

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Held at Royal Canadian Legion
Stonewall, Manitoba

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 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

1 Tuesday, March 6, 2007

2 Upon commencing at 1:00 p.m.

3

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, ladies
5 and gentlemen. Welcome. I'm glad to see that a
6 number of you moved up a row or two. We are
7 really not quite as scary as we may look.

8 My name is Terry Sargeant. I'm the
9 chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment
10 Commission, as well as the chair of this panel.
11 With me on the panel are Wayne Motheral and Edwin
12 Yee.

13 I have a few opening comments to make,
14 and then we will turn to the presentations or
15 those who have indicated so far that they wish to
16 make presentations this afternoon.

17 The Clean Environment Commission has
18 been requested by the Minister of Conservation to
19 conduct an investigation into the environmental
20 sustainability of hog production in Manitoba. The
21 Terms of Reference direct us to review the current
22 environmental protection measures in place
23 relating to hog production in this province, in
24 order to determine their effectiveness for the
25 purpose of managing the industry in an

1 environmentally sustainable manner.

2 Our investigation is to include a
3 public component to gain advice and feedback from
4 Manitobans. This will be by means of public
5 meetings, such as this one, in the various regions
6 of Manitoba to ensure broad participation from the
7 general public and affected stakeholders.

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
12 of a report prepared by Manitoba Conservation
13 entitled "An Examination of the Environmental
14 Sustainability of the Hog Industry in Manitoba."
15 At the end of our investigation, we will consider
16 various options and make recommendations in a
17 report to the Minister on any improvements that
18 may be necessary to provide for the environmental
19 sustainability of hog production.

20 To ensure that our review does include
21 issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel
22 has undertaken to hold 17 days of meetings in 14
23 communities throughout agri Manitoba. Today is
24 our second day. These meetings started yesterday
25 in Winnipeg and will conclude with what is

1 currently the final schedule -- the final meeting
2 is scheduled for April 27th.

3 At these meetings, it is open to any
4 groups or individuals to make a presentation to
5 the panel on issues related to hog production in
6 our province. For the most part, presentations
7 are to be limited to 15 minutes. Exceptions may
8 be made in some cases where a presenter needs more
9 time.

10 Presenters will be asked to take an
11 oath promising to tell the truth. Presentations
12 should be relevant to the mandate given to the
13 Commission by the Minister and to the issues
14 described in the guide to public participation in
15 this review. If a presentation is clearly not
16 relevant, it will be ruled out of order. And if a
17 presentation is clearly repetitive, it may also be
18 ruled out of order.

19 Members of the panel may ask questions
20 of any presenter during or after the presentation.
21 There will be no opportunity for other presenters
22 to question or cross-examine presenters.

23 In addition to the public meetings,
24 the CEC is engaging consultants to assist us in
25 this review. The results of those research

1 endeavours will be posted on our website upon
2 receipt, which, for the most part, will be in late
3 June. Parties, and that includes really anybody
4 with an interest, will be invited to provide
5 comment on any of those reports if they so wish.
6 A reasonable, albeit brief period of time, will be
7 allowed for this. Written submissions will also
8 be accepted. Information as to how to submit
9 written suggestions is available on our website,
10 and the deadline for such written submission
11 sincerely May 7th.

12 We also realize that many people are
13 reluctant to make presentations in public, for a
14 variety of reasons. To counter that, we have
15 engaged a graduate student from the University of
16 Manitoba to meet with, or discuss on the phone,
17 with people who would rather not speak at the
18 meetings. These meetings or conversations with
19 this woman will be kept in confidence.
20 Information as to how to contact her is available
21 on our website, as well as at the table at the
22 side of the room.

23 Some administrative matters. If you
24 wish to make a presentation today and haven't
25 already indicated, please register with Joyce at

1 the table at the side. As is our normal practice,
2 we are recording these sessions. Verbatim
3 transcripts will be available on our website in a
4 day or so.

5 In respect of cell phones, final
6 comment, I would ask that they be turned off or at
7 least that the ring tone be turned off. And if
8 you must take a call, I would ask that you leave
9 the room, please. That's all I have to say by way
10 of opening comments.

11 We have three individuals or groups
12 that have indicated they wish to make
13 presentations this afternoon. The first is
14 Mr. Bill Massey and Mr. Jim McCowan; is that
15 correct?

16 MR. McCOWAN: Yes.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you please come
18 up to the front table? Would you please state
19 your names for the record, and then I will ask the
20 commission secretary to administer the oath?

21 MR. MASSEY: Bill Massey, Grosse Isle.

22 MR. McCOWAN: And James McCowan,
23 Grosse Isle.

24 BILL MASSEY and JIM McCOWAN, having been sworn,
25 present as follows:

1 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

2 MR. McCOWAN: I will begin by thanking
3 the Commission for hearing our submission. We
4 have been given this opportunity to speak before
5 you. This presentation is a joint effort of the
6 Concerned Citizens of Grosse Isle Committee has
7 been in existence now for a number of years. The
8 residents of Grosse Isle wish to thank the
9 Commission for the opportunity to present our
10 concerns about the hog production industry in
11 Manitoba and, more specifically, in our area. We
12 wish to commend the government for placing a
13 moratorium on further construction and providing
14 the opportunity for Manitobans to express their
15 opinions at hearings such as this. Well done!

16 Our group was formed when the Rock
17 Lake Colony Hutterite Colony at Grosse Isle
18 proposed an expansion of their hog operation. As
19 a community, we had some grave concerns about this
20 proposal, because of its proximity to the village
21 of Grosse Isle and the number of private
22 residences within a mile of the proposed barn
23 site.

24 And this slide, effectively the center
25 of the yellow circle, of course, is the location

1 of the proposed barn. And, actually, subsequently
2 that's been built. And then the individual
3 residences are numbered with the "R" numbers.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Can I just interrupt?
5 The circle is one mile from the barn?

6 MR. McCOWAN: That's one mile. And
7 the Village of Grosse Isle is right on -- sorry,
8 in the corner of the picture, just outside of the
9 one mile circle.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

11 MR. McCOWAN: The rural Municipalities
12 of Rosser and Rockwood are looking at Grosse Isle
13 as a potential residential growth area and are
14 proposing water and sewer for the community. And
15 I see in the paper that the government of
16 Manitoba, and I guess the Federal Government, have
17 already committed several million dollars now to
18 furthering this goal.

19 One of the problems that we have is
20 that the local schools are facing declining
21 enrollment and are actively looking at ways of
22 attracting families to the area. And we feel that
23 this may prove challenging with the hog facility
24 in such close proximity to a town that's hoping to
25 be growing.

1 Another concern with this location is
2 the storage lagoon in the historic Grant's Lake
3 Marsh drainage basin, which is part of the
4 Sturgeon Creek watershed.

5 And slide number 2, the center of the
6 slide effectively is the marsh. This photograph
7 was taken in the summer in 2005 at the height of
8 the rainy season. This whole area, Warren, Grosse
9 Isle, Grosser, experienced upwards of 20-inches of
10 rain, in a very short period of time, over about
11 six weeks. So it's very illustrative of the
12 potential flooding that could be faced right in
13 and around where this particular lagoon is.

14 When the lagoon was constructed, the
15 colony was considering test wells around the
16 lagoon. Later, when they wished to expand their
17 hog operation, test wells were again a
18 consideration. To the best of our knowledge, none
19 have been drilled, and there is no plan to do so
20 at this point.

21 And this slide is a picture of the
22 lagoon and the water that actually got right up to
23 the edge of the lagoon in the summer of 2005. And
24 this is just a short distance from the Grant's
25 Lake Marsh.

1 As you can see from the aerial
2 photograph, the lagoon is located on the very edge
3 of a natural drain, which flows directly into the
4 Sturgeon Creek drain, which flows past and
5 sometimes into Grant's Lake. It continues as
6 Sturgeon Creek and empties into the Assiniboine
7 River, at Grant's Mill in Winnipeg.

8 As you can see from this slide,
9 spillage or leakage from this holding facility
10 will very quickly pollute the waters of Grant's
11 Lake and Sturgeon Creek. The colony also assured
12 residents that trees would be planted around the
13 lagoon. To our knowledge, this has not been done.

14 In the fall of 2005, residents noticed
15 liquid manure on the surface of a field directly
16 beside Grant's Lake. Conservation was contacted
17 and the colony received a letter of warning about
18 the improper application of manure. As you can
19 see, in this slide, the location of available
20 spreading lands are fields on three sides of
21 Grant's Lake. The colony uses lands adjacent
22 Grant's Lake to spread manure. We believe that
23 this should not be allowed to happen.

24 Actually, on the sheets here, the ones
25 marked in red, they are not showing up very well

1 in red. But that is basically the lands right
2 around the marsh that are available to the colony
3 for spreading manure. It shows up much better in
4 the book.

5 As you are undoubtedly aware, this is
6 outdated technology for the handling of animal
7 wastes. Far better systems exist that are
8 environmentally safer, less of a health risk and
9 make better use of manure as a plant nutrient.
10 And we haven't included this article, actually, in
11 the presentation, but we do have it with us and
12 can make it available to the Commission, if they
13 would like to have a look at it. It is one of
14 many, many other alternatives to dealing with
15 livestock waste.

16 And we believe the Province of
17 Manitoba and the hog industry need to work
18 together to make the industry profitable and
19 sustainable without posing unacceptable hazards to
20 the environment.

21 Another source of concern for us is
22 the possible contamination of the aquifer in our
23 area, and the amount of water that is used in this
24 type of technology. Of the nine residences shown
25 in this slide, R2 has been occupied by the same

1 family for the past 37 years. And, in fact,
2 that's our own residence. And in that time, in
3 our well, we have been faced with high nitrates.
4 And one of the things that we have noticed over
5 several years of water testing is that the pH of
6 the water has gone from being overly basic to
7 slightly acidic. Now, I have no scientific
8 explanation for that. You know, the only thing
9 that we could attach to that potentially is the
10 demand on water out of the aquifer, and whether or
11 not that would have some long-term effects, over a
12 30 or 40 year period, of the water quality.

13 R4 residents had an 80-foot well go
14 dry in the past five years. And they subsequently
15 drilled a 140 well, but got salty water, which
16 hasn't been a problem in our immediate area.

17 We estimate that the hog operation
18 will use as much as 20,000 gallons of water a day.
19 And that is based on the Recommended Code of
20 Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm
21 Animals, table 4, page 16, of the Agriculture and
22 Agrifood, Canada book. This does not include
23 other waters needed on the colony for human
24 consumption and the other livestock that exists.

25 As a point of interest as well, the

1 municipalities have drilled a heavily used public
2 well into this same aquifer just immediately to
3 the east of the colony. It is actually located
4 between the colony and the Village of Grosse Isle.

5 What we're concerned about is what
6 will be the long-terms effects of such extensive
7 use of this aquifer? Most of the rural residents
8 in our area can drink beautiful, good-tasting
9 clean water that we pump from the ground on our
10 respective properties. We want to keep it that
11 way for ourselves and future generations.

12 Another serious concern that has just
13 recently become apparent, since the new facility
14 was opened last year, has been the odour.
15 Although livestock has been in the new facility
16 for only a relatively short period of time, six
17 families out of the ten residences within the
18 mile, and also people in Grosse Isle, have noticed
19 an unacceptably strong pig smell.

20 And in the booklet here, there is a
21 graph of the actual winds and from which direction
22 they blow. As you can see from the slide, the
23 most frequent winds are from the south. The most
24 serious odour problem so far has been experienced
25 by the R3 residents, which is 1900 feet due north

1 of the barn. The Village of Grosse Isle, which is
2 just over a mile away, is affected by
3 west-northwest and west winds a total of
4 13.8 percent of the time. The colony had
5 suggested, right at the initial development stage
6 of the project, that they were looking at odour
7 filters to be installed, if odour was a problem,
8 as part of a research project in conjunction with
9 the University of Manitoba. To the best of our
10 knowledge, nothing has been done.

11 We applaud the Province's initiative
12 to maintain good air quality in regards to the
13 regulation and enforcement of measures to reduce
14 the negative results of burning crop residue.
15 Severe penalties and strict enforcement have
16 quickly brought this problem under control. We
17 believe that noxious odours also negatively affect
18 the quality of life and health of Manitobans.
19 And, in our opinion, the same standards should
20 apply.

21 Those of us that live within a mile
22 radius, ten residences now in total, as well as
23 the people living in Grosse Isle, are keeping data
24 on the odour problem that we experience. We will
25 be registering complaints with Conservation as

1 these situations occur. However, if this process
2 is unsuccessful in addressing our concerns, what
3 alternatives are left for citizens to pursue?

4 This facility is located in the
5 Woodlands Municipality. However, two of the
6 residences within the mile limit are in the
7 Rockwood Municipality and three are in Rosser.
8 The Village of Grosse Isle is located in the
9 Rockwood and Rosser Municipalities. The majority
10 of the people affected in this particular
11 situation have no say because they are not part of
12 the Woodlands Municipality.

13 When the colony decided not to expand,
14 and to replace existing facilities, the size of
15 the proposed barn seemed to be larger than
16 required for the number of animal units that's on
17 their farm. A further investigation revealed that
18 because of a mistake in rewriting the regulations
19 in the Farm Practices Guidelines, the colony was
20 able to reduce the number of feeders in their
21 operation by approximately 90 animals and increase
22 the number of weanlings by nearly 2,000. It was
23 our investigation that pointed out this
24 discrepancy, and the engineering firm admitted
25 making a mistake in providing information to the

1 Municipality.

2 When the Municipality issued a
3 building permit for this development, the size of
4 the barn was estimated, no conditions were placed
5 on construction, such as drilling the test wells
6 around the lagoon, nor, in spite of our
7 suggestion, was a bond required to cover any
8 unforeseen expenses. The only cost to the colony
9 was a \$50 building permit.

10 During the construction of the barn,
11 truck traffic hauling created -- or, sorry, during
12 the construction of the barn, truck traffic
13 hauling material created dust hazards and damaged
14 roads in the municipalities of Rosser and
15 Woodlands. However well-meaning, and perhaps
16 because of a lack of experience and knowledge, the
17 officials in the Woodlands Municipality did not
18 take the necessary steps to ensure that the
19 project development did not negatively impact on
20 the residents, most of whom do not live within the
21 municipality's boundaries. Rosser Municipality
22 had to absorb the cost of the necessary dust
23 control and to repair the road damage incurred
24 within its boundaries by this construction.

25 So to summarize, we have looked at

1 these issues that we have touched on briefly
2 throughout this, and we have some suggestions that
3 we would like to submit to the Commission.

4 1: That the Province ensure, as much
5 as possible, that Municipal representatives are
6 properly informed and trained to deal with these
7 issues before a permit for an ILO can be issued.

8 2: The Province take steps to hold
9 the Municipalities accountable for actions that
10 impact negatively on residents and jurisdictions
11 outside of their boundaries. And this one is
12 particularly important, again, because we actually
13 have three municipalities involved just because of
14 the location of this particular facility.

15 3: That ILO's, storage lagoons, test
16 wells, et cetera, be monitored by Conservation and
17 sufficient staff be put in place for this purpose
18 and to provide enforcement.

19 4: That no ILO will be built closer
20 than one mile from any residence and only a
21 limited number can be located within two miles.

22 5: That the appropriate containment
23 dikes or berms be constructed around all storage
24 lagoons to contain possible spills or a failure of
25 the lagoon wall. And maybe just to expand on that

1 just a little bit, when we looked at this, you
2 know, we were thinking, well, you know, in terms
3 of secondary containment. Now, as a small farmer
4 myself, for example, with fuel storage, if you
5 have more than 1,000 gallon fuel storage
6 container, it has to be either a doubled wall
7 container or some form of a diking system in
8 place. Whereas the lagoon, if there is a wall
9 failure, an overflow situation, well, that's it,
10 there is no second line of defence.

11 And one of the things that we
12 considered that might be feasible is to build a
13 secondary lower dike out away from the lagoon,
14 something that you could actually farm right over
15 top of it. Obviously, it wouldn't have to be the
16 same height as the lagoon wall. That way, if
17 there ever was a failure, then at least it
18 maintains that, rather than allowing it to flow
19 freely to wherever the lowest point is. In this
20 case, maybe into Grant's Lake or into Sturgeon
21 Creek.

22 6: The set-back distances for surface
23 water courses need to take into consideration
24 conditions in wet years, as illustrated in all of
25 the slides we have shown.

1 7: Spreading of manure should not be
2 permitted in ecologically sensitive areas.

3 8: That the Province review the
4 minimum capacity for 200 days of storage for
5 lagoons to allow for adverse weather and moisture
6 conditions. Clearly, in the fall of 2005, the
7 conditions never existed to properly be able to
8 inject the manure from the lagoon just because of
9 the incredible amount of rain that we had had over
10 the course of the summer.

11 9: That a comprehensive water usage
12 policy be put in place, and that if any one user
13 exceeds a pre-determined limit of water usage, to
14 measure the actual withdrawal rates, to monitor
15 the aquifer water levels and the water quality on
16 an ongoing basis to protect the groundwater
17 sources in the province.

18 10: That the Province develop a
19 process to determine unacceptable levels of odour,
20 create policies on this problem, and put in place
21 enforcement and penalties similar to the crop
22 residue burning standards.

23 11: That the Province require that a
24 bond of at least 10 percent of the value of the
25 project be posted before any ILO can be

1 constructed.

2 And just to summarize, the concerns
3 that we raise this afternoon are nothing new. We
4 know of the problems that have occurred with this
5 technology in jurisdictions where this type of hog
6 industry has been allowed to develop in our
7 country and in the Unites States. We know there
8 are better ways of dealing with the animal waste.
9 We hear of the pollution in Lake Winnipeg. We
10 know the province is now also looking at Lake
11 Manitoba. We understand that the hog industry is
12 part of the cause of pollution, and other sources
13 need to be addressed as well. This is too big a
14 problem for local governments or citizens alone to
15 resolve. The Province needs to continue to take
16 the lead in making the necessary tough decisions
17 and enforcing the regulations to ensure, as much
18 as possible, a clean environment now and in the
19 future.

20 Thank you very much.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. McCowan.
22 When was this barn that you were talking about
23 built?

24 MR. McCOWAN: It was started in the
25 summer or the fall, I guess, of 2004.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Was there a new manure
2 storage facility, a lagoon, built at that time as
3 well?

4 MR. McCOWAN: This particular lagoon
5 was actually built prior to the barn. It was not
6 used until the barn was actually built. But it
7 was actually constructed, I believe, two summers
8 before that, so in 2002. I am not 100 percent
9 sure. But it actually was put in before the barn
10 was constructed.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: And where is the lagoon
12 located? You had it in that first slide you
13 showed us.

14 MR. McCOWAN: In the very -- it is the
15 very first page.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

17 MR. McCOWAN: It is the yellow
18 rectangle in that picture the one outside of the
19 yellow one mile circle.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: The one that says
21 "outside of the existing R.M."?

22 MR. McCOWAN: Yes. So directly west,
23 about a mile and a quarter of the colony.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: And do you know how
25 many animal units are kept in that barn?

1 MR. MASSEY: 788, I think it is.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Animal units?

3 MR. MASSEY: Yes.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: So about 1,000 animals,
5 or I guess more, if there are weanlings.

6 MR. MASSEY: There are 1,250 sows and
7 3,480 feeders and about -- I think about 4,000
8 weanlings, but I could be out a little bit.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: 1,250 sows?

10 MR. MASSEY: 1,250 sows, yeah.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: 3,400?

12 MR. MASSEY: 3,400 feeders and I think
13 around 4,000 weanlings. Now, not all of the
14 animals are in that barn. The colony still has --
15 what's the term for the young stock?

16 MR. McCOWAN: Brooder.

17 MR. MASSEY: Not brooder, that's
18 chicken stock.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Nursery.

20 MR. MASSEY: Yes, nursery, thank you.
21 The nursery is in a separate facility or part of
22 it, anyway.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: So that would be a lot
24 more than 700 or 800 animal units, wouldn't if?
25 It?

1 MR. MASSEY: Oh, yes, there would be.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: That would be 5,000.

3 MR. MASSEY: 5,000 to 7,000 at any
4 given time.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: And they have had a lot
6 of animals, even before this new barn was built?

7 MR. MASSEY: Yes. They had 10
8 biotechs that existed on the property that were
9 just recently de-commissioned.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: By biotechs do you mean
11 hoop?

12 MR. MASSEY: Yes. There were five of
13 those. And approximately 3,800 animals inside
14 there, I believe.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you.
16 Wayne, do you have anything?

17 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes. Grosse Isle is --
18 when you say there is Rockwood and Rosser
19 involved, is Grosse Isle kind of in between both
20 or one of those?

21 MR. McCOWAN: Actually, yes. The
22 east/west street there that runs kind of through
23 the center of town actually is the dividing line
24 between the Municipalities of Rockwood and Rosser.
25 So the south side of the town is in Rosser and the

1 north side is all in Rockwood.

2 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. And the barns
3 are in?

4 MR. McCOWAN: Woodlands.

5 MR. MOTHERAL: Woodlands. Does
6 Woodlands have a development plan?

7 MR. MASSEY: I don't believe they do,
8 but I'm not totally certain on that. I know they
9 are not part of the South Interlake Development
10 Group.

11 MR. MOTHERAL: Probably one thing, and
12 it's interesting in the new Planning Act where
13 municipalities must come into the livestock
14 operation policy, they must have that in place.
15 That would maybe be to the residents' advantage.

16 MR. McCOWAN: In the future?

17 MR. MOTHERAL: Yes, I'm talking in the
18 future.

19 MR. McCOWAN: Yes, absolutely.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: And to develop that
21 plan, obviously, there will be public meetings
22 where the public will have input into that. So
23 sometimes your best avenue is in your own local
24 area in your planning policies. And hopefully
25 when the municipality is about to establish that

1 operating policy, that you make sure you have your
2 input into your distances, your set-backs. I
3 guess you know all about that.

4 MR. MASSEY: One of our biggest
5 problems, of course, is the majority of the people
6 who are affected by this development do not live
7 in the Municipality of Woodlands, and that's an
8 issue. And that's a concern for us that decisions
9 will be made in the Municipality of Woodlands
10 which will affect residents of Rockwood and Rosser
11 negatively. And we really have no input into that
12 situation.

13 MR. MOTHERAL: This is where a larger
14 planning area is advantageous.

15 MR. MASSEY: Exactly.

16 MR. MOTHERAL: So you can pass those
17 things on to your local municipal people. That's
18 all, thanks.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

20 MR. YEE: Yes, just one point of
21 clarification. You noted in your presentation
22 that they are using outdated technology for
23 handling the animal waste. Can I just ask for a
24 clarification what sort of technology you're
25 referring to?

1 MR. McCOWAN: Well, you know, right
2 off the bat, there was an article in the Western
3 Producer about a separator that basically
4 eliminates a lot of the water out of the -- rather
5 than dumping it out into the lagoon and dealing
6 with the tens of thousands of liquid hog manure,
7 it is actually broken down. It is de-watered and,
8 you know, the nutrients are separated out of the
9 waste. And from that perspective, although always
10 the first thing that comes up is, yes, but there
11 is a cost to that. Well, of course there is a
12 cost to building a lagoon as well.

13 And, you know, we look at it and we
14 say that it is more environmentally sustainable.
15 Well, if it is de-watered, then those nutrients
16 are available on a dry basis, then it's something
17 that -- even if it is something that cannot be
18 used by the livestock operator themselves, it is
19 something that maybe they can turn around and
20 sell. Certainly if you look at the cost of
21 fertilizer, lately it is not something that's
22 going down in value. It is just going up
23 astronomically. So it may actually be an
24 opportunity to generate extra revenue out of the
25 hog operation by dealing with the waste product.

1 So in terms it maybe ending up being revenue
2 neutral or even revenue positive, depending how
3 you look at it.

4 MR. YEE: Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Just to comment on
6 that, I am not sure if it's fair to say that it is
7 outdated technology, because most operations in
8 the province are still using this technology.
9 There are new technologies coming online, such as
10 the one that was featured in Western Producer
11 which are better, but so far not widespread. And
12 in some cases, some of them, one we heard about
13 yesterday afternoon, extremely expensive. Others
14 are much less expensive, but still relatively new
15 in the process.

16 I want to thank you very much for your
17 presentation and, in particular, for your specific
18 recommendations. Thank you.

19 MR. McCOWAN: Thank you very much.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: The next person on the
21 list, and I may well mispronounce his name, John
22 Preun?

23 MR. PREUN: Preun.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Right, a German name.
25 Mr. Preun, would you state your name for the

1 record, please, and the commission secretary will
2 administer the oath.

3 MR. PREUN: John Preun, President of
4 Manitoba Pork Marketing.

5 JOHN PREUN, having been sworn, presents as
6 follows:

7 MR. PREUN: Thank you for listening to
8 our presentations today. I believe that I have
9 something to add as a grain and hog farmer, and
10 also President of the Manitoba Pork Marketing.
11 Manitoba Pork Marketing represents marketing for
12 over 600 hog producers in Manitoba, as well as in
13 Saskatchewan. A recent decision by the Provincial
14 Government to impose a moratorium on our industry
15 will have dire consequences on the businesses if
16 this is not looked after quickly and properly.

17 The livelihoods of all of these
18 families contribute significant financial benefits
19 to the province. The results of the Clean
20 Environment Commission hearings will not only
21 impact its producers, but the industry as a whole;
22 therefore, it is paramount that the correct
23 approach be taken to these hearings and the right
24 decisions made. And I'm sure that the producers
25 will embrace all recommendations coming out of

1 these hearings, providing that they are practical
2 and affordable.

3 Sound science should be used to
4 determine the outcome of the hearings. As all hog
5 industry stakeholders -- and all hog industry
6 stakeholders should have input because they all
7 have a vested interest in the outcome.

8 Time is of the essence. We recommend
9 that this issue be dealt with as quickly as
10 possible so that we can arrive at tangible
11 solutions to minimize the economic damage to our
12 industry.

13 We realize that due diligence needs to
14 be done here because I am a resident of this
15 province and I do care about the environment. The
16 family farms I represent are all responsible
17 stewards of the land. They do what they can to
18 make sure that the environment stays safe. They
19 produce safe and healthy food at affordable
20 prices. They also raise their families on these
21 farms, and many hope that some day their children
22 will follow in their footsteps. And because of
23 this, the environmental sustainability is
24 extremely important to them.

25 Manure management has come a long way

1 over the years. Gone are the days of manure piles
2 and winter spreading. They have been replaced
3 with engineered lagoons, manure injection
4 processes that put the nutrients into the ground
5 where they are needed. All hog farms soil test to
6 identify nutrient requirements for specific crops
7 and file Manure Management Plans as required -- as
8 a requirement of the development agreement with
9 our municipalities.

10 On my farm, manure is considered an
11 integral part of our soil fertility plan. It is a
12 valuable resource and not a waste material. The
13 value of manure on our farm alone is roughly
14 \$66,000 a year. And it helps us minimize our
15 dependents on costly commercial fertilizers and,
16 therefore, it is in my own interests to use it
17 wisely.

18 I believe that the hog producers have
19 been unfairly singled out with the hog moratorium.
20 While the industry may be contributing to the
21 phosphorous problem, I doubt that you will find
22 that we are the entire problem. I believe we have
23 to examine other contributors to the problem:
24 Industries, the City of Winnipeg, towns and
25 municipalities in the province that dispose of

1 human waste. And we have to make the standards
2 the same. I believe that the City of Winnipeg, if
3 you add all together what phosphate-based soaps
4 and detergents that they use, I am sure that they
5 are a big contributor to the problem.

6 Over the years, my own family farm has
7 worked with Manitoba Agriculture conducting
8 studies, straw covers, soil testing, water
9 samples, test bores for sampling water, manure
10 analysis. We have always exhibited a willingness
11 to work with the government to address the issues
12 facing our industry and the environment. And I
13 would suggest that all producers work with the
14 government to address this issue because our
15 future is at stake here. Thank you.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Preun.
17 How large is your hog operation?

18 MR. PREUN: Pardon?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: How large is your hog
20 operation?

21 MR. PREUN: We have 470 sows, farrow
22 to finish.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: And from that you get
24 66,000 worth of fertilizer a year?

25 MR. PREUN: Based on the suggested

1 retail price of fertilizers this year, that's what
2 the value is at our operation.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: That's pretty
4 significant, isn't it?

5 MR. PREUN: Very significant.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: That's not a large
7 operation, 400 animals.

8 MR. PREUN: Not by today's standards,
9 no.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: I am just a little
11 curious about the Manitoba Pork Marketing. Could
12 you just explain a little bit more what that is or
13 what that organization is?

14 MR. PREUN: Manitoba Pork Marketing is
15 a co-op which markets hogs for the 600 producers
16 in Manitoba. We don't market for all of them, but
17 a fair number of them. Most of the Hutterite
18 brethren market through the co-op.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: So it's through the
20 co-op?

21 MR. PREUN: Yes.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Wayne?

23 MR. MOTHERAL: Nothing.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

25 MR. YEE: No.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
2 Mr. Preun.

3 MR. PREUN: Thank you very much.
4 George Matheson? Mr. Matheson, would you state
5 your name for the record, please, and then take
6 the oath?

7 MR. MATHESON: George Matheson.
8 GEORGE MATHESON, having been sworn, presents as
9 follows:

10 THE CHAIRMAN: You may continue.

11 MR. MATHESON: As introduced, my name
12 is George Matheson. I live one and a half miles
13 south of Stonewall, where I farm with my wife of
14 26 years and our four children, ages 10 to 20. I
15 have been a hog producer for 25 years and have
16 capacity for an 85 sow, farrow to finish
17 operation. I am one of just a few remaining hog
18 producers in the Stonewall area.

19 I consider my operation to be
20 environmentally safe and sustainable, with minimal
21 disease and odour problems. My barns and sheds
22 are approximately 200 metres north of my house and
23 in the same yard. Most of my pigs are raised
24 outdoors in deep straw bedded sheds. This
25 includes all hogs from 50-250 pounds, as well as

1 all gestating sows. Only farrowing sows and pigs
2 less than 50 pounds are is kept in a climate
3 controlled environment indoors.

4 I have about 530 acres of cropland. A
5 year's supply of manure from my pigs would cover
6 about 100 of those acres. Thus, every five years
7 my land has the potential to be spread with
8 manure. This is more than enough land base for
9 this size of operation. The manure has been very
10 good for the soil, as the straw becomes like
11 compost and adds a lot of fiber. My farm's soil
12 is classified as a clay-loam and I am pleased with
13 its quality. I avoid spreading close to ditches
14 so that surface water run-off is protected. I
15 have soil tested and will add synthetic nitrogen,
16 phosphorous, sulphur and potash where applicable.
17 Because the manure is spread over such a large
18 land base, I have never had any groundwater
19 quality problems.

20 I grow four different crops and rotate
21 from an oilseed to a cereal. The rotation is
22 wheat, flax, barley, and canola, and each crop
23 will utilize the soil's nutrients in a different
24 say. It is a very sustainable farm in terms of
25 soil quality.

1 My barns and outdoor sheds are about
2 300 metres from the nearest road. Straw bedding
3 is a great way of reducing odours. And I am
4 inclined to spread long distances from public
5 roadways so that what odours there my be are not a
6 nuisance to my neighbours. I have 70 acres of
7 natural trees on my property and they reduce the
8 wind movement and erosion, and this further
9 reduces odour transfer. Mortalities are composted
10 in a straw layered system.

11 Our hogs are produced for the
12 commodity market. I also sell government
13 inspected pork products direct to a growing public
14 clientele interested in a naturally raised
15 product, which I feel is of superior quality.
16 Like all hog farms in Manitoba, my facilities and
17 animal husbandry practices must meet C.Q.A.,
18 that's Canadian Quality Assurance, standards to
19 ensure that the public receives a safe product.
20 This means that all production records are
21 reviewed annually and all facilities are inspected
22 every two years. I keep disease transmission to
23 other farms to a minimum by introducing new stock
24 only once or twice per year from a high health
25 herd.

1 In some ways, my hog farming methods
2 are not typical in today's provincial industry.
3 It is just one of many methods producers use to
4 raise hogs in an environmentally safe and
5 sustainable fashion. The Manitoba provincial
6 manure regulations are among the toughest
7 standards in North America.

8 I am proud of my farm's environmental
9 record, soil quality, minimal odour emissions, and
10 humanitarian animal husbandry methods.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
12 Mr. Matheson.

13 MR. MOTHERAL: When you say you
14 produce enough manure to do 100 acres a year,
15 that's sufficient for your crops for that
16 particular -- for 100-acres?

17 MR. MATHESON: In most cases, I will
18 also add synthetic fertilizers, yeah. But that's
19 roughly the land that I will cover in a year.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: And do you soil test?

21 MR. MATHESON: Yes, I have soil
22 testing.

23 MR. YEE: I was just wondering, did
24 you have any odour complaints from nearby
25 residences or neighbours?

1 MR. MATHESON: I have had one over the
2 course of my history of production, yeah. There
3 is a neighbour directly east of me, probably
4 within 600 metres of my facilities. There was a
5 mediator from the Manitoba Pork Council who came
6 out to speak to both parties and came up with an
7 acceptable solution to it, and that really took
8 care of the problem.

9 MR. YEE: Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: How long have you been
11 farming in this location?

12 MR. MATHESON: 25 years come this May.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: And you've only had the
14 one complaint in 25 years?

15 MR. MATHESON: Yes.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: That sounds pretty
17 good. Thank you very much, Mr. Matheson.

18 MR. MATHESON: You're welcome.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you please state
20 your name for the record and then the commission
21 secretary will administer an oath?

22 MR. VISE: My name is Peter Vise.

23 PETER VISE, having been sworn, presents as
24 follows:

25 MR. VISE: As I said, my name is Peter

1 Vise. I speak as a self-interested person in this
2 industry. I am the owner, the family owner. I am
3 the owner of a small Manitoba company, Precision
4 Feed and Envirotech Systems. We have about 20
5 employees working for us. And with the
6 dependents, I mean, we have about 80 people that
7 are directly dependent on the welfare of this
8 industry. I'm sure that if you extend that in
9 relatives terms to the industry, we are well in
10 excess of \$1 billion, and we are relatively small.
11 There are thousands and thousands of people in
12 Manitoba that are in the same boat as we are.

13 Now, having said that, I think that
14 all of those people in the industry are fully
15 aware that just because their economics and
16 viability depends on it, that they should not be
17 given a licence to pollute. And, therefore, they
18 have a very great self-interest to make sure that
19 the industry is economically viable and
20 sustainable. And I'm sure they all work towards
21 that same interest.

22 Now, the only thing that they probably
23 ask, all ask for, and we ask for it, is that the
24 facts and eventual decisions on your part are made
25 on the basis of science, rather than biased

1 opinions, from people that are opposed to this
2 industry. We are not afraid of the science
3 backing us up and the rules and regulation that
4 may have to apply to this industry to make sure
5 that we do not contaminate the environment and
6 that it is a sustainable industry.

7 The greatest problem today, I hear, is
8 not hogs, although they seem to be in the
9 limelight quite a bit, it's the CO2 pollution.
10 And the hog industry has very little to do with
11 that. They say that is the greatest short-term
12 industry and, basically, that comes directly from
13 people. So I think all this industry asks for is
14 they are treated at the same level and in the same
15 evaluation as others are, rather than on bias.

16 And you take, as I said, the industry
17 is not objecting to following the rules and
18 regulations. But that manure should be looked
19 upon, as I think I heard somebody mention, as a
20 rich essential nutrient for agriculture. Now, can
21 you put it on in synthetic form or you can cycle
22 it through the hogs. Now, if phosphate is the
23 biggest problems in hogs, I'm a livestock
24 nutritionist, and the hog consumes about three
25 kilograms of phosphate per animal. One goes back

1 in the manure as indigestible manner and the other
2 two go out in meat and bone and are part of the
3 species intake cycling.

4 Now, if raise eight million, but we
5 don't finish all of these hogs, we are looking at
6 8 million kgs of phosphates produced, yeah,
7 8 million from the hog industry. They tell me
8 that Manitoba has around 10 million-acres of
9 arable land, and that they apply about 15-30 k's
10 of phosphate a year, and that comes to 150,000
11 tons a year. The manure industry only has about
12 8,000 tons of it, not even 5 percent, that comes
13 from the hog industry. So the problem is not the
14 volume of phosphate, it is the distribution of the
15 phosphate and, to some extent, nitrogen, too, are
16 the main things.

17 So I don't think anybody in the
18 industry is objecting to rules that whatever is
19 put -- is taken out of the soil can be put back.
20 And I think the whole industry will, you know,
21 very favourably look upon that, as I said, as long
22 as the facts are based on science.

23 Now, there are also new technologies
24 that will make the extraction of phosphates and
25 then distribute it over a wider base than there

1 currently is. And these new technologies, you
2 know, they will be implemented.

3 You know, I wish this subject matter
4 could be put into a more dynamic speech like, you
5 know, John F. Kennedy: Don't ask what the country
6 can do for you, but, you know, what you can do for
7 your country? However, this subject matter does
8 not lend itself very well to that, I would think.

9 And I think this is better to be
10 compared with every time a mother changes a
11 diaper, should it be a diaper, should it be a
12 Pamper? Should it be a diaper, should it be a
13 Pamper? Now, you can go into the advantages of
14 Pampers and diapers. And, you know, the ultimate
15 line is, I would say, don't throw out the baby
16 with the bath water because it is a very viable
17 industry and a lot of people are dependent on it.
18 So that's my comments.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Wise.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: Well, I just found your
21 comments on phosphorus very interesting. That's
22 great.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
24 Mr. Wise. Now, is there anyone else who would
25 like to make a presentation this afternoon?

1 MR. MATHESON: May I make an
2 observation?

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly. My name is
4 Bill Matheson.

5 BILL MATHESON, having been sworn, presents as
6 follows:

7 MR. MATHESON: My comment to the board
8 or the commission would be to not get hung up on
9 numbers per se. When you ask the particular size
10 of these operations, whether they are 400 or 3,000
11 or 2,000, make sure you understand the principle
12 of animal units, that's the common denominator.
13 And I didn't hear you ask that of anyone. You
14 asked numbers, more like how many weanlings, how
15 many stockers, how many sows. It's all
16 irrelevant. Animal units is the common
17 denominator that will put every presentation on
18 equal footing.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Actually, I believe I
20 did ask. The first question when I was asking
21 Mr. McCowan, I asked about animal units, and they
22 gave numbers of actual animals. And then we sort
23 of loosely, in our heads, tried to translate it.
24 And I think we came up with a few thousand animal
25 units, but we are aware of the concept of animal

1 units.

2 MR. MATHESON: Yes, that would be my
3 point. Because numbers of animals, it's animal
4 units which is a measuring factor which puts
5 everybody who is going to make a presentation to
6 you on equal footing.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: No. We are aware of
8 that. We have been briefed by people in various
9 departments of the Manitoba Government, well
10 briefed by them on these factors, including the
11 animal units.

12 MR. MATHESON: It is one thing to be
13 briefed and another to understand it, though.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I think we
15 understand it. Certainly Wayne does because he is
16 a farmer.

17 MR. MATHESON: Okay. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Now, does anyone else
19 want to make a presentation or an observation? It
20 is going to be a long afternoon.

21 What we will do, then, is remain here
22 until 5:00. If any of you decide you want to say
23 something between now and 5:00, we will hear you
24 out. If other people show up who want to make a
25 presentation, we will reconvene and hear them.

1 At 5:00 we will break for supper. We
2 will be back after supper as we have at least one
3 person confirmed to present after supper. So we
4 will adjourn for now. And if anyone wants to say
5 their peace, just let one of us know and we will
6 reconvene.

7 (PROCEEDINGS RECESSED AT 2:00 P.M
8 AND RECONVENED AT 7:00 P.M.)

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening, ladies
10 and gentlemen, and welcome back. We have two
11 people who have indicated they wish to make
12 presentation this is evening. If there are any
13 others who wish to do so, I would ask that you
14 just let Joyce, at the side table, know. The
15 first person who is on our agenda for this evening
16 is Craig Mackie.

17 I would also just like to remind you
18 of my earlier admonition, please turn off cell
19 phones.

20 Mr. Mackie, would you state your name
21 for the record and then Miss Johnson, the
22 commission secretary, will administer an oath?

23 MR. MACKIE: Yes. I'm Craig Mackie.
24 I'm a resident of Winnipeg. And I have a cabin on
25 Lake Winnipeg that I love very dearly.

1 CRAIG MACKIE, having been sworn, presents as
2 follows:

3 MR. MACKIE: It's great to see so many
4 people caring about the state of Manitoba as it
5 pertains to nutrient loading in our wonderful
6 lake. I have set the timing on this. If I get a
7 little big lagged, I am going to have to go back.
8 Sorry, folks. Yes, let me read it to script.

9 At first glance, the sun rises like
10 every day across the 18 miles from Gimli to
11 Victoria Beach. And that's actually where my
12 family enjoys our morning coffee. That's the
13 perch right from our cabin in Lockwood. I have
14 been going up there since I was born in 1954.

15 Lake Winnipeg is the 10th largest
16 fresh water lake in the world. Let's see if I can
17 do this now. We enjoy a lot of things, like
18 everybody else, canoeing, fishing, running into
19 those beautiful waves when we get those southeast
20 squalls. And we share a mutual respect for the
21 history of the lake it's its very, very important
22 heritage.

23 One of the things that we enjoy doing,
24 my father-in-law is a retired Dean of Science from
25 the University of Manitoba, we participate in an

1 annual "Mizzen Mast" flag pole raising ceremony,
2 where all of the flags fly from our heritage, me
3 being Scottish, he being from the Isle of Man.
4 And the "Triskele" is actually that three-legged
5 symbol that you see on that red flag.

6 But overloading of nutrients into that
7 lake is a big term, and it needs to be kind of
8 determined as to what it really entails. Well,
9 the truth is that that lake has numerous sources
10 of nutrient loading, but phosphorous is really our
11 big kicker and, to a lesser extent, nitrogen.
12 Nitrogen will fix and kind of almost look after
13 itself. But there are countless sources
14 contributing to the problem from urban, as well as
15 rural areas alike. A nice shot of the Gimli
16 harbour.

17 The interesting thing about the lake
18 is that it represents the third largest watershed
19 in North America. Of course, the Great Lakes
20 would be number two, and the Mississippi Delta
21 would be number one. What people don't realize is
22 that when good old Lake Agassiz left, it left a
23 39-1 watershed to surface area ratio. We have
24 water flowing as far away from the Rockies and the
25 Continental Divide to the south. So it is just

1 under one million square kilometers that
2 represents water flowing into that beautiful body
3 of water.

4 The Northern States, sorry,
5 agricultural land and major cities along that
6 waterways, all contribute significantly to the
7 nutrient loading ultimately discharged into the
8 south basin, making its way into the north basin.

9 We have a group of marine biologists
10 that I was lucky enough to travel with this year
11 on the Namao, which is the retired Coast Guard
12 cutter that goes on to Lake Winnipeg. And they
13 told me that there are 60 different in-flow rivers
14 and major waterways that contribute to the water
15 flow.

16 The Winnipeg River representing about
17 45 percent of the total flow, Saskatchewan
18 26 percent to the north basin, Mississ R north
19 basin, the Red River represents only 11 percent of
20 the flow.

21 So there is only one outflow, and
22 that's the real kicker guys and gals, is that
23 Nelson is the only outflow on that beautiful long
24 lake, and it is impeded by some flow because of
25 our hydroelectricity. I am not saying it's wrong,

1 I am just making a point.

2 Well, on the phosphorus loading,
3 research has demonstrated that about 64 percent of
4 the total P, P being phosphorous, expelled through
5 the Red River system is coming up the Red.
6 13 percent from the Winnipeg, but that's our main
7 nitrogen source, pulp and paper. A lit bit of
8 cottage country to the east. And, of course, we
9 have got about five percent from the Saskatchewan
10 river that comes out at the Grand Rapids.

11 Algal blooms, or phytoplankton, as the
12 marine biologists reference, they determine that
13 photosynthetic process need phosphorus to grow.
14 Well, it sounds a little bit like Grade 11 or 12
15 science, but it's on a bigger scale.

16 Also on the phosphorus loading piece,
17 in years where water levels are reduced, like last
18 year, the photosynthetic capabilities are greatly
19 enhanced. In other words, you've got less body
20 mass, less waves, a little bit more of this
21 chlorophyll A that is in large quantities. And
22 eutrophication, which, by the way, is just
23 diminishing the amount of moisture and adding to
24 more solids in the scheme of things, is more
25 prevalent.

1 Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium,
2 they have done some great work. They are
3 sponsored by a number of different sources. But
4 again I mention this Coast Guard cutter, the great
5 Namao, which is Cree for sturgeon, which used to
6 be an absolutely prolific indigenous species to
7 our lake, does research. There are 60 sample
8 sites a year, three times a year, if they can
9 afford it.

10 The cyanophyte, which is the
11 blue/green algae, is really the one they are sort
12 of concentrating on as kind of the culprit. This
13 has created a reduction of our bio-diversity, and
14 a decline in the health of the lake's ecosystem.
15 I am probably replicating a lot of things that
16 have been said before me, but I want this to be
17 understood from a cottage owner's standpoint.

18 Oxygen levels have been dropping since
19 2003 in the lake. And when the algae decays, it
20 sinks to the bottom, destroying the zoobenthos, or
21 the live organisms that are within that mud pack,
22 that is so much our bentonite bottom. Most people
23 think that the pollution in the lake is that gray
24 colour. That is just our good old waves in the
25 lake churning up the bentonite bottom.

1 Research has charted since 1969. That
2 is, by the way, when we launched the Triskele,
3 where you saw us raising the Mizzen Mast. So the
4 work there was done specifically on what species
5 and crustaceans are disappearing or actually
6 proliferating as the evolution of the different
7 changes in phosphate loading has manifested
8 itself. This has been creating what they call a
9 hypoxic or "dead zone", and this is really the
10 issue. This is what's creating our big concern in
11 Lake Winnipeg.

12 The data is compelling, and we can all
13 do something about the problem. And I stress
14 "all", because whether it is agriculture based,
15 like have been pinpointed over the last two or
16 three weeks over the hearings, or it's from normal
17 urban fertilization, run-offs, detergents or other
18 sources, we all contribute to the Lake Winnipeg
19 degradation. The good news is as a group we can
20 do something about it. We can be part of the
21 solution.

22 That's the little sonar group that is
23 used on the boat just to manage the depth.

24 Now, there is an economic and
25 environmental balance to everything we do. We

1 know that our hydroelectricity is huge. Great,
2 great, it's one of our big economic drivers here
3 in Manitoba. Oil in the west. We have got our
4 hydroelectricity and alternative energies.

5 There is big tourism. A \$20 million
6 fisheries business that is really one of the main
7 fabrics for the Icelandic and indigenous folks
8 that have fishing licences. It is very, very
9 important that we maintain that thrust, but so is
10 environmental stewardship for our childrens'
11 future. I don't think there is anyone in the room
12 that disputes that.

13 And here I will get to my point.
14 Let's stop casting aspersions to strictly one
15 segment of the AG industry. Let's take a look at
16 a little bit fresher approach. Our hog producers
17 are among the most strident lands stewards I know.
18 They use GPS. They use all sort of water set-back
19 and spread regulations to do their due diligence
20 with all of the modern technology to make sure
21 that those nutrients are spread on land acres
22 where it really pays back and gets absorbed by the
23 crops.

24 They work with industry officials to
25 ensure that they are doing their part to meet or,

1 in a lot of cases, exceed all of the guidelines
2 set by our municipal and provincial directors when
3 it comes to fertilization.

4 They recognize that agriculture is a
5 contributor to the problem, but also are willing
6 to be part of the solution. If I hear one more
7 time that: Those stinking hogs have polluted the
8 lake! I stand on a soapbox every weekend that
9 people will listen to me and say: I love that
10 lake. It's not just the hog industry. Part of
11 it. It doesn't matter if it's 1 percent or if
12 it's 15 percent. The point is we can all be part
13 of the solution. That's my message today.

14 Now, on the Lake Winnipeg Research
15 piece, there is website and general fact and data
16 information. There is local information days at
17 Victoria Beach, Hecla, Gimli Harbour.

18 I would compel anyone sitting here
19 tonight to join me and my wife for a cup of coffee
20 some time up at our Scuttlebutt Lodge north of
21 Gimli. And we will go and talk to Dr. Al
22 Christopherson and some of the marine biologists
23 as to what they are doing. They won't cast
24 aspersions or point fingers at the hog industry.
25 They will say: The lake is sick and there is

1 something we can all do about it.

2 Now, Colin McNairnay is a local
3 Manitoba Conservation officer who wrote a song to
4 bring the lake's condition down to a child's
5 comprehension level. I have a copy of that. I
6 would love to play it for you as I close here.
7 But I think what it does is it captures the
8 essence of in '69 through '79 Lake Eerie was
9 dying, decaying. It was hit with so much
10 intervention from industry, it was almost beyond
11 reproach to solve it. They got it done.

12 We're not dead. We're dying. And
13 what we need to do is understand that the big, big
14 play, as we go forward with industry, we have to
15 recognize that whether it is the Huterian
16 brethren, who are so well represented tonight, or
17 independent producers, and it doesn't have to be
18 just hogs, poultry, dairy, beef, they all have to
19 be strident stewards of the land and work with all
20 political persuasions as to a final fix on this
21 lake.

22 So if you'll indulge me, I am going to
23 try and get this to play. If it doesn't work, I
24 am not going to sing it. I will give you copies
25 of it afterwards. Keep in mind, this was written

1 and performed by some very, very elementary kids
2 who need to understand. Okay, folks.

3 (PLAYING SONG "I LIKE FISH", BY COLIN McNAIRNAY)

4 MR. MACKIE: Anyway, thanks very much.
5 I will entertain any questions. I am not selling
6 this disc, but I will give the disc to the group.
7 So questions from the panel?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Mackie.
9 Any questions?

10 MR. YEE: No.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks very much for
12 your presentation.

13 MR. YEE: Thanks very much.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you state your
15 name for the record, please?

16 MR. HOFER: Ben Hofer, Grosse Isle,
17 Manitoba.

18 BEN HOFER, having been sworn, presents as follows:

19 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

20 MR. HOFER: Good evening, members of
21 the Clean Environment Commission panel, ladies and
22 gentlemen of the audience. My name is Ben Hofer.
23 I am speaking here today as secretary of Rock Lake
24 Huterrite Colony, Grosse Isle, Manitoba. I am
25 also a hog producer, and I represent 44 of the 98

1 Manitoba colonies. My colleague, James Hofer,
2 represents the balance. I represent about one
3 million hogs annually.

4 I'm inclined to think that Hutterites,
5 in general, pride themselves in thinking that they
6 are good stewards of the land. Water quality is
7 paramount to the quality of life on a Hutterite
8 colony.

9 So here we are, 2007, wondering: What
10 are we doing right, what are we doing wrong to our
11 environment? There is an old saying that
12 hindsight is always better than foresight. So we
13 pick nutrient management and manure management.
14 Let's try a little hindsight. Who could we
15 truthfully say was the first environmentalists and
16 nutrient manager? I would like to quote from the
17 good book Deuteronomy 23, verse 12 and 13, the
18 following passage:

19 "And God said unto his servant Moses:
20 Speak unto the Children of Israel and
21 thou shall have a place without a
22 camp, thou shall have a paddle and dig
23 their width and turn back and cover
24 that which cometh from you so you
25 defile not the land."

1 Here we are, 3,500 years later, doing
2 the same thing to the pig manure, injecting
3 directly into the soil. I think it's safe to say
4 that that practice has the blessings of our
5 creator.

6 In my earlier presentation, I
7 mentioned that phosphorus is an essential element
8 in building body tissue in both humans and animals
9 and plant tissue. Now if you talk to most
10 scientists and soil engineers, they will tell you
11 phosphorus is very stable in the soil and pretty
12 much stays where it is placed, until the next crop
13 will uptake with its roots to produce more plant
14 tissue. The same scientists and soil engineers
15 will tell that you nitrogen is a mover and a
16 migrator. I firmly believe that the only way that
17 phosphorus from manure can ends up in a lake, in a
18 water, stream or lake, is if the manure itself is
19 washed into the stream, river or lake. This is
20 highly unlikely if the manure is injected directly
21 into the soil.

22 Proponents of straw-based livestock
23 operations will often times have you believe that
24 a straw-based livestock operation is more
25 environmentally friendly than a liquid, manure

1 based system, but it has no merit. I personally
2 asked Dr. John Gad, a hog expert from the U.K.,
3 his opinion on that matter. His answer was:
4 There is absolutely no difference. To produce a
5 250-pound hog, the same amount of excrement comes
6 out the rear end.

7 More hindsight, when Christopher
8 columbus discovered America in 1492, I think it
9 is safe to say that he found the land in a
10 pristine state. And yet these lands were
11 literally recovered were roaming herd of millions
12 of buffalo, deer and antelope.

13 I would like to quote one of the
14 naysayers to the hog industry at the previous
15 presentation, if you took every hog from Manitoba
16 and placed them nose to tail, you would have a
17 line from here to Thunder Bay. Well,
18 Mr. Naysayer, you forgot to do your math. Four
19 million of these hogs leave Manitoba as babies.
20 Your excrement pie would shrink considerably. I
21 think I can assure you that the excrement pie from
22 those millions of buffalo would make your pie look
23 like a powderpuff.

24 I am inclined to think that people in
25 general prefer natural fertilizer over chemical

1 fertilizer. As I mentioned in my earlier
2 presentation, if you removed all of the hogs from
3 the Province of Manitoba, not one acre would go
4 unfertilized. If you placed those buffalo and
5 deer and antelope nose to tail, you would almost
6 certainly glow.

7 More history: As mankind settled down
8 on the prairies and interfered more and more with
9 the balance of nature, problems started to arise.

10 Next stop, silent spraying, Ritchie
11 Carson. Now here we have a good example of due
12 diligence, good science and good government
13 interaction. After studying the problem,
14 identifying the problem, action plan: DDT off the
15 map. The DDT was getting into the food chain.
16 And the egg shells were breaking prematurely
17 before the hatchling was ready to emerge, problem
18 rectified, so spraying is no longer silent.

19 Land use approval. It appears that as
20 a person gets older and reaches retirement age, he
21 or she dreams of this nice quiet place in the
22 country, just a short drive from the big city,
23 close enough so the grandchildren can come out for
24 the weekends. When the land agent showed them the
25 place, the wind was blowing from a different

1 direction, the land was green and the pits didn't
2 need to be pumped, not yet, anyways.

3 Harvest time, fast forward, crops have
4 to come off. Lots of trip with a grain truck over
5 dry, dusty gravel roads. The wind is blowing
6 towards that retirement home and all of that dust
7 isn't doing grandma's asthma any good. The feed
8 lots need to be cleaned and the pits pumped.

9 The grandchildren are out for that
10 weekend burger bash, the steaks are in the fridge.
11 Grandma, what's that horrible smell? Answer: The
12 colony is cleaning out that feed lot and pumping
13 those pits. Well, grandma, can't you do anything
14 about it? I called the R.M. They told me that
15 the land agent who sold you the property should
16 have told that you there is a caveat registered on
17 that property that says it is subject to
18 agricultural odours. Suggestion to the panel:
19 Subdivisions smaller than 40-acres should not be
20 allowed. That age-old advice: If you can't take
21 the heat, stay out of the kitchen advice, should
22 still be adhered to.

23 At this point, I would like to advise
24 the panel that Rock Lake Colony is situated one
25 mile from the Town of Grosse Isle, and our lagoon

1 has a cover on it. We file a manure management
2 plan annually with Manitoba Conservation.

3 Spray drift, that's another story by
4 itself, but that would make this presentation too
5 lengthy.

6 Groundwater quality and supply. Here
7 in the Interlake, we are sitting on a giant water
8 aquifer. The water is found in the limestone
9 rock. Drill a hole anywhere in the Interlake
10 area 100 feet deep and you will have a good supply
11 of clean water. There is a catch, however. That
12 water is 40 to 44 grain hardness. To use that
13 water for dishwashing and laundry, you pretty well
14 have to soften it. How is that done? Our pioneer
15 forefathers used wood ashes and they used ice
16 water. When water freezes, it drops most of its
17 minerals.

18 In the Interlake area, most everybody
19 uses a commercial water softer. To regenerate a
20 softener, it takes saltwater solution to backwash.
21 In most cases, this happens automatically. It is
22 my understanding that potassium chloride will do
23 the same thing and is a little more
24 environmentally friendly. It takes way less
25 phosphate-laden detergent to do laundry and

1 dishwashing when the hardness is removed by a
2 softener before washing. So, in essence, a
3 softener does more good for the environment than
4 harm, just by creating less phosphate usage.
5 Winnipeg City water consists of approximately 12
6 grain hardness.

7 Surface water quality. There are a
8 few colonies that are not blessed with the
9 adequate water supply that we have here in the
10 Interlake. Those colonies usually resort to
11 building a larger water reservoir. The reservoir
12 is usually replenished with spring run-off water
13 and then processed for human consumption washing.
14 This system has its merits because the water is
15 snow melt, with very little, if any, hardness;
16 therefore, requiring very little softening. In
17 some cases chlorination is used for drinking
18 water. In my case, here at Rock Lake, we use
19 surface water, run-off water, for irrigation
20 purposes only.

21 Soil quality. A major problem for a
22 good number of stewards of the land is alkaline
23 and saline soils. Now, there is a challenge. How
24 to make that soil fertile? Here is where history
25 can help us again. We have all heard the riddle:

1 Why do they have dikes in Holland? Now, the
2 naysayers to the hog industry will tell you: It's
3 to keep the manure in. But the real reason is to
4 claim land from the sea. So once the water is
5 pumped out, they Dutch grow salt tolerant colure
6 to remove salt from the soil. This process takes
7 approximately ten years. This must be sustainable
8 agriculture at its best because the Dutch have
9 been doing this for hundreds of years.

10 There are as many hogs in Holland and
11 Belgium as there are in all of Canada. Bear in
12 mind, you can drive across Holland and Belgium in
13 two and a half hours one way and two hours the
14 other way. Holland and Belgium is also home to a
15 giant dairy industry and millions of cows.

16 Now, at this point, I would like to
17 tell you a little story about -- it's not in the
18 presentation. I have a nephew who lives in Paris.
19 He alternates between Paris and Antwerp, Belgium.
20 And he writes software for the second biggest
21 software company in the world, which I believe it
22 is SEM, they call it. Microsoft is the biggest.

23 So he was over here for a visit just
24 when we were installing this tarp on our lagoon.
25 And apparently software writers have a problem

1 getting enough physical exercise. So he enjoyed a
2 little physical work, so we put him on a shovel
3 helping bury electric lines at the lagoon. So I
4 asked him: Did you notice that you were amongst
5 many pigs in Belgium and Holland? You are
6 spending half your time there. Yeah, they have as
7 many pigs in Holland and Belgium as they have in
8 Canada, I hear. He said: Huh, I wonder where
9 they are? That's the answer he gave me.

10 Odour, at Rock Lake we control odour
11 with a negative pressure tarp cover. We find this
12 cover very effective for odour control and very
13 essential. Bear in mind, as I mentioned earlier,
14 the colony is situated one mile from a residential
15 area.

16 I would like to add, at this point,
17 that we are working together with a firm called
18 Expert Technology. A covered lagoon is a perfect
19 opportunity to collect gases to burn off methane
20 gases for the generation of carbon credits.
21 Expert personnel tell me that they have one flame
22 burning in Alberta from a lagoon. In our case,
23 the apparatus is sitting on side, but not hooked
24 up yet.

25 Disease transmission. The hog

1 industry today has a pretty clean record regarding
2 major disease outbreaks. The chicken industry has
3 seen Avian influenza. The cattle have seen BSE.
4 The hog industry has learned early on the
5 importance of bio-security and animal husbandry.
6 For a hog operation to be any kind of a profit
7 center, a disease-free status is paramount.

8 Climate change. Most hog operations
9 are net users of energy. And in most cases, use
10 fossil fuels and hydro power for energy sources.
11 There are exceptions. One colony uses biomass
12 flax straw. One colony in the states is
13 successfully burning turkey manure, which is wood
14 shaving based with 20 percent coal and 80 percent
15 shaving mixture. A colony in Alberta is just
16 putting the finishing touch on a four million Btu
17 solar heating system.

18 If scientists and environmentalists
19 are to be believed, all of the CO2 emissions are
20 causing atmospheric changes in our climate.
21 Speaking of CO2 emissions, this is one where we
22 should give credit or credit is due. All of us
23 old-timers will remember when the tractors of old
24 spewed black diesel into the atmosphere under
25 load. Today's new electronic run diesel engines

1 doesn't spew black smoke, even if you tried to
2 make it do so. So hats off to the diesel
3 manufacturers and fuel companies who have cleaned
4 up their act by taking the sulphur out of diesel
5 fuel and cleaned up their emissions. So where
6 else can we eliminate CO2 emissions? The Dutch
7 boiler manufacturer advises me that they can
8 remove all emissions except mercury.

9 Wind power. Now, here is an area
10 where we dropped the bomb. When this land was
11 settled, quarter section by quarter section,
12 virtually every farm had a windmill turning on it,
13 usually for the purpose of pumping water. I spoke
14 earlier about the Dutch and their sustainable
15 agriculture. Well, the Dutch never dropped their
16 wind generation technology and today are exporting
17 that expertise to other countries. I feel quite
18 comfortable that that clean source of energy was
19 instrumental in developing that big sow herd in
20 Belgium and Holland. People, in general, seem to
21 think that to generate wind power generation you
22 have to feed power into the hydro grid, and that
23 is not necessarily true. Wind power can be used
24 to heat water, which can be used later, or to
25 produce hydrogen, or even to evaporate liquid

1 manure and sell the dry material to greenhouses.
2 I remember when I arrived as a boy at Rock Lake,
3 we had a wind power generator charging batteries.

4 At this point, I would like to remind
5 the panel that industries can be here today and
6 gone tomorrow. Winnipeg used to be home to a
7 thriving beef packing industry, gone. A flour
8 milling industry, gone. A brewing industry gone.
9 Sewing and knitting industry, leaving fast. Brick
10 manufacturing, gone. Bridge building, gone.
11 Foundry casting building, gone. Wire
12 manufacturing, gone. Steel for shipbuilding with
13 Kunig Steel, gone. Boiler manufacturing, steel
14 and iron, gone. Tannery, Dominion Tannery, gone.
15 Cement manufacturing, gone. Co-op Implements,
16 gone. CIL implements, gone. Sugar industry,
17 gone. Road grading equipment manufacturing,
18 Austin Western, gone. And our once old remaining
19 Maple Leaf kill floor is very tired, almost gone.

20 So regarding the present pause in the
21 hog industry, let's not throw the baby out with
22 the bath water. So in closing, I would like to
23 remind the panel that the hog industry in Manitoba
24 is a driving force in the Manitoba economy. Thank
25 you for listening.

1 And my typist added a little here:
2 Don't work for the next election, work for the
3 best interests of Manitoba. May the Good Lord
4 bless you all and make good decisions for Manitoba
5 for years to come. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hofer.
7 And I certainly hope we can live up to that last
8 bit of direction, making good decisions for the
9 province.

10 I am just curious about one thing.
11 You said you didn't want to lengthen your
12 presentation, but what is a spray drift, or what
13 do you mean by spray drift?

14 MR. HOFER: Well, we have quite a few
15 horror stories to tell when it comes to spray
16 drift. You have got a little two or four acre
17 subdivision, with your lane road going all around
18 it. And it is almost impossible when you are
19 spraying with Ester, for instance. And this
20 individual has a couple of tomato plants. And
21 Ester is very volatile and usually they end up
22 kaputs, so we have had quite a few of those
23 scenarios.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you.

25 MR. MOTHERAL: I had the same

1 question. But, you see, I'm a farmer, Terry
2 isn't. I knew what a spray drift was. I know I
3 killed my own shelter belts.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you have any
5 questions, Wayne?

6 MR. YEE: No, I don't.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Edwin?

8 MR. YEE: No.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
10 Mr. Hofer. Now, does anyone else wish to make a
11 presentation this evening? It's your last chance
12 in Stonewall. There will be 15 other
13 opportunities in other communities, but the last
14 chance in Stonewall.

15 Yes, sir.

16 MR. KLEINSASSER: Would questions be
17 appropriate at the moment?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, what kind of
19 questions, sir?

20 MR. KLEINSASSER: What percentage of
21 token environment pollution comes from the hog
22 industry fertilizer?

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we are not in a
24 position to answer that. That's not the purpose
25 of -- the purpose of our review is not to answer

1 those types of questions. In fact, I am not sure
2 that we can answer them.

3 MR. KLEINSASSER: Well, some people
4 have the answers. It's half a percent. So who
5 does the polluting?

6 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry?

7 MR. KLEINSASSER: Who does the
8 polluting if it is only half a percent?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I am not sure if
10 it is half a percent. But as Mr. Mackie said, we
11 all contribute to it in many ways. Agriculture
12 contributes to it in some ways. The City of
13 Winnipeg, through their sewage treatment,
14 contributes to it in ways. The use of phosphorus
15 detergents is a significant contributor. There
16 are many contributors to the phosphorus and
17 nitrogen problems in our waters and, in
18 particular, in Lake Winnipeg. But it's not any
19 one single one.

20 And we're only playing a small part in
21 trying to find the answers to that. The Lake
22 Winnipeg Stewardship Board, which has done an
23 awful lot of research specifically in respect of
24 Lake Winnipeg, has done a lot of research and
25 found a lot of those answers and is working

1 towards cleaning up Lake Winnipeg.

2 But agriculture is a part. It's not a
3 major part, but it is a part. And as Mr. Mackie
4 said, and others have said before him, we all
5 should be playing or doing what we can to clean up
6 all of our waters in Manitoba.

7 MR. KLEINSASSER: That's strange to
8 pick on 1 percent and the 99 percent it seems
9 there is little done about it.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I mean, I
11 can't -- I can't speak for why the Province put in
12 place the moratorium. That wasn't my decision.
13 We were asked, after the moratorium was put in
14 place, to look at issues relating to the
15 sustainable -- the environmental sustainability of
16 the hog industry. We're not -- our role is not to
17 find a solution to Lake Winnipeg.

18 Our role is to determine if the
19 regulatory regime that is in place in Manitoba now
20 will ensure that the hog industry can continue in
21 an environmentally sustainable manner.

22 Sir, did you want to make a
23 presentation?

24 MR. R. HOFER: Yes, sir. When
25 homesteaders settled the west --

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you like to come
2 up to a mike? Well, you could sit at this one or
3 this one up here. We do like to have a record.
4 And that's so when we come to review what we've
5 heard, we have a record of it. Could you
6 introduce yourself, please, sir?

7 MR. R. HOFER: My name is Robert
8 Hofer, Ninette, Manitoba. I am from the Wellwood
9 Colony. I have a few questions, sir.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, you can ask your
11 questions. I can't promise that I can answer
12 them.

13 MR. R. HOFER: When our homesteaders
14 or forefathers settled the west, they broke up a
15 lot of natural resources. The first thing that
16 happened was massive erosion of our soils, okay?
17 A second batch of homesteaders now are what we
18 call settlers or homesteaders that settle around
19 our lakes, which are our best natural resources
20 and our rivers. The first thing they do when some
21 cottager buys some property, he clears out the
22 trees, moves some soil around and builds himself a
23 house, stirs natural resources in probably the
24 most extreme way anybody else does.

25 And then we have all of the natural

1 soils erode into the lakes, okay, into the rivers.
2 And as soon as you feed clear water with soils,
3 you breed or set up an area for algae to grow, or
4 anything to grow, because you are fertilizing the
5 water with soil that can grow. And to me, that's
6 our biggest problem is erosion.

7 All of the nutrients from millions of
8 years of trees and growth wash into the lakes
9 because the surrounding area around where all of
10 the cabins are built is being disturbed. And that
11 topsoil has been washed into the lakes. And it
12 feeds algae and it's full of phosphate, period.
13 All soils are full of phosphates because soils
14 come from broken up matter of trees, leaves,
15 whatever grows in this world.

16 And it's not fair to blame the
17 farmers. Somebody should look into people that
18 live in the cities and want to come out in the
19 country. You know, they don't realize what they
20 are doing to the environment. And I don't think
21 the scientists do, too, because they are looking
22 in their own area. They are always looking for a
23 scapegoat, and guess who it is.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I am not really
25 here to debate with you. But I think, in

1 fairness, the scientists have looked at cottage
2 developments around lakes and urban developments
3 around lakes as part of the problem. But that
4 isn't what we, the Clean Environment Commission,
5 were asked to look at. We were asked to look at
6 the environmental sustainability of hog
7 production.

8 MR. R. HOFER: It's very sad that our
9 science is down to par and we are all doing a good
10 job. And we're not polluting our own wells. We
11 depend on them more than the city people do
12 because we haven't got the distilling system like
13 the cities do to clean the water. So we are
14 stewards of the land, and we are very careful.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: I have no doubt that
16 the vast majority of farmers are good stewards.
17 And at the end of this review, we may well be able
18 to say that definitively in our advice to the
19 minister.

20 MR. R. HOFER: That's all I have.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your
22 comments.

23 Does anybody else have a presentation
24 they would like to make this evening? Could you
25 introduce yourself?

1 MR. PENNER: My name is Calvin Penner.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, Calvin?

3 THE WITNESS: Calvin Penner.

4 CALVIN PENNER, having been sworn, presents as
5 follows:

6 MR. PENNER: Okay. I just wanted to
7 add my two cents. And I guess come at it from the
8 perspective of what we're doing on our farm. We
9 are a family farm. We farm near the Town of
10 Argyle, which isn't very far from here. In 1970
11 my father started this farm as a small grain and
12 hog operation.

13 Today we have a 400 sow, farrow to
14 finish, and farm 500-acres of crop land. We have
15 three families living and working on this site,
16 and our goal is to have a successful farm
17 operation.

18 And I would like to address the issue
19 of the sustainability of the hog industry from our
20 farm's perspective and the measures that we take
21 to protect our environment. To start off, we have
22 a government certified manure storage lagoon,
23 engineered and constructed in 1994, in accordance,
24 at the time, with the new environmental standards.
25 And every year, since 1994, it has been inspected

1 by Manitoba Conservation and is maintained
2 according to their requests.

3 Also, we have participated in the
4 Manitoba Manure Management Plan and have been part
5 of this Environmental Program since 2000, which
6 consists of soil testing twice a year, checking
7 nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulphur levels.
8 And the manure is tested for these nitrogens --
9 for these nutrients to determine the application
10 level according to the Manitoba Manure Regulation
11 Guidelines. All fields that we have are mapped.
12 And environmentally sensitive areas are noted,
13 such as low spots, sinkholes and yard sites for
14 perimeters. We do this to observe proper
15 set-backs according to the Manitoba guidelines.
16 The manure application is done by professional
17 applicators, and the use of hose injection method
18 is used to limit the smell and the loss of
19 nutrients.

20 We also monitor well water annually,
21 testing for E. coli, coliform and nitrate levels,
22 and these are submitted for review to Manitoba
23 Conservation.

24 Also, deads are handled according to
25 Manitoba Conservation regulations. Because we are

1 over 500 animal units, we do not bury our deads.
2 We store them in cold storage and recycle them
3 through Rosser with a once a week pick-up. The
4 issue of smell is addressed by covering our lagoon
5 with straw and treed shelter belts around the yard
6 to reduce odour. We also dispose of hazardous
7 materials, such as needles and sharps, through
8 proper avenues, such as our vet clinic.

9 Conservation inspects our farm
10 annually, following up on the Manure Management
11 Plan, the lagoon, methods of handling deads, soil
12 tests and water tests. We also participate in a
13 CQA program since 19 -- no, sorry, since 2003.
14 And we are checked annually for the humane
15 treatment of the swine, the health of the animal,
16 the barn and equipment integrity and safety. And
17 feed records are checked properly for the use of
18 medications. And if medications are used, they
19 are done by precipitation, and this is all done
20 through our local vet. All medications are used
21 at the bare minimum.

22 In 2006, we completed an Environmental
23 Plan Workshop, which helped us to reassess our
24 previous environmental program and make
25 modifications where it was needed.

1 Just in conclusion, I would like to
2 say that since the time we have built our lagoon
3 and participated in the Manure Management Program,
4 we have not received any deficiencies from
5 Conservation or any complaints from our
6 neighbours.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Penner.
8 It sounds like you are doing a very good job at
9 being a steward of the land around your farm. Can
10 you tell me, do you think that all of the
11 requirements, do you feel that all of the
12 requirements placed upon you are too onerous or do
13 you think they are fair?

14 MR. PENNER: Probably if you had have
15 asked me ten years ago, I would have said they
16 were too onerous. But looking at them in today's
17 perspective, I think they are fair. I think that
18 we've adjusted to being able to do them, and I
19 have no problem with them. I see that they are
20 justified and I know what, you know, the purpose
21 is behind. Them and we do agree with them and do
22 our due diligence to uphold them.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: And this might not be a
24 fair question, but do you know is all of the
25 diligence that you're doing, is that typical of

1 the farmers you know?

2 MR. PENNER: I would say yes. I would
3 say the lion share of producers are doing the best
4 they can. I wouldn't venture to say all, but I
5 bet you almost all.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Wayne?

7 MR. MOTHERAL: A clarification point,
8 and I have previously farmed. And I still have a
9 farm, but I don't have any animals on my farm.
10 What is the C2A program?

11 MR. PENNER: C.Q.A., it's the Canadian
12 Quality Assurance program.

13 MR. MOTHERAL: Oh, C.Q.A., I'm sorry.
14 I thought C2A was some kind of chemical. I'm
15 sorry, my mistake, thank you. And, yes, I commend
16 you for coming and giving your presentation.
17 Sometimes these aren't easy things to do in a
18 public forum. And you need to encourage others to
19 do the same. Thank you.

20 MR. PENNER: Okay.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
22 Mr. Penner. Thanks for coming out this evening.
23 Anybody else? Last chance for this part of the
24 world, for Stonewall, anyway, last chance. Okay.
25 I would like to thank you all for coming out this

1 evening. I would particularly like to thank those
2 who made presentations this afternoon and this
3 evening. All of these presentations will help us
4 in our deliberations and the report that we have
5 to make to the minister later on this year. Thank
6 you and good evening.

7 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 8:20 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATE

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

Lisa Reid

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