

Therriault, John

From: Susan Turner <tsuzfam7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 7:59 PM
To: Therriault, John
Subject: Case number (R2012-023A)

PC# 3058

Case number (R2012-023A)

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board,

I am writing as a concerned citizen who has legally battled the construction of a 10,000 head mega dairy 2 miles from my home in Jo Daviess Co. Illinois. I had to raise court fees and sit in a courtroom over 55 times because regulations, recommendations, and the guidelines used to protect human health and the environment, were consistently overlooked to allow big ag to have it's way. Again, industry influence is peeling away the protection we desire for healthful air and water.

During this time I have compiled information regarding groundwater quality and quantity in the karst regions of Northwest IL. and Southwest WI. area. Pure water is now diminishing which imposes challenges to municipalities. More and more is having to be done to come up with safe water supplies for both private and municipal wells. Herd size, increased liquid manure storage in pits and spreading on frozen ground has increased in these areas. This is when run-off and seasonal floods have the opportunity to introduce hazardous materials including heavy metals, antibiotics, growth hormones, and pathogens into our drinking water.

On November 9, 2011, I participated in the web-cast for the USEPA NPDES CAFO Reporting Rule. This was informative, but the questions raised afterward created the doubts I am having as a concerned citizen.

The USEPA left out information that was supposed to be collected from CAFOs per the settlement agreement. The final rule needs to require all of the information in the agreement if USEPA wants to accomplish it's goals in protecting water quality. The proposed rule leaves out items such as integrator information, the type and capacity of manure storage, the type and the amount of waste produced, whether or not the CAFO implements a nutrient management plan, and how much waste is transferred off-site. Without this information, how can USEPA determine if a CAFO poses a risk of pollution? And my biggest concern is the updating of information every 10 years as a facility can double its herd size every 2 years and expand the facility without a public hearing. An original site of 500 head expanding during that 10 years is enabled to create a huge amount of "unknown" or "undocumented" potential pollution.

Currently, the only CAFOs that are being regulated by the IEPA's permitting program are the ones who have damaged the environment with their pollution. This occurs because the IEPA has an inadequate record of unpermitted CAFOS. They cannot be regulated if they are not even known to exist. A comprehensive inventory and reporting program would allow the IEPA to do their job effectively and timely reducing taxpayer dollars. This is a sensible plan since CAFOs should have nothing to hide if they are in compliance.

Thank you for this chance to express my concern.

Most sincerely,

Susan Turner

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