't good.
So, I don't know, I guess it is going to be a bit
of a push and a pull.

Maybe if we have the right land use
planning, and the government can stress that when
you have a spot for animals, that it's for all
animals, it will be better. And we will get
science based, and maybe we will get a little
knowledge. But it is the last eight or nine
years, unfortunately, has been very hard on
councillors, hog farmers and maybe residents, as
well. But we have to try and do something, and I
am not sure what. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
Now, is there anybody else in the audience who
would like to make a presentation this afternoon?
We have had nobody else, sort of, pre-register or
register. And so I am inviting anybody else who
wants to make a comment. Okay. Well, we will
adjourn. We will be here all afternoon. If
anybody -- if anybody changes their mind and wants
to say something, or if anybody else shows up and
would like to make a presentation, we will
reconvene.

We have three people who have
registered to speak after dinner tonight. So we
will be back here at seven o'clock for that, but
we will be here this afternoon as well. So we are
adjourned for the time being.

(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 2:32 P.M. AND RECONVENED
AT 7:03 P.M.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening. Can we
come to order, please? We have a handful of
people that would like to give presentations
tonight, so I would like to get our show on the
road. First up is Mr. Lyle Keating. Could you
come up to this table, sir?

MR. KEATING: Can I take that mike
off? Hello.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hang on a second,
Mr. Keating?

MR. KEATING: Pardon?

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you introduce
yourself for the record?

MR. KEATING: Yes. Hello. My name is
Lyle Keating. I'm from Russell. I farm there. I
have been farming in 1940, and I am still farming.
I built a hog farm in 2001 and it is running
normally. And I will talk about it in a minute.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Could you just
hold on here? We have to administer an oath, sir.
So could you pay attention to the Commission
secretary over there.

LYLE KEATING, having been sworn, presents as
follows:

MR. KEATING: Thank you very much.
Okay. The first thing I want to talk about is my
wife and I -- can you hear me? My wife and I were
on a bus trip to the north about three or four
years ago. And in Yellowknife, the bus coming
back to Edmonton travels north -- travels west on
the north side of the lake for several hours.
Along that trip, the sloughs were fully green,
not -- a bit of algae here and there. They were
completely full, except for the deeper ones, and
they had lily pads.

I questioned -- I questioned, quite
strongly, if the troubles in Lake Winnipeg are
from some of the sources that are mentioned
because, in that country, there was no livestock
in it at all. And that's the first thing that I
I want to talk about. Are there any questions on that?

MS. JOHNSON: You have to speak to the panel over there. They are the ones that are going to ask you questions.

MR. KEATING: Any questions on that?

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

MR. KEATING: Okay. The second thing, we built a barn in 2001, and it handles about 10,000 pigs per year. It's four barns, with about 2,500 to 3,000 hogs per barn. And between the bank and myself, I thought it was a good idea, I thought it would maybe encourage some other people to look at another way of making a dollar. That has backfired because nobody took that up.

There is the municipality. And considerable people were on side to start with, but after we got started -- oh, no, it fell out. Where was I? Yes, quite a few people were against it. Most of them didn't come to us and talk about it. But through the municipality, we were quite aware that considerable people were not thinking it was sensible, that it shouldn't be here.

Anyways, I will go over the things that have happened since then, as several years
went by. We only put in the money that we could afford to lose, and the bank put up two-thirds of it. In another year and a half, we will have the bank paid off. The money that came in all went to -- the people that we rent the barn to pay us $32,000 per month. That's not chicken feed, it's pretty good-sized money, in my opinion. Anyway, the pay is $32,000 and that goes straight into our bank loan. And so, in another year and a half, which will be seven years, that is paid off.

Now, it will take another -- it will take another six and a third years to pay that off, if I charge my -- charge the same rate of interest at the bank, which I think you fellows will agree is fair.

THE CHAIRMAN: Absolutely.

MR. KEATING: That's 13 and a third years. Now, there is still the income tax. And I never reckoned that out, but I believe it will take a year and two-thirds to pay the government the income taxes that we have to pay as it goes along. Anyways, it is a 15-year term. I think, fellas, that's pretty good. I think it's pretty good. I don't think it should be thinner. To go into something that takes longer than 15 years, I
don't suggest. But anyways, that's our case there.

Now, the people that made some money on this, besides myself, is the council, $28,500 a year. There are four people working at the farm. And they will probably pay $15,000 income tax. There are the four of them. I don't really have much idea of that, but it's possibly in about that range. And there is a head office probably that has quite a staff, too. This is Genetic Pork. And they probably pay the government $15,000, maybe more than that, for their staff.

Now, the manure people that haul the manure, $60,000 or $70,000 a year. So there is some income tax there, maybe another $15,000 or $20,000. I don't know. The feed mill, a lot of feed, I'll tell you, fellas. There is five or six truck loads a week of feed that comes into those barns. It's a lot of feed, and I think a little profit.

Anyways, our own income tax isn't large right now, because we have depreciation and the mortgage and a number of things that help ease that somewhat. But after some of those are paid off, we will pay considerable income tax.
Anyways, I would think around about at least $200,000 a year to the government. And what I am pointing this out for is because I don't think that things like this, the municipalities can afford to risk not having, unless the pollution is very, very bad.

Now, we smell the barn sometimes. We are a mile and a half from it. And if it's a south -- a straight south wind, we will smell it in our yard. Not a very heavy problem for us and no neighbours, that we know about, find it a problem.

What else did I have to talk about? In the 15 years we have paid off the barn. We have got -- our money that we put into it ourselves, we have got it back. Now, what we've made is what the barn is worth. We haven't made anything else. And that is very difficult to talk about. You could maybe have some trouble selling it. You could maybe get your money back. Maybe you could sell it for double. It would depend on the market.

And this is one of the things that people object to is somebody making a dollar while they have to live with the smell. Our smell isn't
too serious. We cover the lagoon with straw. And
I don't think it's too serious. Now, other fellas
might think it is different.

Anyways, I do recognize that the
environment is very, very important. And I think
if the world had have been watching the situation
better, we wouldn't have quite as much worry with
warming as they have now. It is very difficult to
change. The barn -- the only thing that goes into
that barn is the vegetation, barley or wheat. I
have trouble thinking that that is going to cause
the same kind of troubles as chemicals that we put
in the field and exhaust that we burn heavily,
burn heavily, I'll tell yeah that.

And so, anyways, those are some of the
thoughts that I had. Is there any questions here
that you would like to bring forward?

THE CHAIRMAN: I have none,
Mr. Keating. Wayne?

MR. MOTHERAL: Not really, no. Just
thanks very much for your input.

MR. YEE: I have no questions,
Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for
coming over here tonight, Mr. Keating.
MR. KEATING: Thank you.

Next is Roger Desilets. You can sit down, please.

MR. DESILETS: Thanks.

THE CHAIRMAN: Please introduce yourself for the record.

MR. DESILETS: Roger Desilets.

ROGER DESILETS, having been sworn, presents as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

MR. DESILETS: Good evening, members of the Commission. My name is Roger Desilets, as I have stated. I reside in the R.M. of Park, approximately six miles northeast of the town of Oakburn. My wife, Cathy and I, along with our four children, operate a small farm where we specialize in the production of honey from unique floral sources, mostly alfalfa. We keep our bees along the Riding Mountain National Park. And we also manufacture beeswax candles and a line of natural skincare products. It pays the bills. We have lived in that area since 1983.

Our interest in the issue of hog production has come about due mainly to our involvement in opposing two unsuccessful attempts
to establish Intensive Livestock Operations in the R.M. of Strathclair. The proposed site was roughly one and one-half miles southeast of our residence, and the spread fields would have been within, well, a half mile of our home and business.

In our area, Wolfe Creek is a second class drainage. It provides much of the drainage, directing the water south and east into the R.M. of Shoal Lake, via the Oak River. It joins up at the Oak River, oh, about halfway between Oakburn and Shoal Lake, I guess, about five miles from our residence. Many of the -- at the time of that application, many of the proposed spread fields had straddled Wolfe Creek. And if I can refer you to the topographical maps -- I apologize to the members of the public. I had prepared a presentation, but technology failed us, and so back to paper.

And what I wanted to draw your attention to on the topographical maps is where you will see, at one area a little further north, was the proposed site, and it was 593 metres above sea level. And you will see a lake to the southeast, about two and a half miles away. And
it is a 570 metres above sea level. That's a difference of 23 metres, or about 70 feet drop, in two and a half miles.

The purpose of this presentation is, first, that you can relate our experiences with proponents of the hog industry, and the shortcomings in the process of approving the siting and construction of ILOs and earthen manure storage facilities.

And if I can refer the Commissioners to the second set of -- they are stapled together separately, but there is one item named or entitled "page 5", if you have it there. So I hope I haven't overstepped my boundaries in reproducing some of these items, but they were for public use. And we had them made available to us at the Conditional Use Hearing, which we attended in Strathclair. And the reason for showing this page 5 is to draw attention to the 12 parcels of land that are indicated as proposed spread fields for that operation. And you'll see, on the agricultural capability and class, every piece of property that had been proposed for spread fields contains some Class 2 soil, very good soil. And we have excellent soil in our area, but
topographical concerns. It is a very rolling area.

But you will also see that every proposed spread field also had some Class 6 soils with concerns regarding the water. And there are also various pieces with Class 5 soils also. If I can just elaborate a little bit on this, Class 2T soils, I will just read it for the public, if you don't mind:

"CLI subclass T (e.g. 2T) denotes soils where topography is a limitation for agricultural use; either steepness or the pattern of slopes. CLI subclass W (e.g. 6W) denotes soils with excess water other than from flooding limits use for agriculture. The excess water may be due to poor drainage, a high water table, seepage or runoff from surrounding areas."

The next page would be page 6. And I do have a point to make with all of this. And on that page, you will see where the asterisks are shown. The recommendations for nutrient applications on the types of soil that we had in that area, Class 2s, 3s, 5s and 6s.
"Based on Canada Land Inventory system, agricultural capability on spread acres range from Cclass 2T through Class 6W."

I will try to skip some of this here. What the Technical Review Committee was recommending, at that time, was fall application, on Class 4 lands which didn't contain anything, should be restricted to only perennial forage crops.

"It is recommended that Class 5 lands should be sown to perennial grasses and only spring applications made at lower manure application rates. Class 6 lands should not receive nutrient applications, manure or otherwise, regardless of crop grown. The spread acres on SE 35-18-22W, as well as Class 4, 5 and 6 lands should be re-examined by a pedologist..."

But the Technical Review Committee recommended that it be examined by a pedologist or someone with equivalent education.

I will go on to page 7.

"The more productive soils from the spread acres can be found on the..."
I won't elaborate on the other parcels of land. They could have higher nutrient application rates but, again, they were recommended at one of the pieces of land, southeast 35, be re-examined to ensure suitability to receive manure.

And then they go on to say the level of phosphates varied anywhere from 9 to 49 pounds per acre. Anything over 49 pounds per acre, using the Olsen method, I think, is considered quite high. And phosphate concentrations should have a very close eye kept on that.

And page 8, as far as testing for the soils, they suggested that it can be conducted for six feet, with one sample per 15-acres. Well, that's very intensive sampling, but it is for the protection of our water resources, I believe. And, in other words, to determine the baseline nutrient status of the soils prior to manure being applied.

Surface water issues is also on that page, the bottom of the page. There is no asterisk on that one. Just give me a moment, please. And don't want to waste the public's time here. Oh, it mentions:

"Provincial drainage maps indicate
Wolfe Creek, which is classed as a
second order drain, runs through land
parcels.

Provincial drainage maps show the
remaining land parcels contain
numerous small water bodies (potholes
or sloughs). Aerial photos indicate
that surface waters in these potholes
appear to be generally isolated, but
some may potentially connect to other
drainage routes."

On to page 9, "Geological and Hydrogeological
Conditions.

"The local geology consists of a
relatively thick deposit of glacial
till."

The local geology in our area, and we are on the
south escarpment of the Riding Mountains, by the
way, this was located about 11 miles from the park
boundary. I think I reside, well, about nine and
a half miles to the park boundary.

"The local geology consists of a
relatively thick deposit of glacial
till and clay overburden overlying
shale bedrock."
It is a fractured shale aquifer in our area.

"The overburden thickness is expected to range from approximately 30 metres to greater than 50 metres deep."

And that's adequate and substantial.

"The lower portion of the glacial till, beneath the 15 to 30 metre depth, may contain gravel/sand lenses."

And our information at the time indicated even shallower gravel and sand zones, as is indicated in this report also. They were at anywhere from 5 to 20 metres. The 5 metres, being 15 feet, there is not a whole heck of a lot down there for gravel. And we know that water follows those gravel lenses.

There is also a flowing well in that area, so our water table is quite high. I don't think it's very well understood, the recharge and discharge, the way an aquifer recharges and discharges.

If I could just give you one more map here. By the way, because the issue is water here, I have a map. And again I apologize. It indicates the aquifers within the Province of
Manitoba. And one thing I will draw the Commission's attention to is that Riding Mountain is very well indicated. And it is so obvious that Riding Mountain is a major recharge area for the Odanah Shale Aquifer that we reside on. And that Odanah Shale Aquifer -- I will give you the map in a moment -- extends over Riding Mountain, down to Russell, down to Binscarth, down to Hamiota, makes a big semi-circle over to Minnedosa, and it wraps up just on the east side of the Riding Mountain National Park.

Okay. After all of this, to page 11, if you would flip to that one. After the Technical Review Committee did their in-depth study, well, with the information that had been provided to them, they make numerous recommendations. And as far as liquid manure, this is what they wrote:

"Manure will be applied in the fall with injection equipment."

And I think that is generally what is proposed.

"Class 6 lands should not receive nutrient applications, manure or otherwise, regardless of crop grown. Class 4, 5 and 6 land should be
re-examined by a pedologist."

And I remind the public that every item or every parcel of land contained Class 6 soils on it. That every quarter section, half section, should have been examined by a pedologist at the -- at the deep monitoring -- or with the deep monitoring method. And some other proposed spread acres contained shallower land and peat, which would not have been at all recommended for manure application.

And so with all of that, where the Committee had recommended to do a proper investigation -- excuse me, I will just refer back to my script. In this instance, the Technical Review Committee appears to have done a thorough assessment of the proposal and had raised a number of flags regarding the need for more in-depth soil testing to determine the suitability of the land to receive liquid manure.

Every recommendation in this report was ignored by the Council of the R.M. of Strathclair at the time. And on the second attempt to have this barn, this conditional use permit approved, it happened twice over a four-year period, the application, the second time
around, was approved. All presenters at that hearing, at the public hearing, were discounted as heretics. Losers, in this instance, would have included the residents of the R.M. of Park, immediately to the north, because tourism is very much a growth industry in our area. Numerous lakes have been stocked and we are surrounded by water. And especially residents of the R.M. of Shoal Lake would have been impacted. And they would have received all of the drainage from this proposed operation, despite having very little to say in its approval. The R.M. of Shoal Lake, via Wolfe Creek, lies about three miles to the southeast of that proposed operation. This type of unilateral decision by a municipality, regardless of the effect on neighbours and downstream recipients is obviously unjust.

Fortunately for all, including our neighbour, our local farmer, who had invited this Ontario corporation to establish itself in our midst, the parent company, Premium Pork, I think many people are familiar with them, declared bankruptcy before the barn could be built. On a positive note, almost the entire council of the
R.M. of Strathclair was replaced in the last election. Unfortunately, this all happened only after local community members had spent $13,000 out of our own pockets in legal fees, and thousands of hours battling their own representatives, as well as the unwelcome intrusion by an undesirable industry.

I have represented our local organization, the Wolfe Creek Conservation Group, at numerous meetings, pitching the proposal of a water protection zone. We have suggested using the number 45 Highway as the southernmost boundary, as this line is also currently recognized by both the Manitoba Department of Conservation, in outlining hunting areas north of 45 is area 23. And it is also used by the Department of Agriculture in Manitoba in its TB testing program. Any cattle north of the 45, I don't know if the program still exists, but have to be tested for tuberculosis.

The real issue is much larger than that, and much larger than forming a water protection zone. Although, I still adamantly believe that it should be looked at more closely,
as we are on the escarpment of the south -- of the Riding Mountain National Park. But the real issue is much larger than that. We are being told by scientists that the possibility of a water shortage looms on the horizon as global warming progresses. We are being told by the Province of Manitoba that responsible use of our water resources is something that we, as individual citizens, should start thinking about right now.

And yet, our Provincial Government, in obvious contradiction, continues to encourage the expansion of Intensive Livestock Operations, each of which is known to use approximately five million gallons of water per year to rinse pig shit from our barns -- from their barns. How many barns of this type do we already have in Manitoba? Will we be able to continue wasting our drinking water in this way, indefinitely? I believe we honestly know the answer to this question is: No. It's time the proponents of this wasteful method of water usage stop thinking of the water under their feet as their own. And it is time the movers and shakers of the hog industry listen to the citizens and their representatives, not the other way around. It is also time to stop
defending the status quo, as the world changes around us.

Certainly, there are other important issues that come to mind when contemplating the expansion of the hog industry in Manitoba. Rural depopulation is not something to be applauded. Economy of scale, as preached by proponents of ever larger farming corporations, has greatly contributed to this dilemma. The two or three employees needed to operate a barn, or four to operate a barn with 12,500 sows, contribute far less than a family of four needed to operate a farm, in conjunction with a 150 sow, farrow to finish, operation. Many examples of this still exist in Manitoba, but they are finding it increasingly difficult to function with the big guys controlling the industry. The straw based method does not pose the same problems as a liquid manure system.

Also, coal-fired boilers as are used in many intensive livestock operations barns should be discouraged in favour of methane recapture. Both the burning of coal and the escape of methane, a valuable source of energy, are contributing to the greenhouse gas emissions.
Two problems could be solved at once.

The introduction of antibiotic residues and various pathogens into our surface waters, thereby upsetting the ecological balance, has yet to be explored in depth. We have the science to do it.

And I would like to just elaborate a little bit on that. Our area is very well known for its migratory waterfowl and nesting habitat. And we have had hunters coming to that area, since the 1950s, from all over the States. We have lots of sloughs in the area. I hesitate to think what pathogens that we know are contained in liquid manure, as well as the antibiotic residues. I really hesitate to think what effect that will have on the aquatic animals and on the migratory waterfowl for only two of the affected species.

I could go on, but you've probably heard it all already, as you travel around this beautiful province. Our governments should not encourage a method of food production that will be, obviously, unsustainable in the future. And, again, you know, as we are told, there is a definite possibility of some dry years in the future. And we don't have to look too far in the
past to know that it has happened in the 1930s.
Just as we are witnessing the closing of schools
and hospitals in many of our rural areas, I
applaud Hamiota for maintaining theirs. So we
will see the demise of intensive hog operations as
a thing of the past as our water resources become
more scarce.

Let's use our common sense now. Our
children will thank us for applying foresight to
this issue.

I thank you for your time and
patience.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
Mr. Desilets.

MR. DESILETS: Did I give you some
photos there?

THE CHAIRMAN: You did.

MR. DESILETS: Yes, okay. So those
photos just show the Wolfe Creek and spring thaw
and the amount of erosion that happens on a wet --
on a winter that has -- you know, with a fairly
heavy snow load. You see examples of massive
erosion there. And that 70 foot drop in elevation
in the two and a half miles is quite a bit,
considering that from the -- in the next eight
miles, nine miles to Shoal Lake, it only drops
another 20 metres.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. DESILETS: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: We might have a
question or two.

MR. DESILETS: Yes, please.

MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Desilets, you have
mentioned, and I'll explore this a bit, in terms
of we have heard a lot of varying positions on the
Technical Review Committee. You seem to agree
that they have done a thorough job in the
assessment of this particular hog proposal?

MR. DESILETS: In this instance, I
felt that they had. And especially since they
were recommending doing a further evaluation of
the land, yes, I felt that they had done a good
job.

MR. YEE: Okay. And in terms of that,
I guess it's the conditional land use hearing
process, obviously, you felt there were
shortcomings. And we have heard variations on the
theme throughout the hearing process. Do you have
any recommendations on how that process could be
improved?
MR. DESILETS: Perhaps sound a little more democratic, as opposed to having a panel of councillors basically fall asleep through our presentations and discount us. I don't know how to correct that problem. I think we have more expertise at the provincial level than we have in the municipal level. Although, local knowledge carries a great amount of weight, but you have to listen. You have to have an open mind. And, you know, I can't say much more than that.

MR. YEE: And you mentioned also coal-fired boilers. Can you elaborate? I am not familiar with that.

MR. DESILETS: Actually, there are some manufactured right here in Zephyr. And they are good heating systems, but all that does is a boiler heats the water and circulates it to heat the barn. It is just unfortunate to be burning coal and allowing methane to escape. Both are causing a problem.

And I know that there have been experiments in Alberta where, as opposed to using an earthen manure storage, or a lagoon, that the method of storage was in tanks. And the methane was recaptured from those tanks and used, I am
assuming, to operate a generator to provide
electricity and heat for the barn.

MR. YEE: And then these types of
boilers are only used in Intensive Livestock
Operations?

MR. DESILETS: No. They are not. No,
they are used in quite a few large shops, barns.
No, you see them. They are quite common. And,
you know, they are as clean as they can be, but
we're talking coal.

MR. YEE: Right. And one last
question, you mentioned the introduction of
antibiotic residues and pathogens into our surface
waters. Are you speaking of specific surface
waters, and do you have any data? What are the
data sources?

MR. DESILETS: I'm sorry, I don't have
any data. But in our presentations, we have
employed, or not hired, but had the assistance of
botanists and biologists from the University of
Manitoba or, sorry, the University of Brandon, or
the Brandon University. And they definitely, at
that time -- I'm sorry, I don't have it all with
me -- indicated that there were some very good
scientific studies showing that there are
pathogens that survive the time spent in the
liquid manure storage lagoons. And when they are
then spread on to the fields or injected into
fields, that migratory waterfowl then take them up
from, you know, eating the grasses and stuff. And
it has -- and they have ingested it, and it does
show up in those species.

MR. YEE: And these studies are
available?

MR. DESILETS: I will get them for
you, if you wish, yes.

MR. YEE: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

MR. MOTHERAL: Yes, thank you,
Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask you -- it will
be my turn now.

MR. DESILETS: I brought up too many
points.

MR. MOTHERAL: And my interest is in
the municipal side, being a former municipal
councillor. I understand your frustrations that
you have with councillors sometimes, but every
municipality handles their planning differently.
Many municipalities have a plan, you know, have a
development plan.
MR. DESILETS: Yes, they do.

MR. MOTHERAL: And not all municipalities have the same plan. I would like to recommend to you, in the future, in your R.M. of Park -- I believe you are in the Municipality of Park?

MR. DESILETS: Yes.

MR. MOTHERAL: That in the new Planning Act that councils must come up with a Livestock Operation Policy.

MR. DESILETS: That's correct.

MR. MOTHERAL: An LOP. And, of course, there will be public input into that. There will be public meetings to get that, and I encourage you to be part of making that plan.

MR. DESILETS: I have been invited to sit on the board to establish the new development plan. The R.M. of Park used to be in the South Riding Mountain District, and they opted out. At the moment, they follow those regulations, but they are in the process of forming their own. And I believe we have to start soon. It should be in by January 2008.

MR. MOTHERAL: Many are waiting for the report of this Commission before they start.
MR. DESILETS: Right.

MR. MOTHERAL: And that's not going to be tomorrow, obviously.

MR. DESILETS: No. But I am active in it, and I do take an interest.

MR. MOTHERAL: That's good news. And I encourage you to be part of that. It's very important to try and be proactive on that, rather than being in a reactive situation, that's for sure.

MR. DESILETS: Right.

MR. MOTHERAL: I had one other point to make, and I forget now what it was. I will maybe think of it later, unless you have something to ask?

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

MR. MOTHERAL: That's fine.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Desilets.

MR. DESILETS: I would like to collect those photos back.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. DESILETS: And the map.

THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, certainly. Mickey Hersak. Sir, would you state your name for the
record, please?

MR. HERSAK: My name is Mickey Hersak, and I farm just southeast of Oakburn.

MICKEY HERSAK, having been sworn, presents as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

MR. HERSAK: Well, I am not a lawyer here, but I am an expert witness. And you know this because the presentation is in my handwriting. I am in the low tech area, and my apologies for that. However, I will go through this page by page. And you are welcome to make notes as you go along, and we will have questions later.

Again, my name is Mickey Hersak. And I farm northeast 22-18-23, just east of Oakburn, in the R.M. of Shoal Lake. The Oak River passes through this farm, forming a large wetland. And combined with the adjacent natural vegetation and woodlot, is now a well-known nature centre of approximately 100-acres.

The river is joined by many creeks and the marsh has become the filter for Shoal Lake, a lake of much improved quality because of the work of local wildlife enthusiasts. Waters from Shoal
Lake eventually become the Assiniboine, the Red, Lake Winnipeg, the mighty Nelson, as they flow into Hudson's Bay. So from a very small source, such as Duck, Tokaruk and Tenth Lakes, these tiny water molecules reach the very large oceans of the world. However, some of the water stays back, seeps into the ground to become part of the large Ohdanah Aquifer. Some people spell that O-D and some people spell it O-H-D-A-N-A-H. And that feeds our wells to supply the most essential compound for life: Water.

We are truly blessed to be living on the Western Manitoba Plateau and park land, a plateau climbing from the prairie floor in dramatic fashion. It is a land that is spruce-scented and lake dotted. It was once a glacier, later the edge of a very large lake, Lake Agassiz. Today there is a region of rolling terrain, gentle uplands and broad valleys. Here you find spruce, groves of aspens, clear spring-fed lakes, open meadows, wide fields of highly productive land, dotted with ponds and marshes. This diversity gives our region one of the richest and most varied inventories of plants and animals.
Consequently, it is little wonder that our first national park was located immediately to the north of us. We are in the park's watershed. The prairie potholes, brimming with water, and ringed with vegetation, are defined as prime habitat. They not only provide homes for many species of waterfowl, song-birds and game, but also provide nature's mechanism for purification. These ecosystems purify the water we drink and the air we breathe! They perform a cycle that has lasted for thousands of years.

In recent times, many of the potholes have disappeared, as have the woodlots, including some on my own farm! And, as they disappear or become polluted, the tools that prevent water degradation, also vanish.

My land straddles the Oak River. However, its waters are separated politically in adjacent municipalities. So political and private property lands separate myself and my neighbours, and other Manitobans, but geographically we are not separated. Any disruption to the plant or micro-organic life in this local water has wide-ranging effects on others close by or far distances away.
Now, there is much to be learned on how we have used our land in the past. The jury is still out on what damage we have done with chemical and organic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. All of the above applications involve some form of dissolving, and dissolving is almost always water. The intent is always the same. We want greater production and yields and greater income.

Witness our results: First, economically, all that we have achieved is over-production and lower prices. And, secondly, environmentally we have done greater damage to our natural resources, be it my ditch or Lake Winnipeg.

The hearing this evening is to review the sustainability of our hog production industry. You have asked us to share our views. Here are some of my observations. I am basing my observations on the following.

First of all, I have been reading reports and listening to the media. I have been attending hearings on this industry, and other agricultural endeavours. I have travelled extensively in
Canada, the Unites States, and abroad, as well as Asia.

I have attained two bachelor's degrees and a masters at the university.

I have been farming as a fourth generation farmer, and gaining wisdom from my parents and grandparents.

I have worked with consultants from the Fresh Water Institute at the University of Manitoba and Manitoba Natural Resources, and I have studied the Water Stewardship Act.

Here are some observations that I have come to, and conclude that they were generalities, but there are sufficient documents in various departments to establish this. We know that there have been a great increase in hog production with fewer producers.

We know that the major exporting numbers and dollar values are there.

And we also know that there has been increases in job creation.

Now, these three points sound very positive at first glance. But if you read between the lines, there are some reservations that are being expressed by others, as well as myself.
Here are the reservations.

1. The economic diversification.

This is economic diversification which is not ecologically sound.

2. There is only short-term economic gain.

3. We have depleted water supplies and aquifers.

4. There are questionable working conditions for minimum wage staff.

5. There are higher than average bankruptcies in farming, when compared to livestock farming or beef or poultry or grain or oilseed production.

6. There are unfavourable social conditions resulting when communities and families are split trying to resolve hog production in their area.

7. There are an unusual number of contaminating situations of wells, streams, caused by this industry.

8. There is a large cost to local municipalities in terms of infrastructure, only to have abandoned projects a few years down the road.

9. There is a failing to properly
1 address the liquid waste problem, whether it's
2 odour, toxicity, or nutrient value as a
3 fertilizer.
4
5 10. There is little contribution to
6 carry out research by this industry to solve some
7 of these problems.
8
9 11. We are still applying outdated
10 technology in hog production and marketing.
11
12 12. We are ignoring the concerns of
13 neighbours and citizens in general.
14
15 13. And we have little concern for
16 long-term environmental issues. In this case, I'm
17 saying the hog production industry.
18
19 So these statements are mine. They
20 are open for debate. I welcome discussion to this
21 effect. And I leave you with two questions
22 regarding the hog production industry.
23
24 And the first question is: Why has
25 the Province of Manitoba ordered a moratorium on
26 large hog barn expansion?
27
28 Secondly, why did Premier Gary Doer
29 create a Department of Water Stewardship with a
30 cabinet minister? And that's the Free Press, I
31 have it right here, November 5, 2003, front-page
32 story. Now, Mr. Doer's answer was:
"I want clear water, clear policy."

and that's my answer, too. I too want clear water and clear policy. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hersak.

What type of farm do you have, sir?

MR. HERSAK: It was a mixed farm. And now it is, basically, forage, oilseeds and grain.

THE CHAIRMAN: In one of your reservations you note:

"Failure to properly address the liquid waste problem."

And could you expand a little on that, what you mean by that?

MR. HERSAK: Well, the people that I have visited and talked to, had various storage tanks, some of which are corroded. And then we have the lagoon type of liquid waste storage, which is sometimes without a liner, and then the liners came in. These storage problems are all around us. They are in the media for example. We had a break in MacGregor, where we polluted quite a few wells. And there are some in the Interlake.

And the Province of Manitoba has these well documented.

MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Hersak, just, I
guess, one question in terms of one of your points that you made, that there is a higher than average bankruptcy in farming compared to livestock. Can you clarify that? Are you referring to the hog farm or the grain?

MR. HERSAK: Well, I'll tell you, there is a higher risk in all farming. But there seems to be a higher number of bankruptcies in the hog industry, so there is a message there. There are 10 barns in the Killarney area that are not working. There are barns in the R.M. of Stanley, some very successful, that's the Winkler area, some not. If you go between Steinbach and the La Broquerie and that area, there are some successes. But if you drive around there, you will see them empty. In the Interlake, I have a lake place on Lake Winnipeg, too. And the barns are there, and they are no longer working.

MR. YEE: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

MR. MOTHERAL: No. I don't have any questions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Hersak.

MR. HERSAK: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Routledge. Scott Routledge. Could you introduce yourself for the record, sir?

MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes, I am Scott Routledge.

SCOTT ROUTLEDGE, having been sworn, presents as follows:

MR. ROUTLEDGE: I have put together a bit of a proposal here. And it is strictly my thoughts on how I see it. And that's how I have titled it: "As I See It."

Good evening to the board and staff, ladies and gentlemen. My presentation tonight will be based on "As I See It". I am a producer of grain and cattle in the R.M. of Woodworth. My hometown is Kenton. I will be speaking on two fronts: the first as a producer, and the second as a nutrient management planner.

THE CHAIRMAN: Can you just slow down slightly, sir? We have a reporter that may not be able to keep up.

MR. ROUTLEDGE: Sorry.

I am a producer with great concern for our environment. I started farming 20 years ago as a first generation farmer, along with my wife.
I grew up on a small dairy farm where my parents sold cream. And their cropping system was half summer fallow and half crop to produce feed for their cows.

I purchased my first land in 1990, after renting for a few years. I have always worked away from the farm, and did the farming in the evenings and on weekends. My wife has also always worked outside the home as an RN. We have three children, who I hope some day will have the chance to continue on farming in our footsteps, if they should choose to do so.

I have always been very keen on anything relating to the environment. I switched to direct seeding in 1994 to a one-pass system to conserve water and reduce soil and water erosion, with the benefits of reducing input costs.

I have been involved in numerous committees in the past, such as the Manitoba Zero Till Farmers Association, the Manitoba North Dakota No Till Farmers Association, the Soil Council of Canada as a land representative, the Upper Assiniboine Conservation District, the Woodworth Conservation District. And I was highly involved in creating the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation
Program for Manitoba. And from time to time, have been asked to view projects and give input for the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council. Our whole focus was on how could we reduce our costs and be good stewards of the land for years to come.

Our farm is located one mile straight west of a 2,500 sow barn. For us, the odour has never been an issue. We have only noticed it a few times over the last five years, and that is when the humidity was near 100 percent. The odour is no worse than our cattle feedlot or, for that matter, the odour from human discharge. It is a known fact that fecal and urine wastes have their own fragrance from any output source.

We receive manure from two large hog barns on about two-thirds of our land. It has been a blessing in disguise, as I have seen ammonia Nitrogen in 1987, at 10 cents per pound, rise to 50 cents per pound today. That is an increase of 500 percent in agriculture input costs that we cannot sustain. To translate that into dollars per acre: In 1987 for an average crop that requires 100 pounds of nutrient per acre, the cost was $10 per acre. That same crop today would cost you $50 per acre of nitrogen alone, which is
only part of the nutrients required. I calculated a nutrient blend for canola on my farm this year that would cost me $88 per acre. These types of input costs cannot be derived from the marketplace. We need every bit of help we can get.

We have been putting manure on our land for five years now as crop requirements. I have seen our yields increase by ten bushels per acre across all crops on our farm. We save approximately $40,000 in commercial fertilizer on 1,000 acres per year. That is a real benefit to us as producers.

I have also seen land values increase in our area dramatically. The large hog barn operations have not devalued the land. Without manure on our farm, it would be a much different picture financially.

As rural depopulation increases ever so fast, we must have a vision for the future to attract the youth to our communities. These large operations have created some employment for the rural people. Not all youth want to migrate to the cities where crime seems to be a growing concern. We have to keep our vision looking
1 forward to the future for our children, and their
2 children to come. We live in a society where only
3 20 percent of our incomes goes to food, and the
4 rest goes to other expenses, mostly recreation.
5 It is a common fact that we all need to eat to
6 survive.
7 As a nutrient management planner, I
8 have varying degrees of education. I have an
9 agri-business degree in agriculture. I have taken
10 several courses to achieve a diploma degree. I
11 have taken the Intense Manure Management Course
12 and am currently working on getting my membership
13 with the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists.
14 Manitoba has the toughest Manure
15 Management Regulations in all of Canada. I am
16 currently doing contract work in Nutrient
17 Management for Elite Swine, New Generation Pork
18 and Genetic Pork out of Quebec. I cover many
19 miles in a week, from Killarney to Swan River,
20 from Austin to just over the Saskatchewan border
21 at Maryfield.
22 Manitoba has varying degrees of
23 nutrients that can be applied to the land, based
24 on soil type and subclasses, as set out by
25 Manitoba Conservation. The Canada Land Inventory
soils run from Class 1 through 7, accompanied by
13 subclasses in this province. There is no
manure allowed on Class 6 and 7 in Manitoba. All
of the allowable nitrogen limits are based on
nitrogen rates, which are based on land
productivity. Recently phosphate regulations have
been introduced as to where phosphate levels are
regulated by the government.

I see approximately over 500 soil
class samples a year, and have come across only two
class samples where phosphate regulations would be in
place. All limits are on the Manitoba
Conservation's website, where it is publicly
available to see.

I prepare work order applications to
crop recommendations based on the Manitoba Soil
Fertility Guide for various crops. All livestock
operations with 300 animal units or greater have
to file a Manure Management Plan annually before
spreading. This has to be registered with
Manitoba Conservation and soil tests have to be
sent to an accredited lab and sent in.

Manure samples are collected and sent
to the lab. They run tests for different types of
nutrients in the manure. After the spread, there
is a confirmation sent to Manitoba Conservation, where it is kept on file. This tells them the legals of the land it is spread on, the time of year, the soil class, the subclass, crop grown and total gallons spread.

We have seen vast improvements in application equipment as we move forward. All manure is injected into the soil with an Areaway, knives or coulter system. Application is done either through tankers or dragline system. They are both equally effective. Application equipment comes with GPS and gallon metres so that the applicators know how much is applied per acre and where exactly in the field where they are to go. I believe that all of the fecal and urine waste management, be it in livestock or human sector, the hog industry does a superior job in nutrient application.

I have enclosed some examples of how we do Manure Management Planning, work orders, nutrient analysis, soil testing, nutrient calculators and the fertility guides for crop removal. The producers receive a copy of this. And this is also kept on file, for years to come, at Manitoba Conservation.
In closing, I would encourage expansion of all livestock in Western Manitoba, as we can manage the nutrients. Manitoba has to diversify to keep value-added business in our province, as we cannot rail raw products out of the province, which puts us at a competitive disadvantage to the east and west ports. I feel that the hog industry is getting unfairly treated, as this is a very complex issue involving the soils, water and air. We need to adapt for the future because this is our environment. And I ask the Clean Environment Commission to look at all of the advantages that are promoted by the hog industry in employment, taxes and value-added food.

I would like to thank the CEC for this opportunity to speak. Thank you. If there is any questions, feel free to ask.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,

Mr. Routledge. Just how big is your farm?

MR. ROUTLEDGE: We crop 1,000 acres and have 400 acres of pasture and forages.

THE CHAIRMAN: 1,000 acres of crop?

MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: And 400 forage?
MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes, 400 of forage and pasture.

THE CHAIRMAN: And do you run cattle?

MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: How many?

MR. ROUTLEDGE: We have 100 cows, a cow/calf operation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

MR. YEE: Yes. Mr. Routledge, in terms of your crop area that is farmed, do you use -- do you have sufficient manure fertilizer from that hog operation to use on all of your spread fields?

MR. ROUTLEDGE: No. We put hog manure on about two-thirds of our acres.

MR. YEE: And you use chemical fertilizers to supplement that?

MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes.

MR. YEE: And you mentioned that, you know, you have looked over approximately 500 soil samples a year, and only came across two that would involve the new phosphate regulations. Are you referring to soil samples in this particular area of the province?

MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes. It's just on the
western side of the province that I deal with.

MR. YEE: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne?

MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you. I commend

you, Scott, on your stewardship of land. I have a

soft heart for no tillers. I am a farmer myself.

And I went into it three years before you did.

And we are still hanging on, except we have had a

couple of wet rough years where we had to do

something else. But that's just a comment to

start it off with.

Would you say in the R.M. of

Woodworth, are there many intensive ILOs in your

municipality?

MR. ROUTLEDGE: We have one hog barn.

And I would say cattle, there would probably be

half a dozen. No, maybe more. I would say 12

cattle operations that would fall under the animal

units to file Manure Management Plans.

MR. MOTHERAL: Is it fair to ask you

if the municipality, do they have a development

plan? If somebody wants to come up with one,

would they have a plan in place now for a hog

operation to start up?

MR. ROUTLEDGE: Yes, they do.
MR. MOTHERAL: And I also put down here that you must be a very busy person. And I always thought that -- when you said you were a nutrient management planner, I think any farmer today could be called a nutrient management planner. And, of course, with the different regulations coming out, we are going to be more so probably in the future.

I don't think I have any more technical questions at all. I did see where the manure is by both tankers or a dragline system. And how far does this -- would these tankers be going? How long would they have to transport the product?

MR. ROUTLEDGE: Well, at present today, with the tankers and the drag, we are still within a three mile radius. Economically, that's all we can afford to pay because transportation or, I guess nutrient removal from these lagoons, is very expensive.

MR. MOTHERAL: Well, that was going to be my next question. How far do you think the limit is for hauling manure by tanker? And you said that three miles is pretty well pushing the limit?
MR. ROUTLEDGE: Well, I think economically, I mean, things would change dramatically after that. I know at Mr. Keating's we -- at different times of certain years, we haul five miles. It is not that it can't be done, but it does cost more.

MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you. That's all I have.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Routledge. Clair English?

Mr. Routledge. Clair English?

MR. ENGLISH: My name is Clair English. I live on the last row of sections in the R.M. of Daly. My postal address is Box 6, Bradwardine. I have been farming all of my life. My grandfather, and my father before me, farmed the same land, and now my son is working his way into it.

CLAIR ENGLISH, having been sworn, presents as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

Mr. Routledge. Clair English?

MR. ENGLISH: Honoured guests, staff, ladies and gentlemen. I really should not be here. I have been trying to put myself off, saying that I'm unworthy to speak in front of an audience. I'm not a public speaker. But I do
have a problem that I just feel needs to be
brought out in the open.

As I said, I have been farming all my
life. As a young lad, I was in 4H. And through
that experience, I decided that I wanted to go
into the hog business. I got into a fairly
good -- what I thought it was a fairly good sized
sow weanling operation. I had a friend who took
all of my weanlings.

And I might say that in 4H I was a
champion judge of hogs in Manitoba. And I was
awarded a trip to the Toronto Royal. And so this
is where I really gained my interest in hogs.
However, having to have the best in hogs, I went
to the Brandon Winter Fair, bought a sow, brought
her home to my premises. She originally came from
Alberta, I was informed later.

It wasn't too long after that I
started losing a lot of my weanlings. I
immediately got into touch with Dr. Andy Hodge, a
veterinarian from Hamiota here. And he said: Oh,
well, it is MMA disease. Your hogs aren't
lactating properly. And he said: Give them
oxytocin, which I did, still to no advantage. And
then he said: Well, you need antibiotics. So he
gave me antibiotics. Then he said: You should be buying some type of vet medicine to mix with your grain. I did that.

After several years, I ended up with the last few litters. I averaged a saving of one pig per litter. So I phoned Dr. Hodge and I said: Look, Andy, I have got to have you investigate what's going on here. I am either going to go bankrupt or I will have to get out of pigs. So the next day, or two days afterwards, he brought a young chap from the University of Manitoba. They gathered up a bunch of dead piglets, took them in there. A week later he came down and he said: Clair, you have got a problem, and I must say you do have to get out of pigs. Your pigs have got a disease. It's a common disease, but it has built up a resistance to penicillin and four other antibiotics. And he said: There is no way you can afford to keep into it. Okay, I said, I will have to get out. How long do I have to stay out? He said, Clair, with the direct hit of an atom bomb, you might get rid of this problem. But, he said: I think it's for life. I don't see that there is any way you could ever raise pigs again. And he said: Don't discredit the factor that this
resistance to drugs might not go into the human chain.

Well, I didn't think too much about that. But it sort of sat somewhere back in my lesser thought area, until several years later, my wife started having problems and went to the doctor. And the doctor diagnosed her with having an infection in her kidneys. He put her on antibiotics. She went back after the antibiotics were over. They re-tested her, but same thing, no improvement. So he put her on other antibiotics. And this went on for two or three different spells.

Finally, I got to thinking about what Andy told me. So I went into my records, picked out the resistance factor sheet, which I have with me tonight, and showed that to the doctor. He immediately put my wife on drugs that had showed no resistance factor at all. And by the end of that series of that medication, she was 100 percent tested clear.

Even though I had witnessed this, a person tends to forget. But many years later, 25 years after we had to get out of pigs, actually, our daughter was out in Alberta taking a
healthcare aide course. We went out to her graduation. She had picked up a job down in the Pincher Creek area on a farm.

And so after her graduation, my wife and I drove on to B.C. to visit relatives. And coming home, we decided to go and visit our daughter. We got to the home where she was working, and they said: Oh, we are awful sorry, but your daughter is in the hospital. And so we went down to the hospital. The nurse said to us: Gee, you know, we're awfully concerned about your daughter. She stepped on a nail. She has blood poisoning. We have got her on three antibiotics intravenously and the blood poisoning is still advancing. We just don't know what to do. I said: It looks like I came at the right time. And so I advised them about this resistance. They changed her medication to a drug that we didn't have the resistance in. Three days later, she is back working on the farm.

Would you folks in the audience be concerned, or you folks on the panel, if you had the like of this to contend with? I know, sooner or later, I'm going to lose a family member with this resistance. But my question tonight is: We
all know that hog barns do use a lot of antibiotics. We do know that they do get into troubles at times with disease, have to sell their herd, disinfect the property, and then get in the fresh herd after things are supposed to be cleaned up. The manure that's on hand from these sick pigs that have been treated with the antibiotics, there has got to be a resistance there. Is that manure treated before it's put on the ground? The hogs are taken to slaughter. That meat, what about it, does it carry that resistance? Do you and I, when we buy a roast of pork, get that resistance? Where does this go? We hear about all of these terrible things, tuberculosis. They have a new form of tuberculosis out there that's very, very difficult to control. The drugs don't seem to be working on it. We hear about the horror stories in the hospital, these super-bugs in the hospital. They haven't got drugs to clean them up. I wonder what bugs these are and where they are coming from? Are we setting ourselves up with having these Intensive Livestock Operations and not having rules and regulations to control what goes on from the barn door? This is one of my
Another concern I have is with the environment. We have a hog operation east of us in the old Rivers Airbase. And spring and fall, usually on a Friday night, you will drive through passed the Rivers Golf and Country Clubb. And the stench in that ravine of hog manure is just unbelievable! And we have been told that they have been bumping out of a spigot over in that area for years, pumping the manure on to the soil. It's pure sand for 100, 200 feet. And when my dad was farming, he used to talk to people that dug wells 150 feet deep and it never ran out of sand. But this always happens after the environmental officers are closed on a Friday night. And I have phoned it in two or three times. And come Monday morning, I will phone back in and I'll say: Did you get my message? Yes. What did you do about it? We phoned out and they said: Oh, no. They wouldn't be doing something like that. It is true. And are they doing this? Has anybody really taken a check? Is anybody walking over and seeing if they do have an exposed spigot that sits in one place that pumps millions of gallons? Who knows.
The size of these pig barns, we don't seem to be able to get anybody in the barns to know how many pigs they have. It is overcrowding concern in them. There is nothing -- nothing will bring on illness more than overcrowding. I don't care where you have it, be it livestock or humans, overcrowding brings disease. It's been well known all along, I think.

This is a question. This is not a statement. This is a question. Is there not a reason to be concerned here, and to ask them to open up, with video cameras, any way of finding out whether what the operation is doing inside those located doors?

I want to thank you very much for my opportunity. I know this is right off the cuff. I wasn't going to come. I just decided at 5:00 tonight that I had to. I haven't got anything written down, but I will try to answer any questions that you might have.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. English. Wayne?

MR. MOTHERAL: No. I've heard the story. It's good.

THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?
MR. YEE: Mr. English, I just have a quick question, I guess. And I think I know what your answer is going to be. But in terms of the use of antibiotics, my understanding is that there are fairly strict controls now over the use of antibiotics in the hog industry. And we've been told that they follow it right through to the meat processing. Do you still have concerns over the use of antibiotics?

MR. ENGLISH: I have heard some horror stories about that, about them having -- the water bowls being filled with blue water from antibiotics being injected in the water. I have heard of feed mills, the trucks coming out loaded with antibiotics in the feed, prepared feed. Do we have -- do we have adequate and proper controls and checks to make sure that there isn't?

What I am giving is hearsay. I swore an oath. I am giving hearsay. But is there proper guidelines and proper controls being used? We can all say that we have laws against, but to err is human, especially when there is a dollar at the end of the fishing rod.

MR. YEE: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
Mr. English.

MR. ENGLISH: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: And thank you for taking the time to come here tonight at the last moment.

MR. ENGLISH: My pleasure.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody else wish to make a statement this evening? Okay. Well, I thank all of those who came out this evening and this afternoon to make presentations, and those of you who came out to just observe the process. We will reconvene tomorrow afternoon in Brandon at the Keystone Centre at 1:00. Thank you, and good evening.

(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 8:25)
CERTIFICATE

I, LISA REID, Court Reporter, 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.

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Lisa Reid