MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Held at Arborg-Bifrost Hall
Arborg, Manitoba
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007

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APPEARANCES:

Clean Environment Commission:

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

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NO EXHIBITS MARKED
THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, I think we will get the proceedings underway. I would like to thank you all for coming out here this afternoon. My name is Terry Sargeant, I'm the chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission, as well as the chair of this panel that is undertaking the investigation of the hog industry.

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

I have a few comments by way of opening comments. The Clean Environment Commission has been requested by the Minister of Conservation to conduct an investigation into the environmental sustainability of the hog industry in Manitoba. The terms of reference from the Minister direct us to review the current environmental protection measures in place relating to hog production in this province, in order to determine their effectiveness for the purpose of managing the industry in an environmentally sustainable manner.
1 Our investigation is to include a
2 public component, to gain advice and feedback from
3 Manitobans. This will be by means of public
4 meetings such as this one today, in the various
5 regions of Manitoba, to ensure broad participation
6 from the general public and affected stakeholders.
7
8 We have also been asked to take into
9 account efforts underway in other jurisdictions to
10 manage hog production in a sustainable manner.
11 Further, we are to review the contents of a report
12 prepared by Manitoba Conservation entitled "An
13 Examination of the Environmental Sustainability of
14 the Hog Industry in Manitoba."
15
16 At the end of our investigation, we
17 will consider various options and make
18 recommendations in a report to the Minister on any
19 improvements that may be necessary to provide for
20 the environmental sustainability of the hog
21 industry in this province.
22
23 To ensure that our review includes
24 issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel
25 has undertaken to hold 17 days of hearings in 14
26 communities throughout agri Manitoba. These
27 meetings started on Monday, this past Monday,
28 March 5th, and will continue through much of March
1 and April, with the final public meeting currently
2 scheduled to be held in Winnipeg on April 27th.
3 It is open to any groups or
4 individuals to make a presentation to this panel
5 on issues related to hog production in Manitoba.
6 For the most part, presentations are to be limited
7 to 15 minutes. Exceptions may be made in some
8 cases where a presenter needs more time, but this
9 must be arranged with the Commission secretary
10 prior to the presentation. All of those making a
11 presentation will be asked to take an oath
12 promising to tell the truth to this Commission.
13 Presentations should be relevant to
14 the mandate given the Commission by the Minister
15 and to the issues described in the Guide to Public
16 Participation in this review. If a presentation
17 is clearly not relevant, it may be ruled out of
18 order, and if a presentation is clearly
19 repetitive, it may also be ruled out of order.
20 Members of the panel may ask questions
21 of any presenter during or after the presentation.
22 There will be no opportunity for other presenters
23 to question or cross-examine presenters.
24 In addition to the public meetings,
25 the Clean Environment Commission is engaging
consultants to assist us in this review. The results of those research endeavors will be posted on our website upon receipt. For the most part, this will be in late June. Parties and individuals will be invited to provide comment on any of those reports, if they so wish. A reasonable but brief period of time will be allowed for this.

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

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

Some administrative matters. If you wish to make a presentation today, please register at the table at the back of the room.
As is our normal practice, we are recording these sessions. Transcripts will be available on line in a day or so. You can find the link to the transcripts from our website.

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

That concludes my opening comments. We have a number of people who have indicated they wish to make presentations here today. The first person on the list is Mr. Bob Cherepak.

Mr. Cherepak, would you please state your name for the record?

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed,

Mr. Cherepak

MR. CHEREPAK: Thank you for the
opportunity to allow me to make this presentation.

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

Fast forward to 2005. I wake up and I walk over to my tub to run a bath. The water coming out of my tap is brown in colour. I had the water tested a week before and it contained coliforms and was not recommended for drinking, cooking or washing dishes, but okay for bathing. The water had been clean and clear until Manitoba Highways had built a new road in front of my property. Blasting of the limestone bedrock had
taken place to accommodate the new road. The loss of water quality coincided with the blasting and the subsequent run-off, the water run-off in the highway ditch in the front of my property, run-off from agricultural spread fields in my area.

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

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

I recently went down to that spring in the river from which I used to drink. It was
covered with algae and was choking with lush green aquatic growth, which wasn't there in the past. Now the nutrient laded water irrigated the vegetation and covered the cold spring, which I wouldn't dare to drink from today.

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

I have attached a document from my records dated October 1992, where the Clean
Environment Commission discusses sewage lagoon design, and I quote from that document,
"The intent would be to ensure the design requirements and operational guidelines adequately protect the quality of surface and groundwater resources in the province. The Commission feels that some urgency is attached to this need and that it should receive prompt attention."

It goes on to state that the sewage lagoon effluent will be dumped into the Oak Hammock Marsh. Go figure. One day the Oak Hammock Marsh, the next the Icelandic River, and tomorrow the world. I guess the government is just acting normally. Ladies and gentlemen, I believe we are losing the war, and that is normal. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MR. CHEREPAK: I have copies of my presentation.

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

MR. CHEREPAK: Any questions?

THE CHAIRMAN: None right now, thank you.
Mr. Ron Johnstone? Please state your name for the record?

MR. JOHNSTONE: Ron Johnstone.

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

THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed, Mr. Johnstone.

MR. JOHNSTONE: Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to address this Commission this afternoon on a very important topic that this community and many others in the province are dependent on. I would like to first speak to you as the plant manager for Arborg Feeds. Arborg Feeds is one of the three feed mills that Puratone owns in this province and is located just south of town. Our core business is the processing of hog and poultry feeds for the Interlake region. The mill operates five days a week, 24 hours a day and employs 16 full-time staff. This mill was purchased from the Loewen family back in the late '80s, and was producing about 7,000 tonnes of feed each year. With the expansion of the hog industry, along with poultry expansion in the Interlake, the mill now produces just under 70,000
tonnes of feed per year. This growth has helped
the entire region prosper, as the grain industry
has consolidated and closed regional elevators
while we have increased our feed grain volume,
purchasing over 1 million-bushels of feed grains.
This has benefited all feed grain producers by
increasing their wheat and barley prices. We run
three semi-trailer feed trucks out of this mill
and contract out all the incoming feed grains
coming in each day.

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

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

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

Secondly, I would like to present to you today as president of Paradigm Farms Limited. This 2800 sow farrow to finish operation was formed or started by over 50 local area residents throughout the Interlake in the late 1990's. The farms are scattered throughout the Interlake with sites at Petersfield, Narcisse, Skylake and Ledwyn. All of these sites were granted approval for construction after a lengthy technical review. I have witnessed the frustration and anxiety that comes forward when a municipality has not prepared themselves by being up-to-date on the technical review process before going into a
conditional use hearing. I have also witnessed other municipal councils, that have been prepared and knowledgeable, handle a conditional use hearing and allow everybody a chance to participate, and have the knowledge to answer any fears that arise instead of instilling doubt in the public's eyes. I think it should be mandatory that municipalities have a planning statement with areas clearly marked out for agriculture and intensive livestock, and stick to their statement if a project meets all standards. In the past, intensive livestock areas have been established where there was the least amount of controversy and opposition.

Air quality for both our hogs and our neighbors was very important to us when we were looking at ventilation designs, and we chose to install chimney ventilation over the traditional side wall vents. We felt that bringing in fresh air under the roof soffits, while exhausting stale air beside the inlet, was not the best. Exhausting stale air from the barn up an exhaust chimney not only gives the hogs cleaner air, but also seems to dissipate the smell up and away from the farm.
We are very fortunate in the Interlake to have such good quality and plentiful supply of fresh water which is very important to our industry. We monitor our usage daily and are constantly checking the quality, as this is so important for raising healthy hogs. All of our lagoons were designed by professional engineers and approved by Manitoba Environment prior to being commissioned. Each lagoon had to be built with a holding capacity of 500 days, to allow extra surge capacity in the event of a very heavy rainfall in any given year, and the ability to get on the farmland to apply this nutrient. This design is the envy of many rural municipalities that are now dealing with lagoon overload, caused by lagoons built under capacity for their current needs. Each lagoon was built with a monitoring well system and many were built with a synthetic liner as well. This design will monitor what is happening under the lagoon to ensure our most precious groundwater is not contaminated.

I have witnessed, since our operation has started up, more and more regulations on manure management, and we take the nutrient management of our farms very seriously. We
I welcome these regulations and have invested in the most state of the art equipment for manure analysis and application. We have been soil testing the spread fields we apply manure on for the past seven years and have been injecting into the soil wherever possible.

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

In the region serviced by our local commercial fertilizer dealers, each year we import into the Arborg area over 2600 tonnes of commercial phosphate fertilizer. Our soil tests around the Arborg area show on average we have a residual phosphorous level of 10 to 15 parts per million or 6.25 pounds per acre on average. An average wheat or barley crop will use up 35 pounds per acre, with a canola field utilizing up to 50 pounds per acre. At these levels there is
I certainly a place for the hog industry in this province.

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

Paradigm Farms has filed a voluntary environmental farm plan and has purchased a Biovator to dispose of mortalities at one of its sites, and has composters set up at the other two
sites to deal with mortalities. The Biovator is a composting vessel that Puratone invented and has delivered to the industry to deal with mortalities. This vessel simply composes dead stock along with a carbon source, we use straw and water, produce a fully environmentally friendly compost that can be reused to speed up the composting cycle or spread as a mulch on the land.

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

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

MR. JOHNSTONE: We have a fairly large Mennonite background people north of here that are
doing a lot of steel manufacturing.

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

MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes.

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: That is a finisher barn?

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

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. JOHNSTONE: So it is different --
THE CHAIRMAN: Is that a hoop structure?

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Wayne?

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

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

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

MR. JOHNSTONE: No, I got that data
MR. MOTHERAL: You got that from Agricore?

MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes.

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

MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes, they are.

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

MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes, that is true.

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

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

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

MR. JOHNSTONE: They are both.

THE CHAIRMAN: They are both?

MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes.

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

MR. JOHNSTONE: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: So it is just hired staff?

MR. JOHNSTONE: That's right.

THE CHAIRMAN: I don't have any more questions. Thank you very much, Mr. Johnstone.

Darcy Pauls. Mr. Pauls, would you state your name for the record please?

MR. PAULS: Darcy Pauls.

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

MR. PAULS: First of all, thanks for the opportunity to talk to you today. So just to give you an idea of who I am and try to put things into context, I consider myself still a farm boy...
who marketed his first pig when he was seven years old, and through the benefit of my father who gave us some pigs. And once we finished marketing them, we paid him for the weanling and feed, and that was the first money I ever earned.

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

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

I graduated from the university with an Ag diploma. After graduating, I went to work in the sow barn. From there, I took a job on with
Puratone doing production service work, and in 1994 got back into farming with my brothers when we built a 700 head sow barn. We had a local farmer that was willing to sell us the land at a reasonable price because he wanted to use the manure as fertilizer. And much like the previous presenter mentioned, we had the opportunity to work with Puratone, and they provide the equity and the livestock, which was probably worth about half a million dollars, so that we could build a facility of size that we could actually earn enough money to support the necessary income for our families.

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

A lot of things have changed since I was a youngster over the 40 years, but certainly one thing has stayed true, is that my entire family's income has always come from agriculture and mainly the hog industry. Pictures that I have selected have some amount of meaning and reference. The first one being, if you are allowed to use a picture of your wife, you are
only allowed to use a select few, and this is one that I could use. And also it was where we recently partook in receiving a reward on behalf of Puratone as one of the 50 best managed companies across Canada.

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

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Are those sections
9 each --

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

17 So what has my company, Puratone, done
18 to address environmental issues? We have adopted
19 principles under ISO1401, which is an
20 environmental management system where we both live
21 by the principles, but there are also annual
22 audits done externally so that we can maintain our
23 certification under ISO1401. In brief, the
24 commitments to that program is to comply with
25 environmental legislation and regulations,
continuous improvement, commitment to practices related to pollution prevention, and community relationships, address the environmental concerns addressed by workers, neighbors and the wider community, monthly reviews of the outcome, and communication of the environmental policy, outcomes and goals to employees, and the significant aspects, mortalities, manure and odour. And if you would like more details, there is a web address posted at the bottom.

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

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

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

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

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

So why have I focused on growth of the industry? Certainly when the pause was announced, I wrote a letter to Mr. Struthers, and he was kind enough to send a response. His reason for the pause was that the industry has grown. It has grown by 124 per cent from '94 to 99. Between 2000 to 2007 it grew by 55 per cent, and a pause is necessary to allow the Commission to conduct a review in a manner that is both fair and objective and thorough.
What I feel is missing in that point is that apparently growth by less than 8 percent a year in a business puts you in a position where the government can halt your industry without just cause, and the fact that just prior to the pause, growth was just less than 2 per cent.

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

So what has been missed so far? These, of course, are rhetorical questions. Is the CEC to help validate what the province is already advertising, or is this just a case of guilty until we are proven innocent? And does the CEC really need a pause to do a thorough review of an industry that is growing by two per cent, or does a pause that the government feels only will
impact two per cent of the voting public best serve its political desires? I, of course, hope for an early release of the preliminary report so that the political issues around this can be resolved.

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

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

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

Do I think we can do more? Sure, we can. Everybody can. Lately you hear stories about Al Gore, who is probably the green stamp,
and he has been criticized that his house uses too much energy. I mean, we can all do more, I don't doubt that.

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

Things do change. I need to realize that, I have to accept that in regards to regulations and how we need to improve things. Our focus needs to be on our contributions to make them better, not whether we can stop the change. And I just show a picture, this is what my dad's farm looks like now. Certainly it is not a facility that he and his kids and his grand kids could earn a living off of anymore.
Things have changed, so that we can continue to do business in this province and feed my family. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Pauls.

Just a couple of questions about your own operation. Do you still own a farm?

MR. PAULS: My brother still owns a farm.

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

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

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

MR. PAULS: How would I best describe it -- so within any operation you have a farrowing stage that sells farrow produced piglets, what we will call the nursery stage where they grow from about 6 kilograms to 25 kilograms, and then the finishing stage where they grow from 25 to market,
120 kilograms. So you combine those three areas, you will call them a loop.

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

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

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

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

MR. PAULS: I understand that.

MR. MOTHERAL: We are here to get information and we need time to do it. And we hope that we can do it in a quick manner, as quick
MR. PAULS: I understand. I'm asking you to do it in a quick manner and get that information back to the government, I agree, and I am hoping you will be that independent voice to them.

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

MR. PAULS: I understand.

MR. MOTHERAL: And that is literally speaking too.

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

MR. PAULS: I will answer the question this way. Certainly, as an industry, when we deal with a pause like this that the government has put in place, one of the reasons why it can be put in place is because they feel that the perception of
the industry is negative, and they can do such without repercussions in votes. And so instead of the industry -- there is only so much money to go around, so you will end up putting out ads to defend yourself in the public's opinion, so that things like this can happen. So if government educates themselves before they make these decisions, instead of using someone like the CEC to educate them after they have made their decision.

MR. YEE: Thank you.

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

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

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

MR. PAULS: That's correct. I don't
1 know a lot about it. I mean, type Enviro pig into
2 the internet and you will know more than I can
3 give you today.
4
5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you
6 very much for your presentation today.
7
8 Next on our agenda is Henry Traverse,
9 Jackhead Fisheries. Mr. Traverse, would you state
10 your name for the record, please?
11 HENRY TRAVERSE, having been sworn, presented as
12 follows:
13
14 MR. TRAVERSE: Henry Traverse from
15 Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation. I didn't write that
16 on my presentation, but that is the name of my
17 reservation, where I come from.
18
19 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.
20
21 MR. TRAVERSE: I guess my presentation
22 here today, I wanted to bring some people along,
23 and I informed quite a few of them. We are in the
24 midst of elections in my community right now. But
25 nevertheless, I guess I came, and I wanted to read
26 out our ancestral background to the area where we
27 come from. Like we live at the end of the road,
28 and our community, it is a small community, and we
29 have lots of diabetes in our community right now,
30 and it is growing. But I want to read this, my
presentation here this afternoon. I didn't come here to say anything to anybody or anything like that, I just came and I want to read this out this afternoon.

To begin with, we are signators to Treaty Number 5, which our ancestors historically signed in 1875 in the central, east and west shores of Lake Winnipeg. Historically, we agreed to certain terms and conditions which the government of the day has grossly violated. In terms of sustainability, environment and conservation, has done great harm to our homeland, as well as fish, water, animals and birds. The royal proclamation of 1763 and the Indian Act of 1871, along with the Natural Resources Transfer Act of 1930, took over control of our lives and land without consultation to the native communities. Recovery process is not going to happen in one year, or maybe not in 100 years. The Creator, gave us our breath of life, along with that to balance our life with nature. We live with one of the oldest religions in the western hemisphere, which is the sacred fire and our holy medicines, along with our sacred sites. And in closing, as a fisherman and grandfather,
I'm deeply concerned every day for my grandchildren's future. That is the end of it.

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

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

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

MR. MCNAUGHTON: Jason McNaughton.

JASON MCNAUGHTON, having been sworn, presented as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

MR. MCNAUGHTON: Good afternoon, members of the Commission. My name has been stated, though I would like to give you a brief background on who I am and what my position is within the swine industry. I am the general manager for a livestock nutrition company that provides its services through the Western Canadian Prairie Provinces. We at Standard-Max Pro Nutrition directly employ 16 people here in Manitoba. I'm a permanent resident of this province where I was raised from my youth. I have, through my employment, been a member of the
greater hog industry here in Manitoba for the past 12 years. Although I was raised in rural Manitoba, my immediate family were not livestock producers. We, as a family, left our city home when I was seven years old and moved on to a section of land in the Garson/Tyndall area of Manitoba. Within one and a half miles of our new home, there were two separate hog facilities and one broiler chicken facility, from which new odours emanated from time to time, new odours to us. As new citizens in this area, we were taught by our parents that these odours were the charm of country living. We still as a family believe that these pollutants, as some will refer to them, are far more bearable than the ones we left behind leaving the city, i.e., vehicle and industrial emissions, but also noise pollution. To this point, my parents now reside on an acreage just north of Grunthal, Manitoba, the most dense livestock area of Manitoba. My sister and her family reside on an acreage near Landmark, Manitoba. And my family and I reside on an similar acreage in the Municipality of Ritchot. My passion for the livestock industry was spawned in my early years as I had employment
opportunities on farms close to home. When, as an adult, an opportunity arose to start a permanent career in the hog industry, it seemed like the perfect fit for my upbringing. My family today has only one income and that is thanks to the Manitoba hog industry.

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

As an industry our goal is and must be to responsibly use the byproduct resources that we produce, such as manure fertilizer and its chemical makeup, in a way that poses no threat to
our environment. From this I would like to present to you, from a nutrient management perspective, a few ways in which our industry, and especially our hog producers, are changing the way that we operate in order to meet this goal. Specifically, I will discuss strategies that we and our clients have and will continue to adopt, which are reducing the phosphorous in manure fertilizer itself.

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

Our company employs three PhD and two Masters degree nutritionists that have been made
available to your Commission should you need any
questions that need comment from this perspective.

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

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

In answering your question regarding phytase, I must also tell you that our formulation team uses two different products to reduce phosphorous outputs, the first being phytase itself and the second being a product called Maxizyme Plus. I would like to answer your question by illustrating what percentage of our total production incorporates the use of these technologies. We at Standard-Max Pro Nutrition feed mostly farrow to finish operations. We have a strong market share with the Hutterite Colony
sector of the industry and we also feed a sizable amount of privately owned facilities in Manitoba.

If you take all of these farms where our consultants formulate exclusively, they will represent about 460,000 hogs marketed annually here in Manitoba. Through some analysis I have arrived at an estimate that 70 per cent of these 460,000 animals are fed an enzyme product that reduces phosphorous in manure fertilizer. I have also reviewed our usage of both of these products comparing 2006 and 2007 projected, and the usage through our formulation of these enzyme products has increased by 84 per cent for phytase and 85 per cent for Maxizyme Plus. Please note that this growth demonstrates that our industry is moving forward voluntarily to reduce phosphorous in manure.

Although this process has maybe just begun, I can expect that 95 per cent of our diets will contain enzymes to reduce phosphorous within the next two years. The momentum among producers to utilize these products has begun. The research is new and has been proven at the farm levels as we speak. This is very important because all of us take time to adapt to new technologies. Just
because cell phones were invented didn't mean that
everyone had one the next day. Although our
industry does realize the need to incorporate
these technologies quickly.

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

First of all, I will speak on feed
conversion. We that formulate diets in the swine
industry have incorporated again the use of
different enzymes than previously mentioned that
specifically hone in on certain feeds stuffs.
These enzymes increase the digestibility for those
feed stuffs and allow improved utilization within
the animal. The better an animal utilizes any
nutrient, the less feed it will need to reach its
market weight, thus reducing the amount of manure
fertilizer itself. The different enzymes that we
incorporate into our diets include xylanase,
glucanase, and cellulase and lysase, all of which
serve a different function with different feed
stuffs, but all respond in a way to improve
digestibility for the animal and thus reduce the
feed required by the animal. These technologies,
some of which were not available 12 years ago when
I entered this industry, but all which were
somewhat fringe at that point, are now common
place in all of our current rations.

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

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

In concluding, I hope that you serving on this Commission can see that the hog industry is progressive in finding and utilizing technologies and techniques that will improve the makeup of the fertilizer we produce, and that our management of this fertilizer does not jeopardize the health of our environment. I would like to leave you with a question on my mind that I believe I know the answers to. That is, would there be a initiative started to improve the environmental health of Lake Winnipeg if there was
no hog industry in Manitoba? Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,

Mr. McNaughton. Wayne?

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Anything?

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

MR. MCNAUGHTON: Yes, there is. It is a great question. I think you are referring more to the Maxizyme Plus. Phytase, as an enzyme, it really keys in on phosphorous itself, but it is also clinically proven, I'm not sure in that data
package if you will find it, but it does reduce
the need for hard metals within our diets as well,
and our formulation can adjust to the new findings
on the product.

The Maxizyme Plus product, you will
probably, as I illustrated by the amount of hogs
in the province that are being fed a product like
that, you will hear more and more on the product.
I'm probably not the best person to speak to the
product, and I do know that through your sessions
you are going to hear from somebody that will be
an expert on the product. But there are other
functions of it. Certainly there is odour
reduction properties, and that is proven with the
product. And there is also, the product uses
basically a bacillus type bacteria that attacks
the phosphorous within the diet. It attacks it in
the gut of the animal and it also attacks it after
it leaves the animal, it is a live bacteria that
continues its work, and it turns the hard
phosphorous into a liquid form somewhat, which
allows it to be more soluble to the plant. Okay.
So the plant can utilize more of the phosphorous
that we put on the fields, thus hopefully allowing
us to not spread quite as liberally, to just to
hit what the plant needs. But somebody may spend, you know, a whole 15 minutes discussing that with you guys, I hope.

MR. YEE: Thank you, I appreciate that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Maybe even more.

MR. MCNAUGHTON: Maybe even more.

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you say it is a bacteria?

MR. MCNAUGHTON: No, sorry, it is not a bacteria, but it is a particle that is going to attach itself to a molecule and open up that molecule, you know, so what is inside of that cell can be absorbed. You can tell I'm not a scientist, but it is described fairly well in that
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

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

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

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

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

MS. JOHNSON: Mr. McNaughton, would you have another copy of your presentation for the record?
MR. MCNAUGHTON: You can have mine.

THE CHAIRMAN: Next, Mr. Larry Hofer.

Mr. Hofer, could you please state your name for the record.

LARRY HOFER, having been sworn, presented as follows:

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

Marble Ridge is a colony that lives and breathes agriculture. Agriculture is an integral part of our lives. Naturally, it is a major source of revenue and our livelihood is dependent on it. Agriculture is a basis of our way of life and it enables us to maintain our independence, our Hutterian religion and sustain our communal way of life. We truly are a family farm. We need to be able to foresee growth in agriculture to give our children hope for the future and a guarantee of jobs that will keep them
in our community. You see, agriculture is extremely important to the sustainability of our colony, our way of life and our people. Who is the stronger steward of the land than the farmer? Who is more concerned about sustainable agriculture than the farmer? We are concerned about the protection of our animals and the land that provides for our livelihood and we farmers care about the environment.

To address the current concerns regarding the environment and manure management, I would like to address some of the things that Marble Ridge does for phosphorous levels and odour control in groundwater and water, surface water. All of our solids from the barns go to a manure separator. This process syphons out most of the phosphorous -- I can say I have tests on it, it is at 96, if I am correct, 96 per cent, 96.4 moisture -- reduce odour and makes it a lot easier to transport the liquid manure. We decided to take this extra step, even though it cost well in excess of $140,000, because it greatly enhanced our ability to deal with the challenges of handling waste in an environmentally friendly way and with the neighbors.
This procedure seems to work quite well. The separator is located on the colony, and the water contents, after the separation, are pumped into an earth lagoon with a liner in there. The manure, before separation, was given a phosphorous test and came back at 18.2 pounds per thousand gallons to be spread on the field. The test after separation was at 0.0227 pounds per thousand gallons.

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

We are also in the process of working with a company from Quebec with a product called Maxizyme Plus, which we have an additional annual
1 cost, we figure it will be around $60,000 a year
2 to run this through our herd. We are doing this
3 because this product reduces phosphorous levels
4 and helps reduce odour, which we feel is important
5 for our neighbors and our livelihood. We also
6 believe this product will be very helpful to keep
7 our well water clean.

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

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

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

The Government of Manitoba's decision to implement a pause in the building of barns causes us grave concerns. Marble Ridge is forced to sell weanlings because we do not have a matching hog finisher barn to our sow production facilities. This law only makes it tougher on us, the farmer. I would like to add here, I think these laws that you are making should not be just for the big corporation. I think if there is big problems out there in the lakes with the phosphates, we have to start with the small guy right to the big guy. There is a lot of problems here and everybody has to get involved in this to
We live by the rules put in place, but this pause makes it nearly impossible for us to make a living and to develop future Hutterite colonies which will house our young people. As farmers and hog producers, we work hard to produce safe quality pork for our customers in an environmentally sustainable manner. We take responsibility for wise stewardship of air, soil, natural plants, wildlife and water resources very seriously.

We support the Manitoba Government's efforts to protect and maintain our surface and groundwater supply for current and future use. Manitoba's industry and Manitoba hog producers very existence are tied to a sufficiently reliable source of high quality water, water that is critical to the raising of our livestock. Good water is also important to me and my fellow livestock farmers who live, work and raise families on our colony. We must have the ability to raise our livestock cost effectively. We must have the ability and freedom to be able to grow and make our living in a responsible manner.
nutrient management by testing all of our lands so
the right amount of nutrients are applied.
Phosphorous is a natural occurring mineral in
humans. It is the second most abundant mineral.
It is also important for crop nutrition, for
helping root development and helping crops grow
faster.

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

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

Hog producers are not the only cause
for this increase in phosphorous levels. The
rising levels of phosphorous in Lake Winnipeg come from a variety of sources, for example, industry, human waste, cities and municipalities, natural deposits, dishwasher detergent and lawn fertilizers.

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

THE CHAIRMAN: What do you make it out of?

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

Dishwashing soap and lawn fertilizers and reducing the use of car and truck wash soap -- that is another big one. When you watch a car wash out there, and the soap they are using, I think I can just about say that three of these car washes make more phosphorous than our hog barn
does, when I watch them. It is quite feasible to
wash a vehicle mechanically without soap.

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

THE CHAIRMAN: We should have gone
there for lunch.

MR. HOFER: Yes, today is Thursday.

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

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

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

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

How big is the hog operation on your colony?

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


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

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

MR. MOTHERAL: So you squeeze the liquid out?

MR. HOFER: We squeeze it out.

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

MR. HOFER: No, it is very clean water
coming out of there. We got this from Northwest Labs. The moisture was 99.4 per cent, correction, so that is pretty impressive, there is a .6 per cent left in there, in that water content after this separator takes care of it.

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

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

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: How many hogs could it --

MR. HOFER: It is good for this operation.

THE CHAIRMAN: So about 1100?

MR. HOFER: It could probably take a 1500 sow, farrow to finish.
MR. MOTHERAL: Was this your own technology or was this --

MR. HOFER: I wish.

MR. MOTHERAL: I guess the answer is no.

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

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

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

MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you.

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

That brings us to the end of our list of people who have registered for this afternoon.

We have three people who have indicated they wish
1 to speak after supper. If there are any others in
2 the audience right now who would like to make a
3 presentation this afternoon, please just stand up
4 and come forward?
5 Please introduce yourself, sir.
6 MR. HEDGES: I'm Murray Hedges from
7 Hodgson.
8 MURRAY HEDGES, having being sworn, presented an
9 follows:
10 MR. HEDGES: I was very impressed with
11 what I heard from the Colony, Marble Ridge. I
12 live approximately one and a half miles north of
13 the ridge, and they are higher than I am because
14 of the way the land flows from the south to the
15 north, to the lake.
16 I moved to Hodgson in 1990. And
17 around about 5:00 o'clock to 6:00 o'clock in the
18 evening, we would get this awful smell from the
19 Marble Ridge Colony. And as a joke we would say,
20 oh, they must be changing shifts, because the
21 smell came around the same time. Over the years,
22 I have knocked the way things were going and
23 disapproved of some of the things, but one of the
24 things that was always in the back of my mind was
25 that Marble Ridge was a family farm, not a
So common sense told me that the Hutterite people would not be devastating their own land and ruining their own water, because they live there, not like a person who had shares in a hog barn, couldn't care less what happened at the hog barn as long as he got his dividends from the shares. It was a totally different situation with the Hutterites. But I do know from living there that things have changed, a couple of 100 per cent compared to what they were when I first went there. We don't get the smell and that, and we have no problems with anything there. So I would congratulate the Marble Ridge Colony on the achievements. And I wasn't aware of all of the new technology that they had there. I knew they did have new technology, but I wasn't aware of what they were. So I would like to mention the fact of that.

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hedges.

Questions? Thank you, sir.

Bill Cochrane? Is Bill Cochrane here?

I will get you next, sir.

BILL COCHRANE, presented as follows:

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

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

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

That flows through my reserve. That flows to all of the native people who live along the lakes and rivers. Maybe you don't care, but I care about my children. I care about your children. I have jurisdiction and there is laws providing that. I don't want to, but if I have to, I will use them. Maybe no one else has enough guts to stand up here and speak the truth, but this right here is the truth. No one can lie to this. And if anyone tries to lie to this, then they will be the loser. I stand here and challenge anyone to prove me wrong.
Think of your children. I'm telling you right here, right now, I do not want piss and shit in my native waters. There is no time now for environmental and/or ecological terrorism. If any of you here are thinking about the future -- one of our spokespeople is here and I am glad to see him here -- approach your governments, demand that there are strict guidelines in the disposal of those effluents, and as a matter of fact, even the air quality that comes out of those operations, demand it.

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

It is time to open our eyes. Where there is smoke, there is generally fire. I demand accountable actions now. I command you to wake up
your senses, wake up your heart, wake up your spirit. This thing will not be made a lie out of. I have spoken.

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

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

JOE WIFT, after being sworn, presented as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, Mr. Wift.

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

The challenges that we face are very stressful and you have to deal with them in stride. We, at Broad Valley Colony, how it was in 1976 when we first started our hog industry, versus 2007, it is a whole new era, it is totally
different. Mr. Hedges here said the Marble Ridge Colony, and the way they were and the way they are today, it is completely different. We don't operate that way anymore.

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

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

The next thing is, today we have enough storage on our farm for 400 days. In other words, our thousand sow, farrow to finish operation, we have 400 day storage there. And we can do it, all of our manure injection, after
harvest when all our fields are accessible.

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

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

And it says here today, and for spring
annual inputs there is approximately 1100 acres
every year which we do not apply fertilizer,
either nitrogen or phosphate. We don't, no spring
inputs for those fields.

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

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

As for surface water quality, I
mentioned before we used to spread hog slurry at
any given time of the year. If you spread on
frozen field, there tends to be run-off. Now to
correct that problem we inject all hog slurry four
inches deep in the fall time, when the ground is
not frozen, which results in virtually no run-off
or odour.

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

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

Somebody here mentioned that one per
cent of the phosphorous level in Lake Winnipeg
comes from hog producers. Where does the other 99
per cent come from? That is my question.
Manitoba has natural resources, and one of them is cereal grain growing. Years ago the government used to pay the freight of the grain going to the shipping ports in Vancouver or Thunder Bay. They subsidized the farmer to pay the rate. They did away with that. The government, if you have sold any grains to any elevator lately, which we did two weeks ago, we sold some to Agricore, and out of 85 tonnes we got deducted $3,986.40, deductions that is in freight, Keystone levy, weight inspection fees, removal of dockage. Mr. Johnstone, when he was sitting here, the manager of Puratone, when you take a little bit of wheat over there, they only charge you half a percent shrinkage. That is the only deduction there is. If you want to sell to these people, Agricore or the Wheat Board, you are faced with up to dollar a bushel in deductions. So why not keep these grains in Manitoba? Why not keep it here? Let us benefit from it.

And another thing is, it is scary how our young people are leaving the province, the city, small towns. Don't think it is in the big towns only or -- you go to Fisher Branch or Broad Valley there, it is a small town. There is old
people there. What happened to your young people?
Well, they went out west, they went to the oil
patch, that is where the big money is made. This
is happening in colonies too, our young people are
leaving. If you take away our livelihood from us,
what is going to attract our people to stay in
colonies?

And in closing, I want to tell you a story. I'm a Christian, I don't want to preach to
you, but when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan
River approximately 2,000 years ago, he walked on
this earth, he was a man, he was 5'6 feet to
6 feet tall. He got baptized when he was 30 years
old. And it was said that he could look down from
his waist, he was waist deep in water and he could
see his toes, his sandals. That is clean water.
Today I got this flyer from Israel, not today a
week ago, that same river that Jesus was baptized
in, it says Jordan River is a health hazard
because of sewage dumped into the Jordan River,
there are springs along the way which replenish it
a bit, but unfortunately it has become a dumping
yard of countries. And it says Israel, Jordan and
Syria are each grabbing as much clean water as
they can, and sadly it is the sewage that is
keeping the river alive today.
And we don't want that. We feel for
these people. We feel for our kids. We don't
want to pollute, but in the last 15 to 20 years we
have become better, we have become smarter. We
have straightened out our act, I think we did.
So, it has cost us hundreds of thousands of
dollars. We have enough storage at home, like I
said, for 400 days which is 10 million gallons.
And we have brought in a hose injection system
which is virtually no spillage or nothing
contaminating roads or ditches anymore. And it is
a very nice metering system, you can apply to your
field very uniform. We are not over-applying
anymore. So, if they are going to pressure us
more, it won't be feasible for us to raise hogs.
That is all. Thank you.

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

MR. MOTHERAL: One question. Do you
cover your septic field or wintering field?
MR. WIFT: No.
MR. MOTHERAL: You don't need to.
Okay.
MR. WIFT: The question has arisen,
our neighbors north of us, that is where the smell tends to go. We have asked them -- and there is some here today if you would like to ask them if they smell anything. But I have asked them and they said only when the winds, sometimes they get a whiff of it, but not like it used to be. You see, on ours at home it tends to make its own natural cover. There is a crust on top about two inches thick, and it kind of seals off the liquids below. It is a natural covering.

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

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

MR. YEE: Are those the hoop structures?

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

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Does anyone else wish to make a presentation this afternoon?

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

ALVIN CANERS, having been sworn, presented as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

MR. CANERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the panel, my name is Alvin Caners. I take this opportunity to address this public hearing today because I operate an Agri-business directly related to the hog industry. I own equipment and custom apply liquid hog manure on annual crops and
forage land. I'm also a grain farmer. I would like to address the application of liquid hog manure to farmland, and know that this liquid waste is an economical and environmentally sustainable implement for increasing crop production. It also provides an efficient waste management system for the hog industry. The nutrients in hog manure, in many cases, replaces commercial fertilizers and provides a value to the farmers.

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

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

The following steps that our business takes ensures accuracy and keeps errors of application at minimum or nil. Manure nutrient
analysis are required prior to application. Soil testing is required to determine the amount of nutrients that the soil requires. Matching crop nutrient demand to nutrient applied must be done to get optimum crop results. Using a GPS gives the best accuracy of application for each field. Keeping good records and monitoring those records closely is very important to keeping the soil and water quality healthy.

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

It is of the utmost importance that the Clean Environment Commission study the effects of nutrients, specifically nitrogen and phosphorous, entering into our water. But you must do so by not only attacking the intensive hog farmers, but you must consider all aspects of agriculture, small or large -- yes, as well the small family farm. Everyone has a part to play in
making sure that the soil and water remains healthy for future generations. You must also monitor large industrial corporations as well as study the effects of municipal and city lagoons, discharge and waste disposal sites.

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

My only hope is that the government of the day isn't going to succumb to public pressure with a provincial vote looming in the near future, but rather the decision will be made by the
scientific data collected to determine the polluters, including every sector of the population and not just people who are producing safe meat products for all consumers. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Caners.

Mr. Caner, is it correct, do you or people that apply manure to fields, do you have to have certification of some kind?

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

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

MR. CANERS: You will have to get certified.

THE CHAIRMAN: Even though you have been doing it?

MR. CANERS: Yes.

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

State your name, sir?

MR. PLETT: My name is Ron Plett.

RON PLETT, after being sworn, presented as follows:
MR. PLETT: Thank you for this opportunity. I am an Ag producer and poultry grower locally, just north of town here. I want to echo what has been said here today, that we, as a small family farm, we greatly care about the water, we care about the environment, we are very concerned to keep the water and the environment there for our children and grandchildren.

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Plett.

How big is your operation?
MR. PLETT: We have 8,000 layers and we grow 26,000 pullets annually, on two separate operations.

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

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

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

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

MR. LESCHYSHYN: My name is Joe Leschyshyn, I live in Poplarfield. I don't have too much to say.
THE CHAIRMAN:  We just need to administer the oath, Mr. Leschyshyn.

JOE LESCHYSHYN, having been sworn, presented as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN:  You may proceed.

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

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

This same order has continually fudged the real intent of the citizens and denied us of our rights. This order has no respect for democracy. When the trumpets blew last November, with the moratorium in the air, its facts were
slowly trimmed. A little more than a handful of areas were selected for the hearings. Our First Nations, who unknowingly suffer from the consequences, were left out of these presentations. I know that we can communicate by letter and that, but there is nothing like the real thing like we have here. But they are not forgotten on election day. We have no right to pollute their sacred water. It is the essence of their survival.

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

A person by the name of Ruth Pryzner, who I'm sure you are well aware of, has given me consent to endorse her many questions that she has provided to your department, and no one is
answer. I'm asking on her accord that these
questions be answered to me as well in due time.

Section 238 of the Criminal Code provides
certification to this cause, but it could be cost
prohibitive -- cost effective. It should not cost
anyone to secure the truth. I am not asking for
military secrets, neither is she. These questions
are in reference to her observations of the state
of the art hog industry.

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

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

More important than anything else is
the question of jurisdiction in your hearings. Is
the CEC bound by the Charter of Rights and
Freedoms of 1982?
THE CHAIRMAN: I don't know where it would be relevant.

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

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

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

A reference to section 25, section A, paragraph A, sorry, of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms of 1982, of which we are all bound to, it states, that all lands not ceded or surrendered to George III are lands reserved to the Indians. Section 25, paragraph A, deals with...
pledges laid down by George III in his Royal
Proclamation of 1763 as enunciated from his
private abode, the St. James Palace.

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

We will require a quorum in order to
make any consensus practical and binding. We can
not have a small percentage of people making a --
for you to make a consensus on for the rest of
Manitobans. We have a million Manitobans and only
a few are responding to the hearings. We should
not be able to have that happen. I think we need
a quorum, more than 50 per cent at least, to
qualify to be put into law, that either we sail or
else we don't. It is not fair that such a small
majority of participants have to name the rules of
the game after the hearings are heard and done
with.

Thank you. Any questions?

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, please.

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Peter
Marykuca.

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

PETER MARYKUCA, having been sworn, presented as
follows:

MR. MARYKUCA: Chairman, panelists,
ladies and gentlemen, my name is Peter Marykuca.
I live on a small acreage not far from the Silver
hog barns. I'm not a farmer.
I welcome this panel to Arborg and thank you for taking a genuine interest in some serious issues. My presentation consists of exhibits and documents, photographs, to bring into focus and better explain my views, opinions and conclusions.

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

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

Poor soils and substrates. The land is drained by various rivers, creeks, drainage ditches that eventually point to Lake Winnipeg.

The land was once fairly uniformly populated by settlers with hundreds of homesteads and hand-dug
wells. Fortunately, for some homesteads, they
even had Artesian wells. Natural springs also
occur in frequent locations, with high water
tables and sink holes if the water table drops low
enough, thus making a direct conduit to the
aquifers in many known and unknown places.
A dangerous pollutant. The creation
of this liquid hog waste byproduct called hog
slurry is not regulated under the Dangerous Goods
and Handling Transportation Act. It should be.
Liquid hog manure contains known pathogens,
viruses, bacterias, parasites and other known hog
diseases, and residue from hormones, antibiotics,
detergents and disinfectants. It is passed off as
a fertilizer. It doesn't get transferred -- it
does get transferred and occasionally spilled on
public roads where there is public travel and the
possibility of exposure. As if that risk was not
enough, many of these pathogens, hormones and
antibiotics are systemic to plants and find their
way into the food chain, demonstrated by the
recent contamination of spinach from the Salinas
Valley in California. I think the headings were,
"E coli Outbreak Takes Its Toll in California's
Salinas Valley."
As the public is getting aware of healthier living lifestyles and conscientious of their food intake, I remind you that liquid hog slurry is not organic. Therefore, we must be cognizant of what we are allowing to enter the food chain through agriculture.

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

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

Staying back on number 2, cryptosporidium is even more resistant to chlorine than giardia. In 1996 an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis, an intestinal illness similar to giardia, was reported in Kelowna where an estimated 15,000 people became ill. In Dauphin, Manitoba, in 1996, the latter incidents involved over 30 confirmed cases of giardias. And that was
published by the Manitoba Government, 1997. And that is in exhibits 2, 3 and 4.

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

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

Number 6, transmission diseases from hog barns is possible by air, water and soils and from road spillage. So you can look into here.
This picture shows a tanker truck, actually two tanker trucks making deposits of fertilizer on cattle pasture, probably an old homestead, most of them are in the area, particularly near the Silver barns and other places.

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

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

This is an interesting one. Number 7, obvious overapplication in 1995, it shows the ponding on selected spread field. I want to draw to your attention to that area right there, okay,
that was a spread field that you can see was flooded. Okay. What is this here? Okay.

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Where is that,

MR. MARYKUCA: That is on the west side of the Interlake weanling hog barn on road number 124, and about half a mile west of east 15, mile 15 east of this principal meridian on highway 124, 124 north of the 49th parallel, which is a border, it is 149 miles, I believe, north of the Manitoba border, okay, which gives you your east/west roads and the principal meridian is running north and south. That is exhibit number 9.
Now, staying with this one, this is their lagoon, okay. You see this? What is this here? Now, I don't expect you to answer that because you don't know, so I'm going to tell you. Unfortunately, they had an accident, the roof collapsed, I think it was seven pigs died in the first year, first or second year of operation, and this hole ended up there. As I did not trespass, we flew over the site. Why? Because that is a thing that I had to do. Same as the other gentlemen who were with me. So I took that picture, and then I have sat on it until this time. I might be old but I have got a real good memory. That is why I want it checked, I want to know what is going on, because these are marginal lands. If this untreated sewage is so great a fertilizer, why are some producers spreading it on marginal land and cattle pasture without incorporating it into the soil? I heard two people, and I commend them, Mr. Hofer, Mr. Wift said, yeah, we did things wrong in the past, here is what we are doing now. They were men enough to stand up here and say we made mistakes. I don't hear anybody else saying I made a mistake. I commend them.
1 And I am saying this is cattle
country. As I said, I'm not a farmer. Cattle
2 pasture, that grass is going to grow with their
3 stuff or without it, because they are using
4 marginal land. Not being incorporated, as in
5 exhibit number 2, when Dr. Joe Cummings said it
6 should be. Why is it not?
7
8 They selected the sites, gentlemen,
9 not us. And it was approved by the regional
10 advisory committee and the municipalities. If
11 they don't know what they are doing, I suggest
12 that they be man enough to stand up and say they
13 made a mistake too.
14
15 Why is it even allowed to be spread on
16 marginal land, considering that government
17 officials publicly stated that there was plenty of
18 arable lands near Silver? I guess they were right
19 to say that because there is, but not for pig
20 barns. Weasel words -- these are nothing but
21 evaporation fields as far as I'm concerned, and
22 they contribute to global warming.
23
24 Exhibits number 9 and 10, which were
25 there, the CEC should investigate the damages done
26 to pastures and Crown lands if used from untreated
27 sewage. And why I say untreated sewage, because
in exhibit number 10 it also refers to, by a letter from a Mr. Gary Plohman, engineer, dated back in 1994, that these are not meant to treat the sewage, it is just raw sewage, keep it for a year and throw it on the land, so it is untreated sewage.

The reference made to Crown lands used, or any other arable lands, to receive this untreated sewage, and on pastures, in exhibit 12 it covers chronic copper poisoning in sheep grazing pastures fertilized with swine manure.

Number 12 is, the Municipality of Gimli puts in to action a bylaw, number 10-96, prohibiting the importation and spreading of hog manure from outside of their boundary, inside to their boundary.

We had some new hog barns being built just recently, just west of Silver, and number 14 covers a question that I have asked the Environment Department about to check the water in the ditch that flows past that area because it looks very, very sensitive to me. I am not a professional engineer, I am not an agricultural specialist, I'm Peter Marykuca. And I asked for the Environment Department, before these barns go
into action, come and do a sampling of the water,
because I know you can look at it, it is crystal
clear, I wouldn't be afraid to drink that water
because it is Artesian fed by many wells in the
area, and springs, okay. And there it is, and the
barns are like a hop, skip and a jump away, just
so they can have some legal thrust that they can
put into play if -- not accusing anybody -- but if
something was to go wrong, if there was run-off,
and this water we got contaminated where fish
frequent, it comes under the Department of
Fisheries and Oceans, and they in turn say, no, it
is a Provincial authority. So you have the
documentations there with the copies of letters
that I sent, and we will keep, or maybe somebody
will keep their eye on it.

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

There is also a number 17 exhibit, a
review of the effects of livestock industry on the
environment and human health. That is by Dr. Eva
Pip. She said I could use this information and I
am. You have a copy of that.

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

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

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

Some contaminants like ammonia, nitrogen are not common to groundwater. Somewhere from someplace it has percolated down through the
soils into the aquifer because there is traces in my well. I don't know where it came from. It might have been there for five years, it could have been there for 1,000 years, who knows? But it is not common to groundwater, which brings us up to the porosity of the substrates of the soil in the Interlake region. They are susceptible to pollution.

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

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

Exhibit 23, handling of dead livestock always needs to be investigated to make sure dead animals be identified as to why and how they died. They often, the mortalities, who are they reported to? The wildlife must be protected. All pig farms should be identified by GPS location and then unannounced random inspections be done by the
health authority without restriction. That is a picture of something that happened years ago where dead carcasses were piled on the side of the Icelandic River, but I believe I read in the paper that there was another minor incident, that these things have to be looked at again.

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

Effect of population and environment.

It has been shown and well publicized for the last many years, it has been shown to be severely detrimental to population environment. For example, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Walkerton, Ontario, Salinas, California, Kelowna, B.C., Dauphin, Manitoba, and in our local area where groundwater...
had been polluted by animal waste. We have not yet had a major catastrophe here, but Mrs. Kay Bergman's health was affected, three hog barn workers did unfortunately die as a result of the poisonous gas from liquid hog manure.

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

Once findings have been published, then an educated decision can be made by the public, including the suspension of any further or current construction to stop immediately, that
there be a public referendum on the acceptance or 
rejection of the hog industry in Manitoba. If 
there is to be continued pollution posing a health 
threat to my children, my grandchildren, then I, 
or we, the people, shall decide, not the 
government. If we are not careful of what we are 
dealing with when it comes to public health and 
environment, sooner or later, we will have a 
catastrophe like that of Milwaukee, Walkerton, 
Salinas, Kelowna. As for Dauphin, we were lucky 
to some extent, but maybe not the next time. 

Gentlemen, I thank you for your 
consideration that you give my presentation. 
There is also an amendment, an addendum that I 
have included because of some information that 
just came out, where the Manitoba Pork Council's 
general manager, Mr. Andrew Dickson, stated 
instead the government should be looking into 
collaboration with the producers, investing new 
research, perhaps offering tax incentives. That 
is what he said on March 6th. Also Dickson and 
others from the Pork Council said that the public 
fails to appreciate the rigorous environmental and 
planning regulations that hog barns already 
follow, so new barns that comply with the rules
get the kibosh by municipalities caving into public pressure that is fueled by bad science. It puzzles me that Mr. Andrew Dickson would make a comment. Is he suggesting that they need more research? I thought all barns were state of the art.

Secondly, I think, asking governments to participate is an admission that the hog industry is in fact not sustainable. Does Mr. Andrew Dickson agree with the science that injection of slurry is required of good -- is a requirement of waste management? Could it be that Mr. Dickson felt before these meetings the hog industry was not sustainable and was not being held accountable? Also, saying new barns that will comply with the rules often get kiboshed. Are there some new barns that comply to the rules -- pardon me, are there some that don't, Mr. Dickson, is the question we should be asking him. I request that Mr. Dickson give a complete up-to-date list of GPS locations of every barn and spread field that has ever been used in Manitoba. I read in the paper 1,400 producers, 1,700 producers. How many barns are there? How many producers are there? How many sewage facilities
are there? How many evaporation fields are there?
Yes, sir. And also ascertain -- the spread fields
be ascertained on non-arable land without
injection.

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

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

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

MR. MARYKUCA: Certainly. Liquid hog
manure that contains known pathogens, viruses,
bacterias, parasites, and other hog diseases, and
residue from hormones, antibiotics, detergents and
disinfectants is passed off as fertilizer. Has
anybody thought to ask an organic farmer if this
is organic? Has anybody thought to ask anybody if
this is spread on a field and if it comes to pass
in three or four or five years time that the land
was bought by an organic farmer that it will be
designated as organic? I'm not the specialist.
That is your job. Thank you for asking the
question. Now you should find out by asking
somebody who can confront the Organic Association.
I read in the paper the other day that Barber
House in Winnipeg, they said they found -- that is
in Point Douglas, it is an historic building --
that they found traces of copper, zinc, and there
was another trace element in there, and it is
going to cost $100,000 to remove it. So tell me,
when you turn around and say that sheep could die
from overgrazing on land that has been placed with
manure, hog manure, because of the abundance of
copper. Do you know why they give animals copper?

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
Mr. Marykuca.
MR. MARYKUCA: Thank you for listening to me. Do you people want this disk or do you have some related information there?

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: We accept your point.

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

Okay.

Thank you very much for coming out this afternoon and this evening, I think we had some excellent presentations on all sides of the issue presented today, and it will give us a lot more food for thought over the next few weeks and months as we consider this very important issue. This will adjourn our hearing here in Arborg, and we do reconvene Monday in Morden, and next week we
1 have a series of meetings in southern Manitoba.
2 So thank you very much again and good night.
3 (Adjourned at at 7:40 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE

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

Cecelia Reid
Volume 3
CEC HOG REVIEW- Arborg
March 8, 2007

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