



April 1, 2015

Dave Siebert, Director  
Bureau of Energy, Transportation and Environmental Analysis  
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources  
101 Webster St.  
Madison, WI 53703

Sent by email to [david.siebert@wisconsin.gov](mailto:david.siebert@wisconsin.gov)

Dear Mr. Siebert:

We are writing you to urge you to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed hog facility in Bayfield County, proposed by Riecks View Farms of Iowa. We believe there are several reasons this project requires deeper scrutiny than a simple permit review.

**The number of animals and the uniqueness of this project to this geographic area.**

There are few, if any, hog CAFOs of this size in Wisconsin. There are certainly no hog CAFOs of this size and potential footprint in Bayfield County or, for that matter, in northern Wisconsin. There is very little history or established science to understand the many effects of a large CAFO for the topography, hydrology and soils of this area. The facility's proximity to Lake Superior and a number of Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters, the ability of those soils to absorb the millions of gallons of manure, or the ability to grow crops that will absorb the manure's nutrients, the effects on air quality (e.g. airborne pathogens) – all this begs careful and deep scrutiny that an EIS could provide.

**The controversial nature of this project.**

People in Bayfield County and the city of Ashland are rightly concerned about the public health and environmental effects of this project. This is an area traumatized by the recent attempt to big a massive iron ore mine in the area, through no desire or willingness of their own. Though the mining project may have been abandoned, the area's citizens and local elected officials now have to shift their focus to a project that could be on-line quickly have a much quicker impact on the area. Conducting an EIS, and the more transparent public process that comes with it, will provide the public a fuller understanding of the nature of this project and its potential impacts.

**The effects of this project on other economic activities in the area.**

Bayfield County is a tourist and recreational haven. Can a mere permit-writing process offer enough analysis of the effects of a huge hog operation on small businesses dependent on tourism, from hunting and B&Bs to Chequamegon Bay boating? We don't think so. Community members should be provided a full understanding of the economic tradeoffs of a hog facility against existing economic activities.

For the reasons outlined above, we urge the Wisconsin DNR to conduct a full EIS of this project to ensure the public's concerns are vetted and to fully understand the ecological consequences of industrial livestock production in northern Wisconsin.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denny" followed by a stylized, looped flourish.

Denny Caneff  
Executive Director