

CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

SCOPING MEETING

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Held at Friedensfeld Community Centre

Friedensfeld, Manitoba

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2007

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APPEARANCES:

Clean Environment Commission:

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

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Reporter:

Lisa Reid

1 MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2007

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 1:05

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon. I  
4 think we will come to order now. I'd like to  
5 welcome you all here to this afternoon's meeting.  
6 My name is Terry Sargeant. I'm the Chair of the  
7 Manitoba Clean Environment Commission, as well as  
8 the Chair of this panel. With me on the panel are  
9 Norm Brandson and Wayne Motheral.

10 I have a few opening comments and then  
11 we will turn to those of you who wish to make  
12 presentations to us today. As you will know, the  
13 Manitoba Clean Environment Commission has been  
14 requested by the Minister of Conservation to  
15 conduct an investigation into the environmental  
16 sustainability of the hog industry in Manitoba.  
17 The Terms of Reference from the Minister direct us  
18 to review the current environmental protection  
19 measures in place relating to hog production in  
20 order to determine their effectiveness for the  
21 purpose of managing the industry in an  
22 environmentally sustainable manner.

23 Our investigation is to include a  
24 public component to gain advice and feedback from  
25 Manitobans. This will be done by means of public

1 meetings in the various regions of Manitoba to  
2 ensure broad participation from the general public  
3 and affected stakeholders. We have also been  
4 asked to take into account efforts under way in  
5 other jurisdictions to manage hog production in a  
6 sustainable manner.

7           Further, we are to review the contents  
8 of a report prepared by Manitoba Conservation  
9 entitled "An Examination of the Environmental  
10 Sustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba".  
11 And at the end of our investigation, we will  
12 consider various options and make recommendations  
13 in a report to the Minister on any improvements  
14 that may be necessary to provide for the  
15 environmental sustainability of hog production in  
16 this province.

17           To ensure that our review includes  
18 issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel  
19 has undertaken to hold three days of scoping  
20 meetings, open to groups and individuals who would  
21 like to identify and suggest issues related to hog  
22 production in the province which could be  
23 addressed by the panel.

24           Today is the first day of those  
25 scoping hearings. We are not here today to engage

1 in an in-depth discussion of the issues that will  
2 be before us. There will be opportunities through  
3 a series of meetings to be held throughout the  
4 province, throughout southern Manitoba in March  
5 and April, for detailed in-put. A list of the  
6 dates and places for these hearings is available  
7 at the back table.

8 Presentations today are to be limited  
9 to 15 minutes. What we are looking for today is  
10 identification and an introduction of issues you  
11 believe we should consider in our review. We also  
12 want a brief reasoning as to why these issues  
13 should be considered by the panel. And also we  
14 will welcome suggestions on how the panel could  
15 approach our investigation.

16 I would note that written submissions  
17 in respect of scoping issues will also be  
18 accepted. Information as to how to submit written  
19 suggestions is available on our website, as well  
20 as, I believe, at the back of the hall. The  
21 deadline for written submissions in respect of  
22 scoping is February 2nd. There will be a later  
23 date for written submissions on more detailed  
24 items.

25 The panel will use the information

1 that we gather over the -- I was going to say the  
2 next three days, but three of the next four days,  
3 as well as any written submissions. We will use  
4 this information to help us focus our review, to  
5 investigate the issues we will review, and to  
6 gather additional information from the public and  
7 develop -- ultimately develop conclusions and  
8 recommendations for the Minister.

9           Some administrative matters before we  
10 begin. If you wish to make a presentation today,  
11 would you please register at the table at the back  
12 of the room? Also, as is our normal practice in  
13 Clean Environment Commission hearings, we are  
14 recording these sessions, transcripts of each  
15 day's hearings will be available online within a  
16 day or so. You can find the link on our website  
17 to where the transcripts will be.

18           I should also note that for the main  
19 hearings, the March and April meetings, there will  
20 be a small participant assistance program. If you  
21 or any group that you know, a community group or  
22 an environmental group or an agricultural group  
23 wishes to apply for participant assistance to help  
24 you prepare a presentation for the main meetings  
25 in March and April, information for that is

1 available at the back of the room.

2 We have had four people indicate that  
3 they wish to make presentations this afternoon, as  
4 well as a couple who are going to be coming after  
5 dinner, after the dinner break. One of the people  
6 who had been scheduled for 1:45 has indicated he  
7 might be a little bit late, so we may reverse or  
8 just change the order of presentations.

9 The first person up this afternoon  
10 will be Mr. Denis Vielfore from Hytek, followed by  
11 Mark Peters from East-Man Feeds, and then Al  
12 Mackling, if he shows up on time, and followed by  
13 David Wiens. If Mr. Mackling is late, we will  
14 just reverse that order.

15 Once all four of those presentations  
16 have been done, if anybody else wishes to make a  
17 presentation, they will be welcome to do so. If  
18 nobody wants to make another presentation among  
19 you in this room, we will remain here until 5:00  
20 when we take the supper break, but we may all just  
21 be chatting or twiddling our thumbs if nobody is  
22 being -- wanting to make presentations.

23 Having said that, I would like to  
24 invite Mr. Denis Vielfore to come forward and make  
25 a presentation. If you would go to the table up

1 here, Mr. Vielfore?

2 MR. VIELFORE: It doesn't matter which  
3 one?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: No, it doesn't matter,  
5 either one is fine. Would you please, for the  
6 record, introduce yourself and spell your name,  
7 please?

8 MR. VIELFORE: Denis Vielfore, the  
9 last name is V, as in victory, I-E-L-F-O-R-E. It  
10 is Denis with one "N".

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You may  
12 proceed, Mr. Vielfore.

13 MR. VIELFORE: Good afternoon,  
14 Mr. Chairman, and your panel members. Thank you  
15 for the opportunity.

16 I am one of the owners and founders of  
17 Hytek, based out in La Broquerie. Just a quick  
18 history in Hytek.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vielfore, could you  
20 just raise the mike slightly?

21 MR. VIELFORE: A quick history on  
22 Hytek, it was started when two farm families. The  
23 Janson family and the Vielfore family aligned  
24 together back in '94 to align our interests in the  
25 hog industry. Since then, we have grown in



1 Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Unites States and  
2 recently in China. Our growth has been stimulated  
3 by being able to surround ourselves by great  
4 people, and today we have about 450 employees.  
5 Our success is based on working with communities,  
6 and the people in the communities, and also  
7 working with government, and also facing the  
8 challenges and opportunities as we have grown this  
9 industry.

10 My presentation will be brief. I  
11 understand this is a scoping meeting. We will  
12 present a more detailed presentation at the public  
13 meetings. I just want to add, at this point, that  
14 I want to make sure that we recognize and  
15 emphasize to the Commission that Manitoba Pork  
16 Council is a producer association that I fully  
17 support and that they be given the necessary  
18 participant status and funds to support the hog  
19 industry through this investigation.

20 I will go through Hytek's position  
21 here on the scoping meetings. We have three  
22 comments we would like to bring forward. The  
23 first one is that the CEC must maintain its focus  
24 on environmental sustainability to the Manitoba  
25 hog industry. This is clearly mandated by the

1 Minister of Conservation.

2 And, number two, that the CEC must  
3 stay focused on the Terms of Reference. We  
4 acknowledge the Terms of Reference, as stated by  
5 the Minister of Conservation. And as long as the  
6 CEC remains focused on science-based evidence  
7 brought forward to the hearings that pertains to  
8 Manitoba landscape. We challenge the CEC on one  
9 of the Terms of Reference, to conduct public  
10 meetings, to remain attentive to the issues that  
11 are relevant to the Manitoba landscape.

12 Number three, the CEC must deliver on  
13 its mandate in a timely manner. The Manitoba hog  
14 industry is a vibrant industry that is quickly  
15 maturing and any long-term interruption will be  
16 devastating to the sustainable future.

17 In closing, I would like to say that  
18 the CEC needs to filter through information  
19 presented at public meetings to ensure rational  
20 science-based evidence is used when it prepares  
21 its recommendations to the Minister and that the  
22 CEC is accountable to link the public opinion to  
23 the Minister's mandate. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Vielfore. Any questions from the panelists?

1 Wayne?

2 MR. BRANDSON: No.

3 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

4 MR. VIELFORE: Just one question.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

6 MR. VIELFORE: Is the panel that is  
7 here today the same panel that are going through  
8 the meetings?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, but there may be  
10 one other person. And I can't identify that  
11 person because I haven't identified that person.  
12 We are hoping to have a panel of four. And we are  
13 talking to some people about being a fourth  
14 panelist, but the three of us will be on the panel  
15 for the main hearings, yes.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. VIELFORE: Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Peters? Would you  
19 identify yourself for the record, Mr. Peters, and  
20 proceed?

21 MR. PETERS: Mark Peters. First name  
22 M-A-R-K. Last name Peters, P-E-T-E-R-S.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

24 MR. PETERS: Good afternoon, members  
25 of the Clean Environment Commission, panel and

1 ladies and gentlemen of the audience.

2 My name is Mark Peters, and I am the  
3 director of sales and marketing at East-Man Animal  
4 Nutrition in Winnipeg. East-Man Animal Nutrition  
5 is an independent, 100 percent Canadian family  
6 owned and operated company. East-Man Animal  
7 Nutrition began as a manufacturer of  
8 vitamin/mineral premixes and supplements for  
9 livestock in 1970.

10 Founder and president, Peter Friesen,  
11 brought the concept of on-farm manufacturing of  
12 feed to Western Canada by providing a missing  
13 link; allowing producers to add vitamins, minerals  
14 and supplements to their own grain to make their  
15 own complete rations on-farm.

16 We have 137 employees in eight  
17 locations across Western Canada and three  
18 locations in the mid-west Unites States.

19 We work closely with independent pork  
20 producers, from small to large. And our smallest  
21 customer has 30 sows, farrow to finish, and our  
22 largest customer is 1,000 sows, farrow to finish,  
23 and so we work on.

24 On behalf of East-Man Animal  
25 Nutrition, I sincerely thank you for the

1 opportunity to present our comments regarding the  
2 review of the environmental sustainability of the  
3 hog production industry in Manitoba. I would have  
4 liked that this review be entitled "A review of  
5 the environmental sustainability of pork  
6 production in Manitoba", as this would more  
7 accurately reflect what we do in this industry;  
8 that is to produce pork for the consumer, locally  
9 and globally.

10           It is often overlooked that we work  
11 within the community of food producers. Our job  
12 is to produce food that sustains and nurtures our  
13 population.

14           As supporters of independent pork  
15 producers, we work with them to produce quality  
16 product in an environmentally sustainable manner.  
17 We understand and fully support the serious  
18 commitment that our pork producers have towards  
19 the stewardship of our air, soil, natural plants,  
20 wildlife and water resources.

21           We also support the Manitoba  
22 government's efforts to protect and maintain our  
23 surface and groundwater supply for current and  
24 future use. Manitoba's pork industry and  
25 Manitoba's pork producers' very existence are tied

1 to a sufficiently reliable source of high-quality  
2 water, water that is critical to the raising of  
3 pork. Good water is also vitally important to our  
4 company and our customers who live, work and raise  
5 families on the farm.

6 East-Man Animal Nutrition is concerned  
7 with nutrient management, and we support the  
8 testing of our customers' land so that the right  
9 amounts of nutrients are applied.

10 Hog producers are not the only cause  
11 for the recent increase in phosphorus levels in  
12 our lakes and rivers.

13 The rising levels of phosphorus in  
14 Lake Winnipeg, for example, come from a variety of  
15 sources: The U.S.A., other provinces, industry,  
16 human waste, cities and municipalities, natural  
17 deposits, dishwasher detergent, and lawn  
18 fertilizers.

19 In my 23 years of working with pork  
20 producers, I have seen massive improvements in the  
21 production of pork.

22 I have seen the kilograms of pork  
23 produced per breeding female increase by  
24 80 percent. Today an average sow can produce  
25 2,500 kilograms of pork, compared to

1 1,400 kilograms 20 years ago. In turn, feed  
2 conversions, or the amount of feed needed to  
3 produce this pork, has decreased by 25 percent.  
4 This means more food produced with fewer animals,  
5 using less feed, excreting fewer nutrients.

6 Innovation and technology has driven  
7 these production efficiencies. This innovation  
8 and technology has been driven by the Canadian  
9 consumers' demand of cheap food.

10 Canadians are fortunate to spend  
11 approximately 10 percent of their disposable  
12 income on food, one of the lowest in the world.  
13 It is interesting that these hearings are being  
14 held a few weeks before Canadians will reach their  
15 Food Freedom Day, the calendar date when,  
16 according to statistics, the average Canadian  
17 consumer has earned enough income to pay his or  
18 her individual grocery bill for the entire year.

19 This innovation and technology has  
20 been driven by the Canadian consumers' demand for  
21 safe food.

22 In Canada we never expect to get sick  
23 from the food we consume. Where in some  
24 countries, people expect to get sick from the food  
25 they eat 5 to 6 times per year.

1                   That innovation and technology  
2 continues to evolve.

3                   Last week at pork seminar in Alberta,  
4 we saw papers being presented on: Bio-digesters  
5 and manure processing; animal welfare: Obligation  
6 or opportunity? Use of net energy in feed  
7 formulation to reduce nutrient excretion; the use  
8 of natural enzymes to reduce phosphorous usage in  
9 swine diets.

10                  900 delegates from around the world  
11 attended this seminar, and each of these attendees  
12 are directly involved in the production of pork.  
13 This meeting enabled us to make global connections  
14 and to converse with colleagues from other  
15 countries who are dealing with these very same  
16 issues. It needs to be noted that we have been  
17 researching and utilizing these new technologies  
18 whenever possible.

19                  Research is ongoing, and is being  
20 conducted as we speak, around the world and in  
21 Canada. Canadian universities, and research  
22 centers such as Prairie Swine Centre, in  
23 Saskatchewan are world renowned for their  
24 research.

25                  And this year the National Centre for



1 Livestock and the Environment at the University of  
2 Manitoba's Glenlea Research Station goes into  
3 operation.

4           There's nothing else like it in North  
5 America! It's the only research facility where  
6 scientists will be able to study ecological  
7 interactions and the effects of management  
8 practices in a total crop and animal production  
9 system.

10           The Natural Centre for Livestock and  
11 the Environment will provide the facility and  
12 tools for researchers from many disciplines to  
13 work together on long-term solutions to key issues  
14 facing animal agriculture, including environmental  
15 health, food safety, as well as animal  
16 productivity and well-being.

17           The National Centre for Livestock and  
18 the Environment is unique. Using both  
19 conventional and alternative animal housing  
20 facilities, conventional and alternative manure  
21 storage and handling technologies, long-term crop  
22 rotations, and well-equipped laboratories, this  
23 will be the only location in North America with  
24 the expertise and facilities to tackle major  
25 issues facing intensive animal agriculture from

1 the molecular to the landscape level, using a  
2 whole farm approach.

3 The National Centre for Livestock and  
4 the Environment will support short and long-term  
5 studies of energy, nutrient and microbial movement  
6 in the farm ecosystem. This farm will be the only  
7 center we know of in the world with the capacity  
8 for this type of research.

9 The National Centre for Livestock and  
10 the Environment will be able to provide key data  
11 for economic analysis of alternative animal,  
12 manure, and land management practices, quantify  
13 economic and other risks, as well as identify  
14 other economic opportunities.

15 As you can see, our pork production  
16 industry is fully aware of the issues of today and  
17 the future, and we must continue to address these  
18 issues if we want to be sustainable.

19 We, in the pork industry, are as  
20 concerned with the protection of our environment  
21 as all Manitobans are. And there is no question  
22 that we must remain vigilant in our stewardship of  
23 this valuable, life-giving resource.

24 The Commission has been tasked with a  
25 responsibility that, upon its recommendations,

1 will impact agri-business, the environment, the  
2 consumer and, most of all, the farmer.

3 We respectfully request that the panel  
4 address the technologies that are currently being  
5 used, and to look at the innovation and future  
6 technologies that we are currently working with.  
7 We urge the panel to talk with our world-class  
8 researchers, go to our universities, and  
9 experience first-hand the work that they are  
10 doing. We urge the panel to tour a modern pork  
11 production facility and to talk with the farmers  
12 whose lives depend on the sustainability of this  
13 very important food industry.

14 In closing, I would like to leave you  
15 with the words of William Jennings Bryan's  
16 statement from the famous 1896 "Cross of Gold  
17 Speech." His words are even more relevant today:

18 "Burn down your cities and leave our  
19 farms, and your cities will spring up  
20 again as if by magic; but destroy our  
21 farms and the grass will grow in the  
22 streets of every city in the country."

23 Thank you for your time and  
24 consideration of our comments and concerns on this  
25 issue.

1                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Peters.  
2     If we were to look for issues such as innovation  
3     and future technologies, where would you suggest  
4     we might would be best to look?

5                   MR. PETERS: Start at the University  
6     of Manitoba. Talk with the people that are  
7     working with these issues on a daily basis. Talk  
8     to us. Talk to pork producers that themselves are  
9     putting these innovations and this technology to  
10    practice today on the farm. Talk to as many  
11    people as you can that work, you know, with us in  
12    the industry because it is a very exciting and  
13    advancing industry.

14                  THE CHAIRMAN: We have already talked  
15    with some people from the university, and will be  
16    talking with them a lot more. And we will  
17    probably be engaging some people from the  
18    University of Manitoba to conduct literature  
19    research for us. And we do hope to hear, through  
20    these hearings this week, and then in March and  
21    April, from as many Manitobans, including pork  
22    producers, as we can. We will be hearing from the  
23    Pork Council tomorrow. And I do know that we will  
24    be hearing from the Pork Council at the very onset  
25    of our main hearings in March and April.

1 Norm or Wayne, do you have any  
2 questions of Mr. Peters?

3 MR. BRANDSON: No.

4 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other comments you  
6 would like to make?

7 MR. PETERS: No. Thank you very much.  
8 Your task is a huge responsibility that is going  
9 to affect a lot of people.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for  
11 your participation today.

12 Next up, Mr. Al Mackling.  
13 Mr. Mackling, would you introduce yourself for the  
14 record, please, and then you may proceed?

15 MR. MACKLING: Yes. My name is Al  
16 Mackling. I have been a resident of the R.M. of  
17 Springfield. No longer there. I am in the City  
18 of Winnipeg.

19 But during my time in the R.M. of  
20 Springfield, I had the experience of being  
21 involved in hearings in respect to applications  
22 for intensive livestock operations, became aware  
23 of the issue and got quite involved. And I'm a  
24 member of the Springfield Hog Watch group. I  
25 continue to be and have a continuing interest in

1 this whole area.

2 My understanding, Mr. Chairman, is  
3 that this is an opportunity to give the Clean  
4 Environment Commission an indication of areas of  
5 concern that the public have, the better for the  
6 Commission to focus on issues that the public is  
7 interested in. And you don't want extensive  
8 argument at this stage in respect to the various  
9 concerns that individuals have?

10 THE CHAIRMAN: That's correct.

11 MR. MACKLING: But you do want an  
12 outline?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: That's correct. Today  
14 we are looking for an outline as to how we should  
15 scope our review process.

16 MR. MACKLING: Yes.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: In March and April, we  
18 will have an extensive round of hearings at which  
19 we will be looking for more detailed input.

20 MR. MACKLING: Yes. And I assume that  
21 those of us who have registered for these  
22 proceedings will be notified and be included in  
23 the more extensive hearings later on or do we  
24 re-register?

25 THE CHAIRMAN: I think you should

1 indicate again, perhaps before you leave today,  
2 that you would like to speak at one of the  
3 hearings in the spring or in March or April.

4 MR. MACKLING: All right. I will do  
5 that. While we, as an organization, have concerns  
6 about a number of aspects that intensive livestock  
7 operations bring to the fore, including the very,  
8 very important one of the degradation or possible  
9 degradation of water systems and water supplies,  
10 we also -- and I have some ideas that I want to  
11 put before the Commission on that. And if there  
12 is time, I can elaborate a bit now.

13 But two of the issues that perhaps may  
14 go without enough attention to them are the  
15 question of animal husbandry and the cruelty that  
16 is perceived to occur to animals that are raised  
17 in intensive livestock operations. We have become  
18 aware of the fact that there have been practices  
19 of animal husbandry followed in Europe that are no  
20 longer acceptable there, but those same practices  
21 occur here in North America and here in Manitoba.

22 The confinement of animals in very,  
23 very limited space and the consequent stress that  
24 those animals suffer as a consequence of the  
25 intensity of their living quarters. I've had the

1 opportunity of seeing animals in intensive living  
2 quarters. And, quite frankly, I'm not a  
3 vegetarian, but one sometimes wonders whether or  
4 not we should consider becoming vegetarians if we  
5 have to raise animals in such very difficult  
6 conditions.

7           There is no question that when animals  
8 are raised in very, very stressful conditions,  
9 that the incidence of disease, and therefore,  
10 mortality is greater. There has always been a  
11 consideration for the mortality question in  
12 respect to the intensive livestock operations, and  
13 provisions are provided or are made for the  
14 disposition of the animals that die under these  
15 circumstances. And the reason there is that focus  
16 is because animals that are raised in such  
17 stressful conditions have a higher likelihood of  
18 dying.

19           Now, one of the concerns that we have,  
20 and I have presented this concern at a hearing in  
21 Springfield, was that we really don't know and  
22 appreciate the extent of contamination,  
23 atmospheric contamination and, therefore,  
24 pollution and health threats from animals or from  
25 airborne matter. Now, some people may scoff and



1 say: Well, airborne matter, you know, what is  
2 carried any distance? You know, you are just  
3 being a dreamer. You are being fanciful. Well,  
4 the scientists tell us that viruses can be carried  
5 in the atmosphere for great distances. And they  
6 estimate or they guess or they ponder that some of  
7 the viruses that are occurring in America come  
8 great distances, not by humans carrying them, but  
9 through the atmosphere. And it sounds pretty  
10 wild, but that happens, apparently.

11 I know, from my limited experience,  
12 having an extensive garden in the Springfield area  
13 where we lived. I went out to the garden one  
14 morning and I was amazed at the thousands and  
15 thousands, and I am not exaggerating, of cabbage  
16 butterflies that were suddenly all over the  
17 garden. They weren't there the day before or the  
18 few days before. And I marveled at all of these  
19 creatures. They are all happy and fluttering  
20 around. And I was wondering about the  
21 consequences to my garden, of course.

22 I heard later on the news that there  
23 had been a storm in Kansas, or somewhere deep in  
24 the Unites States, that had the effect of lifting  
25 this huge number of butterflies into the

1 atmosphere and taking them north. That's where  
2 they came from. Now, the butterfly, as most of  
3 you know, is a very fragile little animal. But,  
4 by golly, they weren't at all fragile when they  
5 were in the garden. They were carried a great  
6 distance. And they were very healthy and ready to  
7 go to work on my garden.

8           We know that life forms can be carried  
9 atmospherically. The scientists have told us  
10 this. When I first started addressing concerns  
11 about intensive livestock operations in  
12 Springfield, one of the concerns that we had was  
13 airborne pollutants. And to their credit, the  
14 early proponents of livestock operations engaged  
15 engineers who did address this problem. GDH  
16 Engineering were involved in providing material to  
17 support applicants for intensive livestock  
18 operations. And one of the considerations they  
19 always included was wind velocity, regular wind  
20 velocity, the prevailing wind direction and so  
21 forth. Later on in hearings in Springfield that  
22 whole issue was disregarded.

23           I am very concerned, and we are very  
24 concerned, about airborne pollution. We live in a  
25 society that's more and more dependent upon and

1 affected by chemicals and other things. We know  
2 that there is a growing incidence within every  
3 community, apparently, of bronchial and asthmatic  
4 conditions. What causes them? Who knows. Is it  
5 the food? Is it chemicals in the food we eat? Is  
6 it chemicals in the food we eat or the air we  
7 breathe? Who knows.

8           But we do know that animal danders are  
9 carried high into the -- into the air from  
10 livestock operations, animal dander. And animals  
11 shed a lot of skin. And we're animals and we shed  
12 a lot of skin. People scoff and say: What are  
13 you talking about? We shed skin all our lives and  
14 so do these animals. And there are going to be  
15 millions of them shedding skin. And that matter  
16 is lifted up and carried into the atmosphere and,  
17 along with it, what else? Do we know?

18           We know that these animals, raised in  
19 such close quarters and under stress, being  
20 subject therefore to disease, are carefully  
21 monitored. The producers here will tell you that  
22 they are very carefully monitored. And no one can  
23 just walk into those facilities because you might  
24 carry in a bacterium of some kind and the producer  
25 would lose extensively.

1                   But in order to guard against disease,  
2   the producers, and the people who produce the  
3   feed, were known to have -- and it's common  
4   knowledge that they put antibiotics or similar  
5   medicines into the feed to protect the animals  
6   from disease. What happens to these, the  
7   leftovers of these antibiotics and so on? Does  
8   anybody know? Do they naturally degrade? What is  
9   their life -- what is their lifespan, either going  
10  into the water or being carried, as with some  
11  particulate matter, into the air? Do we know? I  
12  think we should care. So it's these areas,  
13  primarily, that I want to suggest that the  
14  Commission not overlook because they are  
15  important.

16                   The water issue, yes, is so evident  
17  and is so clear. If I might take a moment, I  
18  would like to indicate that some, now near many  
19  years ago, I suggested to Members of Parliament,  
20  to the government, that in order to deal with the  
21  water contamination of run-off of nutrient, it be  
22  necessary to filter the water and go back to  
23  natural filtration of water. The natural  
24  filtration of water occurs through water being  
25  channelled and held in sloughs or marshes or

1 marshy areas where the vegetation is capable of  
2 removing the pollutants or the nutrients from the  
3 water. And then the water that is cleansed is  
4 allowed to flow back into the system.

5           Now, I know this by first-hand  
6 experience. I had a cousin whose husband was  
7 running a greenhouse in the Milwaukee area. And  
8 the authorities said, hey, you've got to do  
9 something about this because you've got -- in your  
10 run-off from your greenhouse you've got nutrients  
11 that are going to be a problem to our system.  
12 You've got to install a very elaborate system to  
13 clean this up, your run-off water from your  
14 greenhouse.

15           And then he learned about a simpler  
16 technique. He had enough acreage. He took a  
17 small portion of his acreage and ran the effluent,  
18 the water coming from his greenhouse, into that  
19 oversized pond full of cattails or bulrushes, as  
20 we call them. The result, they cleaned up the  
21 water. He didn't have a huge problem to deal with  
22 the nutrients, the water that was loaded with  
23 nutrients and pesticides, or whatever, that came  
24 in the greenhouse operation. And the authorities  
25 were satisfied.

1                   Now, we know that we've got a problem  
2 with our lake system and our river system. It's  
3 not going to be cleaned up by just taking  
4 detergents off the market, or whatever, or  
5 whatever. We have got to go back to filtrating  
6 the run-off from agricultural operations through a  
7 natural source. And from my experience, I owned a  
8 quarter section, there is always a portion of land  
9 in every -- at least in every section that is  
10 low-lying where the natural drainage goes.

11                   And I believe that what has to happen  
12 is that the farmers and the land owners and the  
13 local government and the conservation districts  
14 and the provincial government have to do a reality  
15 check and realize that there are portions of the  
16 land that should never be tilled. They should be  
17 left as a wet area, as a filter area. And the  
18 farm drainage should be channelled through that  
19 area, held and allowed to run-off. And I was  
20 involved with kind of a hobby farmer out in the  
21 Springfield area who wanted to do just that, but  
22 he couldn't get -- he couldn't get the help  
23 necessary in order to do it.

24                   I think this has got to be done in the  
25 Red River valley on a massive scale. It's going

1 to cost money. We are either going to have to buy  
2 or lease from farmers some acres. Maybe five  
3 acres in one area. Maybe only two acres in  
4 another area. But develop a system to naturally  
5 filter the run-off because farmers have to have  
6 their fields drained.

7 If the Commission goes out in the  
8 countryside and looks in ditches, they will see  
9 that those ditches are just rife with weeds and  
10 growth and bulrushes. Why? Because they are  
11 loaded with nutrients. Those nutrients should be  
12 contained back in the field and then released to  
13 the ditch which flows to the creek or the river.  
14 Anyway, it's food for your thought.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Mackling. Do either of you gentlemen have  
17 questions of Mr. Mackling?

18 MR. BRANDSON: No.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: I would have comment,  
20 but this isn't the time to comment.

21 MR. MACKLING: I would like to hear  
22 your comment.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes, I am just familiar  
24 with a lot of the practices that you are talking  
25 about.

1 MR. MACKLING: Good.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Mackling. Is Mr. Wiens here yet? He wasn't  
4 scheduled until 2:00. We have had another person  
5 who wishes to come forward, Wendy Friesen. Please  
6 introduce yourself for the record, Ms. Friesen,  
7 and then proceed.

8 MS. FRIESEN: My name is Wendy  
9 Friesen. I come from the Lowe Farm area.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Bring the mike a little  
11 closer.

12 MS. FRIESEN: Okay. My name is Wendy  
13 Friesen. I'm here today to represent our family  
14 farm, which is made up of hog production and  
15 grain/oil seeds production.

16 The purpose of my presentation here  
17 today is to ensure that the CEC review of hog  
18 production in Manitoba will be focused only on the  
19 issues which fall within the intended scope. I  
20 know that the fears of the non-farming community  
21 will weigh heavily on you, so I ask that you be  
22 very careful in sorting through the many comments  
23 which I am sure you will receive in following your  
24 mandate only.

25 Key issues which should be focused on



1 include a focus on the environmental issues, such  
2 as protection of soil. And you will see that  
3 there are many soil tests which have been done at  
4 the cost of the farmer and that farmers are good  
5 stewards of the land. After all, we raise our  
6 families here and have every reason to take care  
7 of our land.

8 Review the phosphorus and mortality  
9 regulations which the hog producers follow to see  
10 how far the farmers already have to go to be in  
11 compliance. The land re-seeded with fertilizer is  
12 not always owned by the hog farmer, but any land  
13 owner has to consider the appropriate amount of  
14 fertilizer to be applied for both long-term and  
15 economical reasons.

16 Read the water tests which have been  
17 performed on Lake Winnipeg so you can see that hog  
18 manure contributes only about one percent of the  
19 phosphorus in the lake. Where does the other  
20 99 percent come from? Also, keep in mind that we,  
21 too, drink the water and that, in itself, is  
22 enough reason to keep the water clean.

23 Realize that timing is extremely  
24 important to the hog producer, as any further  
25 delays in building of hog barns, or expansions

1     thereof, will tie the hands of farmers and their  
2     right to continue on in the business of hog  
3     production. This pause has already forced the hog  
4     industry to rearrange the long-term plans that  
5     were already in place and have now been put on  
6     hold. I don't believe that any other industry  
7     would take kindly to this type of interruption of  
8     business either.

9                     I know that your review needs to be  
10    thorough and focused. And I ask that you edit out  
11    any other issues which might come up so that this  
12    review can be done as quickly and efficiently as  
13    possible. Thank you for your time.

14                    THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any  
15    comments or questions?

16                    MR. BRANDSON: No.

17                    MR. MOTHERAL: No.

18                    THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
19    Ms. Friesen.

20                    MS. FRIESEN: Thank you.

21                    THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody else wish  
22    to make a presentation at this time? What we will  
23    do, then, is we will just sort of adjourn until  
24    Mr. Wiens shows up. And then if anybody else  
25    shows up and wishes to make a presentation, we

1 will come back to order. We will remain here  
2 until 5:00, which is our supper break. So that  
3 anybody who comes in between now and 5:00, we will  
4 just sit back down and hear them and then we will  
5 adjourn again if there is nobody. We do have at  
6 least a couple of people scheduled for after the  
7 dinner break. So we will take a break right now  
8 until we have had some other person who wishes to  
9 make a presentation show up. Thank you.

10 (PROCEEDINGS RECESSED AT 1:50 AND RESUMED AT 2:39)

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Hello. Mr. Wiens, who  
12 had indicated he wanted to speak this afternoon,  
13 has yet to show up. But we have had another  
14 person who came out here today who is registered  
15 to make a presentation and we will hear him right  
16 now. And then if and when Mr. Wiens shows up, we  
17 will reconvene again. Mr. Dirks.

18 MR. DIRKS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
19 and panel.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you introduce  
21 yourself for the record, please?

22 MR. DIRKS: Okay. My name is Cal  
23 Dirks. I'm a pullet farmer in the R.M. of  
24 Hanover. And it is pullets grown for egg-layer  
25 production.

1                   And we are very much aware of the  
2   importance of environmental protection and manage  
3   our farm accordingly for now and our future  
4   generations. And we know the impact on the hog  
5   industry will impact all livestock production, so  
6   I would like to make a few background comments to  
7   begin.

8                   Egg and pullet producers operate under  
9   a cohesive well-organized system that enable us  
10  the dissemination and uptake of information  
11  relating to water protection and proper manure  
12  management. We are all well aware of  
13  environmental issues and prepared to do our fair  
14  share to ensure protection of our water resources.  
15  We consider this area a priority important to the  
16  overall sustainability of the industry.

17                  Producer education has been ongoing  
18  since the development of farm practices  
19  guidelines. And some examples of initiatives are  
20  as follows: Proper manure management presentation  
21  at our producer meetings, production of manure  
22  management for laying hens and pullets brochures,  
23  promotion and hosting of environmental plan  
24  workshop and various informational newsletter  
25  articles to our producers.

1                   Many producers have retooled and are  
2     in the process of retooling their facilities,  
3     which includes improved manure storage and  
4     handling. Many are moving from liquid to dry  
5     manure handling systems. Manure is recognized as  
6     a valuable fertilizer and soil conditioner for  
7     producers, as manure is utilized by the many egg  
8     and pullet producers who also grow crops.

9                   So some issues for the CEC and the  
10    rationale. The CEC should focus on the issues  
11    very specific to environmental protection, not the  
12    broader social and economic landscape. The  
13    rationale would be to focus and prevent  
14    unnecessary delays so producers can be certain of  
15    regulations and start to proceed with required  
16    changes.

17                  Secondly, we are supportive of the  
18    current limits and restrictions contained within  
19    the recently amended manure management regulations  
20    and look forward to discussions with the  
21    government regarding transition support. Our  
22    rationale: Much research and consultation has  
23    already gone into these amendments, which are  
24    broadly supported.

25                  And, finally, we feel the CEC needs to

1 ensure that the nutrient management regulation  
2 under water stewardship gives appropriate emphasis  
3 to urban activities, such as direct discharge of  
4 urban waste and winter spreading of municipal  
5 human waste. Agriculture will do their part, and  
6 wishes the CEC to ensure other sectors share in  
7 the responsibility of the environment as well.  
8 Thank you very much for your time.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Dirks.  
10 Norm or Wayne, do you have any questions?

11 MR. BRANDSON: No.

12 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.  
14 Does anybody else wish to come up and make any  
15 contributions to our process? Okay. We will take  
16 another break. We will be here until our supper  
17 break at 5:00. If anybody else comes in, or if  
18 Mr. Wiens does show up, we will reconvene and  
19 allow people to make their presentations. So we  
20 will stand adjourned again until at least 5:00.

21 (PROCEEDINGS RECESSED AT 2:45 AND RESUMED AT 4:15)

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Mr. Hofer?

23 MR. HOFER: Good afternoon.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon.

25 MR. HOFER: I didn't plan on speaking

1 here, but my colleagues and friends told me to  
2 come up with something. And I guess the question  
3 that I --

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Could you introduce  
5 yourself for the record, please?

6 MR. HOFER: James Hofer. I'm with  
7 Star Lite Colony Farms at Starbuck.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Star Lite Colony Farms?

9 MR. HOFER: Yes, L-I-T-E.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you.

11 MR. HOFER: I guess the question I ask  
12 myself, being here in this room: Why are we here?  
13 And if the answer is: Lake Winnipeg and the state  
14 of what that lake is in, then I would suggest that  
15 the Clean Environment Commission have a look at  
16 all of the point sources that contribute to the  
17 nutrients that end up in that lake. And if we  
18 look at the watershed and how -- what that  
19 watershed contains, how big it is, it goes west to  
20 the Rockies, it goes south. And that lake is  
21 taxed, you know, putting through a lot of water.

22 So one of the other areas that, you  
23 know, I have questions on, and I am not sure on  
24 how that is being monitored or controlled, is the  
25 way the City of Winnipeg handles its bio-solid

1 wastes. In fact, just on the way coming down to  
2 the meetings, I drove cross-country, and they are  
3 spreading as we speak. They have been doing it  
4 for the last month. It is on the snow. I don't  
5 know how they are going to manage that. And how  
6 they get away with the licence to winter spread  
7 and who's monitoring it? Do they have to fill out  
8 a manure management plan or a nutrient plan to  
9 make sure that the application rates are being  
10 met?

11                   And the hog industry has always  
12 responded to issues or challenges that have come  
13 up. And I think, in most cases, they've always  
14 acted in a responsible fashion and have never been  
15 out to just blatantly try to ruin the environment.  
16 We live and work on the farm. We drink the water  
17 that's in the ground there, and it's in our own  
18 best interests to farm and to run an operation  
19 that is sustainable and friendly to the  
20 environment.

21                   Another, another thing that really  
22 bothers me is how can people, public, in some  
23 cases even government maybe, tell farmers how to  
24 farm when they have actually never, in fact, run a  
25 farm? One of my dad's favourite peeves is he



1 says: Have you ever flown an airplane? No. Then  
2 how can you tell somebody that's a pilot that's  
3 licensed how to fly an airplane? I said: I  
4 can't. That's what I struggle with when I look at  
5 government. And I know we need government and I  
6 know we need regulations. But there never seems  
7 to be enough, what would you call it, credibility  
8 given to farmers. There seems to be none.

9           And in the past, we have had a lot of  
10 regulations come at us. And we have found a way  
11 to work with the regulations and, you know, come  
12 up with a doable solution. But to come in and  
13 totally shut down an industry, I mean, how is that  
14 doable? It just isn't doable and we don't know  
15 how we are going to do it.

16           We can't go out and make more land.  
17 There is only so much land. And, you know, if the  
18 government would come up with some form of maybe  
19 grandfathering the existing farms to continue to  
20 expand and not let any new ones in. But to shut  
21 the existing ones down is -- I don't know if  
22 that's the solution.

23           And look at the smaller farmer. If we  
24 look at the number of farms we had 25 years ago,  
25 and the number of farms we have today, and we ask

1 why and how were these farmers shut down? A lot  
2 of them just can't work with the regulations. The  
3 bigger ones have worked and rolled with the  
4 punches, but the smaller ones are just bowing out.  
5 And we are just getting more and more people that  
6 the family farm isn't there anymore. The urban  
7 population is not connected to the farm anymore.  
8 And they just don't understand the issues that  
9 surround the farm and the challenges the farmers  
10 are faced with.

11 And, you know, it always appears that  
12 the government, with the regulations or the  
13 programs that they come up with, there is very  
14 little assistance to the farmers. It is always,  
15 you know, on the backs of the farmers and coming  
16 up and adding costs to the costs of operating a  
17 farm. We have weather issues. We have market  
18 forces. It's just a non-stop barrage of  
19 challenges that farmers are faced with.

20 And then if we look at the province  
21 and why is the province producing all of the hogs  
22 that we are producing? It was led by the  
23 government. It was encouraged by the government.  
24 And I would say it was done in a -- it wasn't done  
25 with -- it was done with their eyes open. They

1 didn't close their eyes and go and build a whole  
2 slew of barns.

3           If we look at the grow rate, we lost  
4 our subsidy when it came to shipping grain. And  
5 it only makes sense that we try to walk this grain  
6 off the farm because to ship it was just another  
7 cost.

8           And if we look at the issue of -- I  
9 know the hog industry, or I don't know if I can  
10 call it the issue of the hog industry, but if I  
11 ask: Why are we here today, besides Lake  
12 Winnipeg, is it election? Is it focused around  
13 election or is it being -- is the government doing  
14 it because of elections? That's the question that  
15 I just, you know, came to -- I am not comfortable  
16 with.

17           And farmers have a lot of passion for  
18 what they do. They love what they are doing and  
19 they are good at it. And we continue to be -- we  
20 continue to operate in manners that are friendly  
21 to the environment and continue to produce food.

22           And in some cases, like I have alluded  
23 to before, smaller farmers are bowing out. One of  
24 the reasons that they are bowing out, they are  
25 getting tired. They are getting worn out. The

1 fight to push back, to stand up, in a lot of cases  
2 is not there anymore. They are getting tired.  
3 And the question is why? Why do we need to  
4 always -- why can't government and an industry  
5 that big not work together and come up with  
6 solutions to move on? There is just -- I am at a  
7 loss of words. You take the community life and  
8 the Hutterite colonies right now that are ready to  
9 establish new colonies. And they were planning on  
10 hog production and now that's totally, totally out  
11 of the question. It's a way of life.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hovers, does your  
13 colony produce hogs?

14 MR. HOFER: Yes, sir.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: How large an operation?

16 MR. HOFER: 600 sows, start to finish.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: 600?

18 MR. HOFER: Yes.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: And have you -- has  
20 that expanded in recent years or have you always  
21 had a fairly large hog operation?

22 MR. HOFER: We expanded from 400 sows  
23 to 600 10 years ago.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

25 MR. MOTHERAL: Just a comment, from

1 hearing what you are saying today, I encourage you  
2 to probably make another presentation when we have  
3 the public meetings in March and April to hear  
4 your concerns again.

5 MR. HOFER: Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
7 Mr. Hofer. Mr. Wiens?

8 MR. WIENS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
9 for this opportunity to present to you today. I'm  
10 David Wiens, a dairy farmer, actually, from the  
11 Grunthal area. As well, I am the Chairman of the  
12 Board of Dairy Farmers of Manitoba. So I speak  
13 personally, as well as on behalf of the  
14 organization.

15 Now, although I am involved in the  
16 dairy, certainly we see how this can have much  
17 broader implications. And, of course, we have  
18 concerns in this area as well.

19 At the same time, I appreciate the  
20 opportunity here to assist the Commission in  
21 scoping your work as you go forward from here and,  
22 of course, specifically in the sustainability on  
23 the hog industry of Manitoba.

24 As I have been involved in the past,  
25 but so have many others that have participated,

1 producers throughout all of the commodities in  
2 Manitoba, livestock commodities, have been working  
3 together with our conservation people and  
4 stewardship people in terms of drafting up these  
5 new regulations, the livestock manure and  
6 mortality management regulations. And this is a  
7 process that has been going on for quite a number  
8 of years now.

9 And we have been given the opportunity  
10 to have some input here. And, of course, some of  
11 our suggestions have been included, some very  
12 practical things that we thought should be part of  
13 these regulations. And we certainly have been  
14 listened to over the years and we appreciate that.

15 And, of course, as an industry,  
16 livestock industry, in Manitoba here, we are well  
17 aware of the need for clean water for both humans  
18 and livestock. And the need for well-managed soil  
19 nutrients for the economic production of both high  
20 grains and oil seeds, it is critical. And, of  
21 course, we need clean air for the protection of  
22 both plants and animals, so we come from there.  
23 We come from those kinds of concerns.

24 The Manitoba livestock producers do  
25 have to comply with the most stringent

1 environmental regulations in North America. And  
2 that was, in fact, stated by the Minister of  
3 Conservation in December of 2006.

4           And I can certainly testify to that  
5 from my own personal experience and having put up  
6 a manure storage just this last fall, and having  
7 completed last fall when we received approval from  
8 conservation in September. The standards to which  
9 this structure had to be built exceeded any  
10 standards in any other jurisdiction in North  
11 America. And I'm not -- I'm certainly not here to  
12 complain about it. I think, in the end, it will  
13 serve the entire industry well as we head in that  
14 direction.

15           And now just getting back, I guess,  
16 because these are scoping meetings, and we just  
17 want to ensure that this review includes the  
18 issues that are important to all Manitobans, as it  
19 states on your website. The way I see it, the  
20 issues that are of great importance here are, of  
21 course, to review those issues that directly  
22 impact the environment, as requested by the  
23 Minister. My fear is if the scope becomes broader  
24 than that, that it will -- it will exceed the  
25 mandate of the Commission. But it also becomes a

1 much more cumbersome debate and the risk is that  
2 it would continue on for much too long. So I  
3 would like to see the scope fairly specific.

4           And so, of course, we are dealing  
5 directly with the hog industry here and with the  
6 soil, water and air. And I think we should really  
7 try to focus on those three, soil, water and air  
8 in this Commission, without getting all kinds of  
9 other issues involved here.

10           There is a recent nutrient management  
11 research that has been happening together with the  
12 University of Manitoba Faculty of Agriculture and  
13 Food Sciences and that deals with hog manure and  
14 how it's applied and how it is taken up by the  
15 plants. I believe this study is nearing its  
16 completion at this point is my understanding. And  
17 I would certainly like to see the Commission  
18 consider that, the information coming out of that  
19 research, very carefully. I think it's very -- I  
20 think it's valuable research for us here in the  
21 province because it is actually -- the study has  
22 been done right here in Manitoba. Sometimes when  
23 you get into other climates and soil conditions,  
24 it is really hard to replicate that in our climate  
25 and our soil. So I think we have a real



1 opportunity to tap into that kind of research.

2           And, of course, as I alluded to  
3 earlier, the time factor here. It would be good  
4 to see this done in a timely fashion. Again, I'm  
5 not directly involved in the hog industry but, at  
6 the same time, you know, this study, it concerns  
7 all of the livestock agriculture, that we come to  
8 a final report in a timely fashion so that we can  
9 all carry on in a very timely way. And then, as  
10 producers, we can all move on from here, knowing  
11 exactly what the outcome is and how -- and if we  
12 need to make any changes, then we can begin to do  
13 those things.

14           So, really, that's all I had to  
15 present here. And, again, I appreciate the  
16 opportunity to come to you today.

17           THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.  
18 Any questions? Wayne?

19           MR. MOTHERAL: I know this is going to  
20 be a difficult one to answer, but can you give me  
21 a definition of a "timely fashion"?

22           MR. WIENS: Well, I would like to  
23 think that we could have something done, you know,  
24 by early of next summer. Now, having said that, I  
25 also don't want to give anybody the impression

1 that I think this should be done in a huge hurry  
2 just to get it done. I think it should be done  
3 properly. But I think if it's focused, then you  
4 can hopefully get, you know, to your final report  
5 sooner rather than later.

6 And so I think it's -- and, I mean,  
7 it's hard for me to say exactly whether it would  
8 be two months or three months, but I would sure  
9 like to see something, you know, earlier in the  
10 summer, rather than later in the year, if that's  
11 possible.

12 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: By "next summer", you  
14 mean the summer of 2007?

15 MR. WIENS: Right. Sorry, yes,  
16 absolutely.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: I can't guarantee that,  
18 but we will work as expeditiously as we can,  
19 without compromising the review.

20 MR. WIENS: Right.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

22 MR. MacARTHUR: No.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
25 Mr. Wiens. And we will adjourn again.

1 (PROCEEDINGS RECESSED AT 4:30 AND RESUMED AT 7:05)

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening. Could we  
3 come to order? We will get back to business here.  
4 We have had four different people indicate that  
5 they would like to make a presentation this  
6 evening. The first up are Cliff Graydon and  
7 Adrien Grenier. Would you please identify  
8 yourselves for the record and then proceed with  
9 your presentation?

10 MR. GRENIER: I'm Adrien Grenier. I'm  
11 the president of SPADA, and this is going to be  
12 done in the name of SPADA.

13 MR. GRAYDON: I'm Cliff Graydon. And  
14 I'm his bodyguard.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: He looks like he needs  
16 help.

17 MR. GRENIER: That's fine. I am  
18 standing before you, sitting down, actually, as  
19 the president of SPADA. This is a small regional  
20 organization in the SE corner of the province  
21 representing farmers of diverse backgrounds,  
22 including hog farmers. I wish to address a few  
23 issues with respect to the CEC's review.

24 To be honest, I do not understand the  
25 logic behind the ban on hog operations. I am even

1 more perplexed as to why the CEC is now inviting  
2 me, and all other citizens of Manitoba, to provide  
3 input into the scope of the review, especially  
4 when we have provided input into the many  
5 environmental regulations and livestock reviews  
6 done since 1994. But since you have granted me  
7 the opportunity to speak out regarding what will  
8 be included in the CEC's review, I have taken the  
9 liberty of preparing a few points that I believe  
10 need to be looked at by the CEC.

11 How has the hog industry grown in the  
12 past 10 years? Compared to other provinces?  
13 Compared to other industries in Manitoba? And if  
14 the industry has grown, does it have a large  
15 enough land base to support these operations?  
16 Have the provincial guidelines kept up with the  
17 growth or exceeded it?

18 The second point is what kind of time  
19 span is the CEC looking at with regards to their  
20 study? The hog industry is a thriving industry at  
21 this time and a ban of any sort will have serious  
22 effects on the present and future producers, as  
23 well as all industries related, directly or  
24 indirectly, with the production of hogs in  
25 Manitoba. It is imperative that the CEC decide on

1 a time span that is adequate for its research and  
2 review, but at the same time be respectful of the  
3 fact that time is critical to everyone involved.

4 The third point is the government  
5 requires an abundance of data with respect to the  
6 environment, starting from its own technical  
7 review on every proposed hog operation. Once the  
8 operation is running, the producers are required  
9 to fill out paperwork with respect to different  
10 aspects of their operation, but always at a cost  
11 to the producer. Is the province willing to cover  
12 these costs in order to keep their data current  
13 and keep the producers' costs at a reasonable  
14 level and on an equal footing with the rest of  
15 Canada and the world? And examples are technical  
16 reviews, manure management plan, soil sampling and  
17 water sampling.

18 My fourth point: Is the Provincial  
19 Government giving too much attention to public  
20 perception versus fact?

21 And here I would like to just give you  
22 an example. The other day, on an appeal process  
23 that I am doing, of course the reason is  
24 irrelevant, but I phoned the Provincial  
25 Government, the Department of Agriculture, and I

1 asked a simple question: Why am I being refused?  
2 Oh, probably it's because there is a hog ban on  
3 operations. And she asked: Do you have a hog  
4 farm? Yes. Well, that's the reason you are being  
5 denied. It just makes no sense. I don't know.

6 Farmers are a small minority of the  
7 Manitoba population. And they are spread all over  
8 the -- spread over the whole of the province.  
9 They are a very small group, compared to the  
10 population of Winnipeg or other large urban  
11 centers. For that reason, it is easy to disregard  
12 them when they speak out. How has this situation  
13 helped or hindered the agricultural producers?

14 Has enough been done by the Province  
15 to instill confidence towards the hog industry  
16 with respect to the environment?

17 How much time and effort is being  
18 spent on educating the public as to the role  
19 agriculture plays in our province? And what steps  
20 have been taken by agricultural producers and  
21 organizations to ensure the safeguarding of the  
22 environment?

23 And my last point is a number of  
24 organizations, including SPADA, have been  
25 conducting ongoing research on a number of topics

1 related to agriculture and the effects on the  
2 environment. Is the CEC prepared to look at this  
3 data with respect to its review? For example, the  
4 Roseau River project where there is an impact on  
5 sediments going into the Roseau River. And also  
6 application of manure on pasture and impact on  
7 yields and the environment.

8 In conclusion, I would add that my  
9 livelihood and that of a great number of  
10 Manitobans involved, directly or indirectly, with  
11 the hog industry lies in your hands. We have  
12 confidence that the CEC will deal with this matter  
13 efficiently and responsibly and, in the process,  
14 restore the confidence of the public at large  
15 towards the hog industry. Thank you. If you have  
16 any questions?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: A couple of questions,  
18 Mr. Grenier. What does SPADA stand for?

19 MR. GRENIER: He answers all of the  
20 question.

21 MR. GRAYDON: Stuartburn Piney  
22 Agricultural District Association.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. And you  
24 mentioned, Mr. Grenier, that SPADA has been  
25 conducting some research?

1 MR. GRENIER: Yes, we have some.

2 MR. GRAYDON: We have conducted a  
3 considerable amount of research, Mr. Chairman, in  
4 the past. And, unfortunately, we don't have the  
5 time, nor do we have the expertise, to put that  
6 together. It is only recently that we have  
7 understood that there was money available to hire  
8 someone to put that together for your perusal, but  
9 we didn't know that at the time. We only found  
10 out yesterday.

11 But, yes, we have done a considerable  
12 amount of research on, especially, hog manure on  
13 forages, also on pasture land. Also the study on  
14 the Roseau River was for water quality as well.  
15 We have done two replicated studies on that. The  
16 study with the hog manure on forages was  
17 replicated five times, so it's a scientific  
18 research.

19 And that's all available. Had we had  
20 the opportunity and the expertise to put it  
21 together properly, we would have done that for  
22 you. We just were not aware of it until just  
23 yesterday. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: I think, Mr. Grenier,  
25 you asked a question of us whether we would be



1 interested in having access to that research, and  
2 my short answer is yes. How we do it, whether  
3 it's -- the amount of money that's available for  
4 participant assistance isn't a lot. But if you're  
5 successful in getting a small amount, and if  
6 that's enough to document your research, that  
7 would be fine. If not, we will try to find some  
8 other way to get the information from you.  
9 Perhaps just a small meeting with the panel and  
10 some of your members. We will work something out.  
11 But I think that we would certainly welcome your  
12 input in that regard.

13 MR. GRAYDON: Is there a timeframe on  
14 applying for financial assistance, Mr. Chairman?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: There is. I believe  
16 there is a sheet over there that explains it.  
17 Talk to Cathy, Mr. Graydon. She has the  
18 information right there. There is a timeframe. I  
19 just don't know what it is. But she has the  
20 information at the table.

21 MR. GRAYDON: Thank you.

22 MR. GRENIER: Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions of either  
24 of these gentlemen? Wayne?

25 MR. MOTHERAL: I was going to ask the

1 same question as you did, because we certainly  
2 don't want to ignore any information that's out  
3 there. That's our mandate is to gather all we can  
4 in the next timeframe for this. And we would  
5 appreciate anything possible. And I highly advise  
6 you, if you can, to make a presentation at the  
7 public hearings coming in March and April.

8 MR. GRENIER: Thank you, actually.

9 MR. GRAYDON: If we have that  
10 information compiled before that, do you want that  
11 forwarded to you?

12 THE CHAIRMAN: We would certainly  
13 welcome it, yes. Anything that is submitted to us  
14 in writing becomes part of our record, so that  
15 would be fine. But we will definitely, somehow or  
16 other, keep in touch and get that information from  
17 you.

18 MR. GRAYDON: Okay, thank you.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, gentlemen.  
20 The next person on my list is Mark Kostyniuk.  
21 Mr. Kostyniuk, would you please introduce yourself  
22 for the record and then you may continue.

23 MR. KOSTYNIUK: Hello. I'm Mark  
24 Kostyniuk. And I guess I am just a family member  
25 and a concerned citizen. Ladies and gentlemen,

1 and representatives of the CEC, it is my  
2 understanding that the CEC, under directive of the  
3 Government of the Province of Manitoba, has opened  
4 public forums to learn what the issues of concern  
5 are in regards to the "temporary pause on hog  
6 expansion." I found it necessary to take the time  
7 to share my personal concerns with you tonight.

8 I would like to take a moment to give  
9 you some details of my personal situation, as I  
10 believe it will offer a better perspective as to  
11 the source of my presentation tonight. I was  
12 raised on a mixed beef/grain farm in the southeast  
13 of province. I am currently employed with the  
14 province's transportation department, and reside  
15 in an agricultural area south of Vita. My family  
16 is still operating the farm in the area, which has  
17 recently diversified into hog production. As  
18 well, my wife is also employed in the hog  
19 industry.

20 I believe, as most rural residents do,  
21 that water quality is a high priority; probably  
22 more so for us than for urbanites, as we do not  
23 have the availability of treated water supplies.  
24 Rural residents, and producers, hold water quality  
25 and all environmental issues in high regard. It

1 is for this reason that producers are very  
2 conscious of the effects of their actions on our  
3 environment.

4           The issue that the CEC has brought  
5 forth is the increase in phosphorous levels in  
6 Lake Winnipeg. My concern today is that the  
7 current government has targeted one group in an  
8 effort to curb the problem. However, there is a  
9 lack of evidence that these actions will have any  
10 positive effect. The hog manure spread on  
11 agricultural lands is not merely a means of  
12 disposal; it is used as a substitute for chemical  
13 fertilizers. The amount of fertilizer has not  
14 changed; it is just coming from a more natural  
15 source. Research has shown that the agricultural  
16 industry as a whole is a minor contributor to  
17 phosphorus contamination. It appears to me that  
18 the government is unfairly, and unjustifiably,  
19 targeting a small, and possibly unpopular,  
20 minority under the guise of proactive  
21 environmental policy.

22           Furthermore, the hog industry has  
23 grown to become the saviour of rural Manitoba's  
24 economy. The industry is one of, if not the  
25 largest, employers in southeastern Manitoba. The

1 industry has created an opportunity for rural  
2 residents who value rural lifestyle and do not  
3 wish to commute to large urban centers for  
4 employment. This has spawned a decrease in  
5 emigration from the small towns that not too long  
6 ago were facing extinction.

7 In closing, I would like to suggest  
8 that the Commission do a thorough investigation of  
9 the consequences of these actions. Perhaps more  
10 research should be done to determine other sources  
11 of contamination and the feasibility of reducing  
12 them. More evidence is needed to support the  
13 actions already taken. The government needs to  
14 consider the ramifications of their actions,  
15 rather than charging at the hog industry  
16 blindfolded with guns blazing.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any  
18 questions of Mr. Kostyniuk? Wayne?

19 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

20 THE COURT: Norm?

21 MR. MacARTHUR: No.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
23 Mr. Kostyniuk.

24 MR. KOSTYNIUK: Thank you.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Margaret Remple? Thank

1 you. Would you please state your name for the  
2 record and then proceed with your presentation?

3 MS. REMPLE: Yes. My name is Marge  
4 Remple. And I thank you, Commissioners for making  
5 this opportunity available to me to share my  
6 comments with you. I am a farmer. I own and  
7 operate a mixed farm here in the R.M. of Hanover.  
8 My farm consists of 500 sows, farrow to finish.  
9 And in our enterprise, I have 1,500-acres of crop  
10 land on which I grow cereal grains, oils seeds, as  
11 well as some forage crops.

12 I feel the moratorium on hog  
13 production in Manitoba has been misguided and very  
14 shortsighted. I would suggest Manitoba, and the  
15 rest of the Canadian prairies, require a large  
16 increase in livestock production to maintain  
17 healthy agriculture into the next 25 to 50 years.

18 Currently our province is working hard  
19 to facilitate a number of bio-diesel production  
20 sites. Someone involved in that sector asked me  
21 recently if it was possible to increase the amount  
22 of canola harvested from the current number of  
23 acres being planted to that crop? The average  
24 yield for canola across the province would  
25 probably be about 30 bushels an acre. It is

1 possible to grow double that yield, but it's only  
2 possible if farmers increase the amount of  
3 fertilizer they use. The soil must be nurtured if  
4 it is to provide a greater return.

5           If we've learned anything in the past  
6 couple of decades, it must be that we, as a  
7 society, need to, in fact, expand our energy  
8 source options. Bio-diesel from locally grown  
9 crops providing fuel for transportation and  
10 heating, as well as a meal product very usable in  
11 livestock production, is a good fit.

12           The wrinkle would be requiring farmers  
13 to rely on petroleum-based fertilizer sources to  
14 grow that crop. Granular fertilizer price versus  
15 increased 40 percent in the past few months.  
16 Farmers cannot afford to maintain current levels  
17 of soil nurtures, let alone increased fertilizer  
18 costs, to grow higher yields to meet not only  
19 society's food, but also some of its energy  
20 requirements.

21           Over the thousands and thousands of  
22 years that agriculture has developed, it has only  
23 been the past 40 or 50 years that crop production  
24 has become so reliant on petroleum-based  
25 fertilizers. In the long view of history, it's a

1 short-term bubble, and a bubble which probably  
2 won't last much longer. Crop production based on  
3 petroleum-sourced fertilizers is not sustainable.

4           What is sustainable and has been  
5 common practice in agriculture for many thousands  
6 of years is the use of animal manure to provide  
7 crop nutrients and maintain healthy levels of soil  
8 fertility. To encourage responsible application  
9 of an animal manure is definitely appropriate. To  
10 curtail production of animal manure is extremely  
11 shortsighted and ill conceived. Manure is not a  
12 waste product. It is a vitally important  
13 resource, part of the completely natural organic  
14 and very holistic nutrient cycle.

15           As to our specific situation in  
16 Manitoba, farmers in this province have been busy  
17 completing their individual environmental farm  
18 plans over the past year and a half. Having the  
19 EFPs certified makes farmers certified for partial  
20 funding dollars for any of some 30 green projects.  
21 Beef farmers are eligible for financial assistance  
22 to construct fences around crop land for the  
23 purpose of winter swathe grazing or other winter  
24 crop feeding. The reasoning is that the feed then  
25 does not have to be removed to a central feeding



1 location. And the manure, in turn, does not have  
2 to be moved back to the fields where it will  
3 nurture next year's crops. At a time when we are  
4 becoming increasingly aware of ways in which to  
5 reduce transportation and related costs, it seems  
6 wise to encourage in-field winter feeding of  
7 cattle as a BMP or a best management practice.

8           Now, if I, as a hog producer, would  
9 place 10-kilos of hog manure on a snow-covered  
10 field between November and April, I would  
11 immediately be fined. Does anyone else see an  
12 inconsistency here? I put forward this example to  
13 point out that, for whatever reasons, hog  
14 production has become the target of emotional and  
15 unjustified prejudice. We can only dream of a  
16 rational and science-based dialogue.

17           The attempt of this government, and  
18 some of its citizens, to place the responsibility  
19 for algae blooms in Lake Winnipeg on hog producers  
20 is a travesty. Hog producers have been far ahead  
21 of all other Manitoba livestock sectors and  
22 responsible, and might I add, highly monitored  
23 for manure management and environmental  
24 stewardship for many years already.

25           We continue to use vast amounts of our

1 own money to fund research which can direct us  
2 into the future in using ever-more accurate  
3 application monitors and equipment, fine-tuning  
4 feed rations to further reduce amounts of excreted  
5 phosphorous and so on. We accept that we may be  
6 contributing one percent of the phosphorous  
7 entering Lake Winnipeg and will continue to work  
8 hard to reduce that amount. However, for  
9 government and people of this province to focus on  
10 that one percent is, as I've already said, very  
11 shortsighted.

12           If we're going to maintain, let alone  
13 increase the yield potential of our crop land, we  
14 need to feed the soil. And the most natural and  
15 healthy way to do that is with animal manure. We  
16 need an awful lot more of it.

17           Thomas Homer Dixon, in his recent book  
18 "The Up Side of Down" describes in great detail  
19 the collapse of the Roman empire. And he points  
20 the finger directly at the empire leadership for  
21 strangling agriculture. It is sadly not the only  
22 once-sophisticated society to literally die  
23 because they failed to honour the fundamental  
24 importance of primary food production. It is the  
25 very foundation on which human civilization

1 exists, the absolutely most crucial sector of any  
2 society, ours included.

3 I hope that my fellow Manitobans  
4 remember that when they tighten the noose around  
5 the necks of hog producers, or any other farmers,  
6 they are tightening the noose around their own  
7 necks. Thank you.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Questions?

9 MR. MacARTHUR: No.

10 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
12 Ms. Remple.

13 I believe there is one more person.  
14 Somebody filled out a form but, I'm sorry, I can't  
15 read the name on it. Is there somebody else that  
16 wanted to make a presentation this evening? Would  
17 you state your name, please, sir?

18 MR. BEZDITNY: My name is Ernie  
19 Bezditny.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 MR. BEZDITNY: I'm a small farmer from  
22 Pansy.

23 Now since the hog operations started,  
24 I think the regulations came in a bit too late,  
25 because where I live there is about 35 barns in a

1 three mile radius. To me, as far as I'm  
2 concerned, that's a lot. And that's not hog  
3 farming, that's factory farming.

4 The bush has been cleared. The  
5 ditches for the drainage that has been made is  
6 unbelievable. They are destroying nature and the  
7 country itself with hog operations. Everybody  
8 seems to be worried about water quality. But when  
9 it comes to hog operations, I think water is being  
10 abused, the same with water quantity. Everything  
11 is being ignored when it comes to factory farming  
12 with hog operations.

13 And to me, I see that manure  
14 applications are going on too late in the year.  
15 They should all -- I think manure should be spread  
16 out during the forage season, not when the ground  
17 is froze. Because, naturally, it is going to be  
18 run off in the spring. And I think that should be  
19 tightened up. There should be an earlier deadline  
20 on manure applications.

21 And the way water is being ignored, I  
22 think the government should be forcing them to put  
23 water metres on the factory farming that's  
24 commercial. I can see family farms. But around  
25 my place, that's not family farming anymore,

1 that's factory farming.

2 And to the barns that were built in  
3 Hanover, I think the moratorium should have been  
4 put on a long time ago. Like I say, 35 barns in a  
5 three mile radius is a bit too much. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any  
7 questions of Mr. Bezditny?

8 MR. MOTHERAL: No.

9 MR. BEZDITNY: No.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
11 sir.

12 Okay, is there anybody else this  
13 evening who would like to make a presentation?  
14 Going once, going twice.

15 Thank you all for coming out this  
16 afternoon and this evening. I guess that  
17 concludes our time here in Friedensfeld. We will  
18 be reconvening tomorrow afternoon in Winnipeg and  
19 on Thursday afternoon in Morden.

20 Thank you for your participation. If  
21 any of you want to make any written comments,  
22 you're free to do that and submit them to our  
23 office. There is information at the back table in  
24 that regard.

25 There is also a list at the back table

1 of the hearings that will be taking place  
2 throughout southern Manitoba in March and April.  
3 Thank you all and good evening.  
4 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 7:35)

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CERTIFICATE

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

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Cecelia Reid

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Lisa Reid

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p> <p><b>able</b> 9:3 17:6 18:10  <b>about</b> 9:4 11:13  23:6 25:20 26:11  26:24 27:13 29:9  29:15 31:25 33:18  47:12 62:25 67:25  68:8  <b>absolutely</b> 50:16  67:1  <b>abundance</b> 53:5  <b>abused</b> 68:10  <b>accept</b> 66:5  <b>acceptable</b> 23:20  <b>accepted</b> 5:18  <b>access</b> 57:1  <b>according</b> 15:16  <b>accordingly</b> 36:3  <b>account</b> 4:4  <b>accountable</b> 10:22  <b>accurate</b> 66:2  <b>accurately</b> 13:7  <b>acknowledge</b> 10:4  <b>acre</b> 62:25  <b>acreage</b> 29:16,17  <b>acres</b> 31:2,3,3 62:23  <b>across</b> 12:17 62:24  <b>acted</b> 40:14  <b>actions</b> 60:2,9 61:9  61:13,14  <b>activities</b> 38:3  <b>actually</b> 40:24  45:10 48:21 51:18  58:8  <b>add</b> 9:13 12:13 55:8  65:22  <b>adding</b> 42:16  <b>additional</b> 6:6  <b>address</b> 18:17 19:4  26:15 51:22  <b>addressed</b> 4:23  <b>addressing</b> 26:10  <b>adequate</b> 53:1  <b>adjourn</b> 34:23 35:5  50:25  <b>adjourned</b> 38:20  70:4  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