

From: [J.R. Patterson](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: Contact concerning TRC 12-084
Date: April 8, 2021 8:49:04 AM

Hello,

I hope this finds you well. I am writing in reference to the proposed establishment of a pig operation, the Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2.

Can you please answer the following questions regarding the proposed site for TRC 12-084:

- How did Topigs Norsvin select the proposed building site in the RM of Westlake-Gladstone?
- Did Topigs Norsvin accept private proposals for building sites, or was the proposed site suggested by the RM of Westlake-Council council?
- Was the RM of Westlake-Gladstone community alerted to plans to build on the proposed site before the site was selected?
- Is the Government of Manitoba, or Topigs Norsvin, aware of any conflict of interest that may arise from the proposed site?

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

James Patterson

From: [Sherri Tonn](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: Proposed Hog Barns
Date: April 19, 2021 8:34:51 AM

In respect to TRC 12-083 and TRC 12-084

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to the 2 proposed barns .

To let you know , our family lives and farms 3350 acres within miles of the 2 projects .

There are many reasons to not want these projects to go ahead .

Firstly site 12-083 is only 1 mile from 2 yards and 1.25 miles from as many as 3 other yards . The obvious odor from these operations will be terrible . Obviously there will be days when the wind direction will help this situation but there will be other days which be un acceptable .

The country gravel roads are in poor shape now ,, you add in semi after semi hauling in and out pigs especially in the soft spring season will destroy these roads . Site 12-083 is even farther off the hard top so there will be extra miles that will get pounded out .

Both these plans are near the Jack Fish lake , Big Grass marsh . Especially 12-084 which will be only a mile from the game reserve . Having this operation so close to that body of water and all those natural runways is just an environmental accident waiting to happen . With all the work being done to save our environment and our natural water supplies this just seems like planning really gone wrong . The company and the Municipality are only looking at dollar signs !

The other concern for me is the drain on the municipal water supply . WE have been fortunate enough to have been hooked up to "town Water " for the past 5 1/2 years . But before that we hauled water to our cistern for over 40 years ..all year round . My thinking is that there is going to be a huge pull of water to these 2 barns , 1000's of gallons a day . They will be at the end of the line and as it is already we don't have hi water pressure now . You open up 2 big taps at the end and guess what ? very poor pressure to everyone along the way ! The local tax payers waited way too long to have a good , stable water supply to have it threatened by a outside capital venture

Please think of the local taxpayers , the local home owners , and our historic Big Grass marsh and how we could all be negatively affected by these proposed hog barns AND JUST SAY NO !!

Thank You for sure time and consideration

Todd Tonn
Tonn Seeds
Plumas, MB

From: [Les Harley](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: 12-084
Date: April 19, 2021 3:56:59 PM

There has been a public invitation to share thoughts about a proposed pig operation TRC-12-083, Site 1.

This company (Topigs) plans to build two sites, another only miles away. Has there been a public invitation to share views regarding site 2?
TRC 12-084.

Please advise when this was made public (if it has been)

Thanks
Arlene Walker

April 23, 2021

Technical Review Coordination Unit
Municipal Relations,
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

Re: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 (One) - (TRC 12-083)
Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 (Two) - (TRC 12-084)

This letter is to inform you of my opposition to the proposed Topigs Hog Barns at W 1/2 of NW 1/4 25-17-12 WPM and N 1/2 of NW 1/4 16-17-11 WPM in the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone.

There are many reasons why I am opposed to this proposal, but my first one is the odour and toxic emissions from the hog barn, the open manure lagoon and the liquid manure which will be injected into the surrounding fields. Seven families live within the 3 km or (1.86 mile) radius of the proposed Site 1 (One), with 3 additional residents living within a 3.219 km or 2 mile radius. These type of toxic odours do not know boundaries and the stench will be smelled for distances far greater than their suggested 3 km distance. Odour pollution and the negative impact to air quality is a major concern for our community. It is a documented fact that people living with exposure to these toxic air emissions from large hog operations suffer increased mental and physical health issues including depression, reduced function of the immune system, respiratory, sinus, nausea problems, headaches, coughing, diarrhea, burning eyes and an increase in stress and mood disorders. A farmer's work typically requires them to spend a great deal of time outdoors and the Topig barns would create an unacceptable occupational health hazard within our community.

High levels of antibiotics are fed to the pigs to keep them healthy in their confined quarters to prevent disease, and this practise will see high levels of antibiotics flushed into the surrounding fields creating the perfect environment for multi disease resistant bacteria and the development of untreatable diseases in humans and other livestock, It's unbelievable to think that 80% of all antibiotics in Canada are used on farms, and that the resulting pathogens from Topigs manure will leech down through the soil and find its way into the Grass River, which is located only 1.75 miles east from the Site 1 proposed barn site and just 212 meters from the Site 2.

The water from the Grass River runs into the Grass Marsh and eventually into Lake Manitoba and any resulting contamination would have far reaching repercussions. The Marsh is also home to thousands of ducks, geese, gulls and sand hill cranes that would be threatened should any breach in the lagoon or run off from heavy rains occur. Who would cover these environmental costs? What about our ground water and well contamination? Our country has already experienced this type of occurrence in other jurisdictions like Walkerton, Ontario in the year 2000.

The operation raises risks to our community and way of life which are not offset in any meaningful capacity by the small amount of taxes which the RM of Westlake-Gladstone will receive. The taxes received from Topigs will not cover the road upgrades, repairs and maintenance because they will be paying agricultural tax rates and therefore receiving the benefits of a Canadian farming operation including the carbon tax exemption. Will the narrow side roads safely handle the increased traffic? Can the roads even be used by their trucks and still remain within Manitoba's seasonal trucking weight and restriction guidelines throughout the year?

Water quantity will be severely impacted, as Site 1 will draw up to 19,371 IG/day or 7,070,415 IG/year. This is in addition to our own local residents usage, which is also, compounded by the water pressure problems we already have experienced in the last several months. What is the cost of upgrading the water quantity and pressure to support a barn of this size? Remember that this volume of water has to be pumped to the furthest northern portion of the RM of Westlake-Gladstone. How much will this upgrade to our municipal water cost and how will it impact our individual costs?

The proposed benefits of potential employment are not realistic and there is no guarantee that their employees will reside or come from our area or even from within the municipality of Westlake-Gladstone. Nor will the labour and expertise needed to construct the facility draw from the local workforce. This operation will be built and maintained with minimal economic benefit to our community. In contrast locally owned and operated farms spend the money they make in the community, keeping the wealth local and therefore boosting the local economy. Topigs is a large international corporation owned by shareholders around the world; the profit they make will not be spent supporting local businesses.

Topigs is committing to the lowest possible level of odour/toxic air emission management instead of investing in technology to do what would be least impactful to the community in which they want to operate. Hence no manure storage cover or construction of a primary and secondary lagoon, just a shelter belt. There are a number of different storage cover options available; all of which decrease odour and toxic air emissions, but as previously stated they are committing to the lowest level of odour/toxic air emission in an area surrounded by **very close local neighbours!**

Topigs is an international company, based out of the Netherlands. The legislation for hog barns in the Netherlands is far superior to those in Canada, so the company is reaching out to countries such as ours that have weaker legislation to help them achieve reduced costs and increased profits. They use our resources, take advantage of our subsidies, pollute our soil, water and air; only to export their goods internationally and pocket the profit. There is minimal ongoing benefit to the local community who will have to tolerate the ill effects.

Our community has seen our property taxes double in just the last 5 years, without receiving any benefits in return. Our taxes keep going up and what we are left facing at

the end of the day, is the stench of pig manure and the toxins that go with it. Any members of our community and their families living in close proximity to this Topigs operation will be further negatively impacted by the decline in their property values as no one will want to buy a home that is located next door to a huge pig barn! Will the municipality compensate us for this shortfall? Will our taxes be reduced because our land has decreased in value? This is very unfair to Manitobans who have lived here our entire lives.

We live in a close knit community where many grew up and where neighbours look out for each other. Large hog operations are not family farms. They intrude, pollute and cause alienation amongst the residents living nearby. In other words they are a social detriment.

For all these reasons, I am 100% opposed to having Topigs set up hog barns in our community within the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone.

- Another big issue is a conflict of interest with CAO of Westlake Gladstone. That job is to work for taxpayers of RM not for yourself. There are multiple examples of money wasted with RM as a whole.

- I am in 100% agreement with this letter

Aaron Schmidt
April 25/21

Aaron Schmidt
NW 27-17-12

From: [JoAnne Oswald](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: Proposed Establishment of a pig operation.
Date: April 29, 2021 9:37:43 PM

To Whom This May Concern:

My name is JoAnne Oswald and I am writing this letter as a concern to the proposed establishment of a pig operation Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 (TRC 12-083) and Site 2 in our area.

1. I want to state that we were never received any letter from the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone Municipality indicating this project could be happening. We should have been notified. We heard only through a neighbour.
2. My husband works for a farmer that lives in that area. The road that they will be hauling in dirt, gravel, lumber, cement and much more is unsafe. First, the road is too narrow. When my husband drives the huge combine that is 30 ft wide and has a header of 20 ft., it is impossible to pull off the road. There is no place to pass. What is he to do or the semi driver to do when both are coming from different directions on that road. This is a huge SAFETY issue.

Solution: In regards to that road which consists of 6 miles, it would have to be rebuilt and widened, and gravel hauled in.

Problem: Who is covering the entire cost of building that road and upkeep? The road would have to be maintained, as in the spring there are nothing but potholes. With that kind of traffic going up and down, the road will be demolished.

Problem: How is this going to be funded? Is it through our municipality and onto the backs of taxpayers? If so, that is unfair.

3. The dust in the air from all that travelling on that road will be hazardous to one's health. Hazardous for anyone else travelling on the road who won't be able to see in front of them. That would be an accident waiting to happen.
4. I understand they will be using water piped in from our main water source from the Assiniboine. The amount they will be using per day, per week, per month, per year, will affect the pressure in the line. It goes right past our place. Plus, the amount they use will drain our existing system. This year and in many years when it is dry, there is no runoff water in any ditches to pump from either, and not to the capacity they will require. There is zero water in any ditch this year.

Solution: They will have to put in a lift station that costs \$80,000. Who is covering that

cost? Definitely should not be on the backs of taxpayers.

5. My next concern is what happens if they have a leak from their lagoon. When that leeches out, it contaminates wells around, causing unfit drinking water. Is that not a safety issue?
6. I understand they are not covering the lagoon. Isn't that methanol gas coming from the lagoons, contaminating the air we breathe and the surrounding environment? Is this not a safety issue and a health issue?
Aren't we supposed to be protecting our environment ? What about those of us who have asthma? Do we need to live inside our homes?
7. I believe Topigs need to have a 2 Million dollar bond to cover any damages that may be incurred by them.
8. My final point is the two people who are selling the two respective properties have no concern for our welfare, only the money they will be able to line their pockets with. Plus, is this not a conflict of interest that the CEO of the Westlake -Gladstone Municipality is the wife of one of the sellers.
9. Also, the two sellers have positions recently on the Watershed board, and the water that Topigs will be using from the ditches and creeks, belong to Watershed . Is this not a conflict of interest?

Thank you for your time and I hope you will take a serious look at all the issues I have raised.

Joanne Oswald

From: [Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation via Change.org](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: New petition to you: Say NO to the establishment of a pig operation Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 and 2 in MB.
Date: April 30, 2021 11:46:36 AM



Manitoba Government: you've been listed as a decision maker

Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation started a petition on Change.org and listed you as a decision maker. Learn more about Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation's petition and how you can respond:



Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation is petitioning Manitoba Government

Say NO to the establishment of a pig operation Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 and 2 in MB.

We need to oppose the construction of the Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 (One) (TRC 12-083) and Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 (Two) (TRC 12-084). Other than the smell of the operation we must consider the health effects, environmental effects...

[View the petition](#)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. View the petition: [Learn about the petition and its supporters.](#)
You will receive updates as new supporters sign the petition so you

can see who is signing and why.

2. Respond to the petition: [Post a response](#) to let the petition supporters know you're listening, say whether you agree with their call to action, or ask them for more information.

3. Continue the dialogue: Read the comments posted by petition supporters and continue the dialogue so that others can see you're an engaged leader who is willing to participate in open discussion.

CHANGE.ORG FOR DECISION MAKERS

On Change.org, decision makers like you connect directly with people around the world to resolve issues. [Learn more.](#)

This notification was sent to trc@gov.mb.ca, the address listed as the decision maker.

[Privacy policy](#)

We'd love to hear from you! [Contact us](#) through our help centre.

Change.org · 548 Market St #29993, San Francisco, CA 94104-5401, USA

April 26, 2021

Technical Review Coordination Unit
Municipal Relations
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0N4

Re: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 (One) - TRC 12-083
Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 (Two) - TRC 12-084

We are writing to inform you of our opposition to the Topigs hog barns at W 1/2 of NW 25-17-12 WPM and N1/2 of NW 16-17-11WPM in the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone.

We live and farm (NW 12-17-12) very close to the proposed hog barn sites as well as the fields where the liquid manure will be spread. We have lived here since 1970 and in 2010 we were voted the 'Best Farm Home Grounds" both in the municipality of Westbourne as well as provincially. The reason I am sharing this is to give you a glimpse of the pride we take in our home and farm yard. Having two hog operations in our area will mean we will need to contend with the odours and toxic emissions that are produced and these odours do not respect boundaries. The stench will definitely extend beyond the 3 km border as Topigs as suggested. We are only 1 1/2 miles away from some of the fields where manure will be spread. This will definitely affect our quality of life and our enjoyment of the outdoors which is something that is very important to us. We spend a great deal of time outdoors and it is a well known fact that people who live close to hog operations suffer symptoms such as headaches, cough, burning eyes, to name a few, as well as increased stress and depression.

Having industrial hog operations in the area will also decrease the value of our home. Not many buyers will be bidding on a home where there is the constant threat of odours from the barns, lagoon and spreading of manure. Who will compensate us for the loss ?

Both sites are very close to the Grass River and the Grass Marsh. This water eventually runs into Lake Manitoba. Site 1 is only 1.75 miles from the river and site 2 is just 212 meters from the river. Any leaching of the antibiotics from the manure placed on the fields as well as any breaches in the manure lagoons will eventually contaminate the water supply and this will affect communities beyond ours. We are also concerned about ground water contamination. Heavy rains after manure is spread on fields have been known to contaminate ground water and well water with threat to human health. The antibiotics which are a constant in the feed fed to the hogs also enters the food chain and is a threat to the health of all Canadians.

The marsh is home to many ducks, geese, gulls and sand hill cranes. Any contamination will ultimately affect these birds as well the many ecosystems present in

the marsh. Please refer to the Government of Canada website "Water Sources: Wetlands" where it states "Recently the value of wetlands has been recognized and efforts have been made to protect these ecosystems." Many wetlands have been destroyed by industrialization and pollution and we have a responsibility to protect these areas. We are very concerned about the potential for contamination of our marshland.

We do not see many positives by allowing Topigs to set up in our community. Topigs is building housing for employees and it is obvious that these will not be people from our community but most likely foreign workers as these industries have employed elsewhere. This operation, which is owned by a company in the Netherlands will be built and maintained with minimal economic benefit to the community. Locally owned and operated farms spend the money they make in the community, keeping the wealth local and therefore boosting the local economy. Topigs is a big international corporation and profit goes to their shareholders. Minimal will be spent on supporting local businesses.

There will be added pressure on our infrastructure such as the roads which will need to be built and maintained for the increased truck traffic. There will also be added pressure on our water supply especially in dry years when the water reservoirs will not be filled from run off. Local residents already experience water pressure problems. The water needed by these barns will need to be pumped to the furthest northern area of the RM of Westlake Gladstone. The taxes paid by Topigs will not cover the cost of maintenance of roads and upgrades to the water infrastructure as they will be paying agricultural tax rates. They will also receive the benefits of any Canadian farming operation including the carbon tax exemption.

We have seen our property taxes double in the past five years without receiving any benefits in return. Now we are facing the stench of pig manure and an intrusion into the life style we have enjoyed for the past 50 years. We live in a close knit community where people look out for each other. These industry hog farms intrude, pollute and cause alienation amongst the residents.

Topigs is a company from the Netherlands. They come to Manitoba because of our much less stringent regulations; they pollute our land, water and air; then ship their product internationally and pocket the profit.

For all these reasons we are 100 percent opposed to the Topigs operation establishing their barns in our community.

Sincerely,

Marlene Gal.



Arnold Gal.



RM Westlake-Gladstone

April 26, 2021

Technical Review Coordination Unit
Municipal Relations,
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

Re: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 (One) - (TRC 12-083)
Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 (Two) - (TRC 12-084)

Please accept this letter as my formal objection to the above mentioned proposal by Topigs Norsvin to build two industrialized sized pig barns at W 1/2 of NW 1/4 25-17-12 WPM & N 1/2 of NW 1/4 16-17-11 WPM in the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone. We are located at SW 34-17-12W, which is exactly 2 miles west of the proposed Site 1 (One) location. Our farm has been in our family since 1928 and we find it unbelievably unconscionable that their proposed barn site could potentially be parked in our back yard. Odours just don't stop permeating through the air when they hit Topigs invisible radius of 3 kilometres (1.86 miles).

The first we heard of this proposal was on April 1, 2021, via Canada Post. This was months after this same proposal was shared with our very own municipality. There was no lead in letter of explanation, just a copy of the same public notice that was advertised in the local Neepawa Press/Banner. In addition, only 1 of our 3 registered land title owners received a copy of this public notice by mail. No one from Topigs contacted us, even though a manure spreading agreement was signed between them and our renter on January 20, 2021. We did not authorize this agreement, nor did we authorize that any soil testing results be given to Topigs. Upon our direction, that agreement has since been withdrawn. These illegal agreements demonstrates the extent of their unethical practises and how little regard they have for us and the people living in our community.

There are many reasons to be opposed to this proposal, but I will start with its proximity to our house. The stench of the liquid slurry and rotting dead pigs will be intolerable at a distance of just 2 miles. Our area is a closely populated one, with 7 residences (family farms) located within a three km radius and 3 more that are located just on the cusp of that imaginary/arbitrary line that Topigs uses for their acceptable stench distance. Odour pollution and the negative impact to air quality is a major concern for our community. It is a documented fact that people living with exposure to these toxic air emissions from large hog operations suffer increased mental and physical health issues including depression, reduced function of the immune system, respiratory, sinus, nausea problems, headaches, coughing, diarrhea and burning eyes.

In order to maximize their profits, Topigs is committing to the lowest level of risk management with respect to their application, instead of spending money to do what would be least impactful to the community in which they want to operate. Hence, their proposed plan does not include a cover for their earthen manure storage (i.e., lagoon)

and their injection/application method of manure containing live pathogens like PED and antibiotic resistant bacteria is an environmental and health issue concern for everyone.

High levels of antibiotics are fed to the pigs to keep them healthy in their confined quarters to prevent disease, and this practise will see high levels of antibiotics flushed into the surrounding fields creating the perfect environment for multi disease resistant bacteria and the development of untreatable diseases in humans and other livestock . It's unbelievable to think that 80% of all antibiotics in Canada are used on farms, and that the resulting pathogens from Topigs manure will leech down through the soil and find its way into the Grass River, which is located only 1.75 miles east from the Site 1 proposed barn site and just 212 meters from the Site 2.

At the bank of the Grass River along 101N, there is also a low level crossing that is prone to flooding most years. The water typically overflows its banks each spring and spreads over the area, taking out roads in more than one location. There is always a risk of an overland flow of manure downhill and into well water drawn from low lying areas. It's important to note that not everyone in the RM of Westlake-Gladstone purchased the rural municipal water when it became available.

From the Grass River, the water flows onwards into the Grass Marsh which consists of 12,400 acres of a designated protected wildlife reserve for migratory birds. It is home to thousands of ducks, geese, gulls, sandhill cranes and also the decreasing population of the Bank Swallow, the Bobolink and the Least Bittern, which is listed as an endangered species in Manitoba. In Canada, the Bobolink, its nest and eggs are protected under the migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994.

From the Grass Marsh, the water flows into Lake Manitoba, from which Sandy Bay First Nations people get their drinking water. As you can see, this problem is far reaching and peoples' lives have to be taken into consideration. Water is a human requirement, which we can not ignore. On July 28, 2010 through Resolution 64/292, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the right to water and sanitation, and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights.

An article provided by World Animal Protection dated April 7, 2021 discusses a new report that finds waterways near industrial farms in Canada could be a public health threat. It states that these waterways contain "antibiotic resistance genes that are dangerous to public health. ARGs should be of concern because they are the building blocks for "superbugs". That means those antibiotics will be ineffective in treating infections in humans".

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/a-new-report-finds-waterways-near-industrial-farms-in-canada-could-be-a-public-health-threat-844408743.html>).

Topigs is an international company, based out of the Netherlands. The legislation for hog barns in the Netherlands is far superior to those in Canada, so the company is

reaching out to countries such as ours, that have weaker legislation to help them achieve reduced costs and increased profits. In the Netherlands, they cannot use antibiotic growth hormones, their lagoons are covered and they use what is called air scrubbers/washers to help cleanse the air. Not only that, but they have legislation in place regarding stench circles which prevents these type of barns from being built in an area if there are existing homes/residences that reside within the defined parameters!!!

<https://monostore.com/en/home/monostore-general/>

<https://www.wur.nl/nl/artikel/Luchtwassers-geur-en-ammoniak.htm>

<https://www.helpdeskwater.nl/secundaire-navigatie/english> (Use google translate)

Topigs claim that they will create 20 new local jobs with these 2 pig barns; however I think we all know what happened at Hy-Life in Neepawa. Locals were not willing to work at the reduced wages, so Hy-Life sponsored folks from the Philippines. That's exactly what happened at the Topigs barn in Woodlands municipality. The promise of local employment is easy, when the wages aren't sufficient and the work is not desirable, so the only alternative they claim is to bring in folks from the Philippines. Win, win as far as Topigs is concerned, because they get funding to subsidize their labour costs, the pork is exported to other countries.....and all we are left with is pig manure laced with antibiotic growth hormones that poison our waterways, rivers and lakes. Does Topigs offer to post a \$2,000,000.00 bond to cover costs in the event of any disasters caused by their barns? Why is our Manitoba government allowing this infestation of foreign companies to rob us of our most valued resources, health and well being? Future generations in this province will never regain what we will be just giving away for basically nothing!

Water quantity will be severely impacted, as Site 1 will draw up to 19,371 IG/day or 7,070,415 IG/year. This is in addition to our own local residents usage, which is also compounded by the water pressure problems we already have experienced in the last several months. What is the cost of upgrading the water quantity and pressure to support a barn of this size? Remember that this volume of water has to be pumped to the furthest northern portion of the RM of Westlake-Gladstone. How much will this upgrade to our municipal water cost and how will it impact our individual costs?

The expectation for increased revenue due to taxes collected is misguided. This Dutch owned corporation Topigs, qualifies for agricultural tax rates and are eligible for other farm programs including the carbon tax exemption. Will their property taxes actually cover the extra road maintenance and repairs caused by the large increase in truck traffic **and** the cost of the required upgrades to the municipal water? Will the narrow side roads safely handle the increased traffic? What about the dust control and the priority of farm equipment? Can the roads even be used by their big trucks during the building stage/regular operations and still remain within Manitoba's trucking weight and restrictions guidelines throughout the year?

Our community has seen our property taxes double in just the last 5 years, without receiving any benefits in return. We maintain our farms, our homes, our property,

manicure our yards, plant trees, gardens, flowers and all to what avail? Our taxes keep going up and what we are left facing at the end of the day, is the stench of pig manure and the toxins that go with it. Any members of our community and their families living in close proximity to this Topigs operation will be further negatively impacted by the decline in their property values as no one will want to buy a home that is located next door to a huge pig barn. Will the municipality compensate us for this shortfall? Will our taxes be reduced because our house has decreased in value?

The true beneficiaries of this operation are those selling the land and getting access to the manure, and the corporation that owns the operation and their shareholders. This is a for profit operation and producing pork products at the lowest cost possible in order to maximize their profit. Topigs does not have our local towns and communities' interests at the forefront, they are simply looking for sites where they can produce product at no risk to themselves while others absorb all the risk. It is for these reasons listed above that I am 100% opposed to this operation and do not want to see it established in the RM of Westlake-Gladstone.

Frank & Cindy Keyzers

April 26, 2021

Technical Review Coordination Unit
Municipal Relations,
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

Re: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 (One) - (TRC 12-083)
Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 (Two) - (TRC 12-084)

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High levels of antibiotics are fed to the pigs to keep them healthy in their confined quarters to prevent disease, and this practise will see high levels of antibiotics flushed into the surrounding fields creating the perfect environment for multi disease resistant bacteria and the development of untreatable diseases in humans and other livestock . It's unbelievable to think that 80% of all antibiotics in Canada are used on farms, and that the resulting pathogens from Topigs manure will leech down through the soil and find its way into the Grass River, which is located only 1.75 miles east from the Site 1 proposed barn site and just 212 meters from the Site 2.

At the bank of the Grass River along 101N, there is also a low level crossing that is prone to flooding most years. The water typically overflows its banks each spring and spreads over the area, taking out roads in more than one location. There is always a risk of an overland flow of manure downhill and into well water drawn from low lying areas. It's important to note that not everyone in the RM of Westlake-Gladstone purchased the rural municipal water when it became available.

From the Grass River, the water flows onwards into the Grass Marsh which consists of 12,400 acres of a designated protected wildlife reserve for migratory birds. It is home to thousands of ducks, geese, gulls, sandhill cranes and also the decreasing population of the Bank Swallow, the Bobolink and the Least Bittern, which is listed as an endangered species in Manitoba. In Canada, the Bobolink, its nest and eggs are protected under the migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994.

From the Grass Marsh, the water flows into Lake Manitoba, from which Sandy Bay First Nations people get their drinking water. As you can see, this problem is far reaching and peoples' lives have to be taken into consideration. Water is a human requirement, which we can not ignore. On July 28, 2010 through Resolution 64/292, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the right to water and sanitation, and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights.

An article provided by World Animal Protection dated April 7, 2021 discusses a new report that finds waterways near industrial farms in Canada could be a public health threat. It states that these waterways contain "antibiotic resistance genes that are dangerous to public health. ARGs should be of concern because they are the building blocks for "superbugs". That means those antibiotics will be ineffective in treating infections in humans".

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reaching out to countries such as ours, that have weaker legislation to help them achieve reduced costs and increased profits. In the Netherlands, they cannot use antibiotic growth hormones, their lagoons are covered and they use what is called air scrubbers/washers to help cleanse the air. Not only that, but they have legislation in place regarding stench circles which prevents these type of barns from being built in an area if there are existing homes/residences that reside within the defined parameters!!!

<https://monostore.com/en/home/monostore-general/>

<https://www.wur.nl/nl/artikel/Luchtwassers-geur-en-ammoniak.htm>

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Topigs claim that they will create 20 new local jobs with these 2 pig barns; however I think we all know what happened at Hy-Life in Neepawa. Locals were not willing to work at the reduced wages, so Hy-Life sponsored folks from the Philippines. That's exactly what happened at the Topigs barn in Woodlands municipality. The promise of local employment is easy, when the wages aren't sufficient and the work is not desirable, so the only alternative they claim is to bring in folks from the Philippines. Win, win as far as Topigs is concerned, because they get funding to subsidize their labour costs, the pork is exported to other countries.....and all we are left with is pig manure laced with antibiotic growth hormones that poison our waterways, rivers and lakes. Does Topigs offer to post a \$2,000,000.00 bond to cover costs in the event of any disasters caused by their barns? Why is our Manitoba government allowing this infestation of foreign companies to rob us of our most valued resources, health and well being? Future generations in this province will never regain what we will be just giving away for basically nothing!

Water quantity will be severely impacted, as Site 1 will draw up to 19,371 IG/day or 7,070,415 IG/year. This is in addition to our own local residents usage, which is also compounded by the water pressure problems we already have experienced in the last several months. What is the cost of upgrading the water quantity and pressure to support a barn of this size? Remember that this volume of water has to be pumped to the furthest northern portion of the RM of Westlake-Gladstone. How much will this upgrade to our municipal water cost and how will it impact our individual costs?

The expectation for increased revenue due to taxes collected is misguided. This Dutch owned corporation Topigs, qualifies for agricultural tax rates and are eligible for other farm programs including the carbon tax exemption. Will their property taxes actually cover the extra road maintenance and repairs caused by the large increase in truck traffic **and** the cost of the required upgrades to the municipal water? Will the narrow side roads safely handle the increased traffic? What about the dust control and the priority of farm equipment? Can the roads even be used by their big trucks during the building stage/regular operations and still remain within Manitoba's trucking weight and restrictions guidelines throughout the year?

Our community has seen our property taxes double in just the last 5 years, without receiving any benefits in return. We maintain our farms, our homes, our property,

manicure our yards, plant trees, gardens, flowers and all to what avail? Our taxes keep going up and what we are left facing at the end of the day, is the stench of pig manure and the toxins that go with it. Any members of our community and their families living in close proximity to this Topigs operation will be further negatively impacted by the decline in their property values as no one will want to buy a home that is located next door to a huge pig barn. Will the municipality compensate us for this shortfall? Will our taxes be reduced because our house has decreased in value?

The true beneficiaries of this operation are those selling the land and getting access to the manure, and the corporation that owns the operation and their shareholders. This is a for profit operation and producing pork products at the lowest cost possible in order to maximize their profit. Topigs does not have our local towns and communities' interests at the forefront, they are simply looking for sites where they can produce product at no risk to themselves while others absorb all the risk. It is for these reasons listed above that I am 100% opposed to this operation and do not want to see it established in the RM of Westlake-Gladstone.

Bill & Cindy Skanderberg

MAY 1 , 2021

TECHNICAL REVIEW COORDINATION UNIT
MUNICIPAL RELATIONS
604-800 PORTAGE AVE.
WINNIPEG MB
R3G ON4

TOPIGS NORSVIN NUCLEUS SITE 1 TRC 12-083 AND TRC 12-084

I am opposed to building of the proposed hog barns. My quality of life will never be the same with 2 large hog barns built nearby. The smell from 2 large barns and the large amount of land base that will be required to spread the manure will cover a large area.

I was not consulted in any way about this matter by the municipality or Topigs until a 1 week ad was in the local newspaper. Topigs claim they consulted with local people and that is totally false. They had a video meeting Dec. 11/2020 and no local residents in proximity to these barn locations were notified.

Our Municipal roads are not designed for the substantial heavy truck traffic that would occur, safety factor on these narrow roads will be an issue.

The plans for the barns have no cover for the lagoon , without a cover 30% of the nitrogen from the lagoon will go into the atmosphere. The reason why Topigs doesn't want a cover for lagoon is that then it will require more land base to spread manure because manure will be more concentrated.

Site 1 is 1.75 miles from the Big Grass River which flows into Big Grass Marsh, which is a protected wetland, a Game Bird Refuge, and Site 2 is less than 1 mile from the Marsh body itself. That is a travesty in itself !

These 2 sites couldn't be a worse location , there is no reason for this project to continue.

Questions I want answered -

Will Topigs be paying greenhouse gas emissions ?
Will Topigs be paying carbon tax?
Will Topigs be paying for Municipal road upgrades?

Don McCurry
Plumas MB

Apr. 30 / 2021

Technical Review Coordination Unit
Municipal Relations
604-800 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg MB
R3G ON4

I am writing to object to proposed hog barns of Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 TRC 12-083 and Site 2 TRC 12-084

My residence is located between both barn locations. My quality of life will be severely impacted. Noxious odours from close proximity of barns will be overwhelming. Topigs is not planning on having a cover on the lagoons, in order to save cost of having to use more land base for manure acres. While doing so lagoons will emit 30% more nitrogen into the atmosphere.

I was not consulted on this matter whatsoever, which I think is appalling!

My residence and yard is not only where I live but my investment, which will be dramatically decreased in value because of this venture by a corporation from a foreign country. I have been in contact with several real estate firms that have experience with yard sites in hog barn areas and they all said that I will guaranteed see a drop in what I would be able to sell my residence, if it would even be able to sell at all.

Both proposed site are in very close proximity to Big Grass Marsh and Big Grass River, which is a Game Bird Refuge. How can this proposal be a possibility given proximity to the Marsh?

I would expect that Topigs be required to put up a bond of no less than \$1,000,000 for environmental issues from nutrient runoff that will occur and flow into the Marsh, which flows into Lake Manitoba.

There is no ethical reason for this project to continue.

Brent Single

Plumas, MB

April 26, 2021

Technical Review Coordination Unit
Municipal Relations,
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

Re: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 (One) - (TRC 12-083)
Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 (Two) - (TRC 12-084)

Please accept this letter as my formal objection to the above mentioned proposal by Topigs Norsvin to build two industrialized sized pig barns at W 1/2 of NW 1/4 25-17-12 WPM & N 1/2 of NW 1/4 16-17-11 WPM in the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone. We are located at SW 34-17-12W, which is exactly 2 miles west of the proposed Site 1 (One) location. Our farm has been in our family since 1928 and we find it unbelievably unconscionable that their proposed barn site could potentially be parked in our back yard. Odours just don't stop permeating through the air when they hit Topigs invisible radius of 3 kilometres (1.86 miles).

The first we heard of this proposal was on April 1, 2021, via Canada Post. This was months after this same proposal was shared with our very own municipality. There was no lead in letter of explanation, just a copy of the same public notice that was advertised in the local Neepawa Press/Banner. In addition, only 1 of our 3 registered land title owners received a copy of this public notice by mail. No one from Topigs contacted us, even though a manure spreading agreement was signed between them and our renter on January 20, 2021. We did not authorize this agreement, nor did we authorize that any soil testing results be given to Topigs. Upon our direction, that agreement has since been withdrawn. These illegal agreements demonstrates the extent of their unethical practises and how little regard they have for us and the people living in our community.

There are many reasons to be opposed to this proposal, but I will start with its proximity to our house. The stench of the liquid slurry and rotting dead pigs will be intolerable at a distance of just 2 miles. Our area is a closely populated one, with 7 residences (family farms) located within a three km radius and 3 more that are located just on the cusp of that imaginary/arbitrary line that Topigs uses for their acceptable stench distance. Odour pollution and the negative impact to air quality is a major concern for our community. It is a documented fact that people living with exposure to these toxic air emissions from large hog operations suffer increased mental and physical health issues including depression, reduced function of the immune system, respiratory, sinus, nausea problems, headaches, coughing, diarrhea and burning eyes.

In order to maximize their profits, Topigs is committing to the lowest level of risk management with respect to their application, instead of spending money to do what would be least impactful to the community in which they want to operate. Hence, their proposed plan does not include a cover for their earthen manure storage (i.e., lagoon)

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High levels of antibiotics are fed to the pigs to keep them healthy in their confined quarters to prevent disease, and this practise will see high levels of antibiotics flushed into the surrounding fields creating the perfect environment for multi disease resistant bacteria and the development of untreatable diseases in humans and other livestock . It's unbelievable to think that 80% of all antibiotics in Canada are used on farms, and that the resulting pathogens from Topigs manure will leech down through the soil and find its way into the Grass River, which is located only 1.75 miles east from the Site 1 proposed barn site and just 212 meters from the Site 2.

At the bank of the Grass River along 101N, there is also a low level crossing that is prone to flooding most years. The water typically overflows its banks each spring and spreads over the area, taking out roads in more than one location. There is always a risk of an overland flow of manure downhill and into well water drawn from low lying areas. It's important to note that not everyone in the RM of Westlake-Gladstone purchased the rural municipal water when it became available.

From the Grass River, the water flows onwards into the Grass Marsh which consists of 12,400 acres of a designated protected wildlife reserve for migratory birds. It is home to thousands of ducks, geese, gulls, sandhill cranes and also the decreasing population of the Bank Swallow, the Bobolink and the Least Bittern, which is listed as an endangered species in Manitoba. In Canada, the Bobolink, its nest and eggs are protected under the migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994.

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The true beneficiaries of this operation are those selling the land and getting access to the manure, and the corporation that owns the operation and their shareholders. This is a for profit operation and producing pork products at the lowest cost possible in order to maximize their profit. Topigs does not have our local towns and communities' interests at the forefront, they are simply looking for sites where they can produce product at no risk to themselves while others absorb all the risk. It is for these reasons listed above that I am 100% opposed to this operation and do not want to see it established in the RM of Westlake-Gladstone.

Doug & Shirley Post

From: gator32@mymts.net
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: reference TRC 12-083 and TRC 12-084
Date: May 2, 2021 9:41:41 AM

attn. government Manitoba

my name is Darin walker and I currently live in Plumas MB , Im writing this letter for my concern of the construction of the 2 proposed hog barns in the Plumas area.i currently own and operate Gators Outfitting and I also work for environment Canada in the Canadian Wildlife Service division, where my job title is a EG 4 Technician,my biggest concern of these barns is the location of the sites. the 1 barn is only1.5 miles from the Big Grass River which flows into the Big Grass Marsh. then from there it flows into the Whitemud river and into Lake Manitoba to Lake Winnipeg.the other barn is only 1/2 mile from the Big Grass Marsh which is the first and original ducks unlimited project in north America.it is a major staging and breeding area for all different species of birds , vegetation. what Im getting at is my biggest concern is what kind of environmental impact these barns will have on this. (immediately and future). the CWS and US Fish and Wildlife Service do a lot of joint work out in the marsh and surrounding area.I would hate to see what impact this could lead too into damaging or destroying this ecosystem. I really hope the gov. will take in consideration of the location of these sites, for the record Im not against the construction of these barns but there should be a better location for them so they are not so close to natural waterways and the marsh.

thanks

Darin Walker

From: [Kim Dermody](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: TRC 12-083
Date: May 3, 2021 10:51:38 AM

May 1, 2021

Technical Review Coordination Unit
Municipal Relations,
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

Re: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 (One) - (TRC 12-083)
Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 (Two) - (TRC 12-084)

Please accept this letter as my formal objection to the above mentioned proposal by Topigs Norsvin to build two industrialized sized pig barns at W 1/2 of NW 1/4 25-17-12 WPM & N 1/2 of NW 1/4 16-17-11 WPM in the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone.

I do not reside in the above municipality however, I am a taxpaying resident of Manitoba and do have serious concerns that we are once again looking to establish an intensive farm operation in Manitoba. Currently in Canada only Quebec has more pig operations, but Manitoba has the dubious distinction of having less barns but more pigs. These singular operations are enormous with this proposal stating that over 10,000 pigs at various stages of life will be on site. Considering that Manitoba has less than half of the land mass of Quebec this is more than alarming from an environmental standpoint.

There are many reasons to decline acceptance of this proposal by Topigs. Here are a few you need to consider:

Animal welfare - Pigs have a natural rooting, wallowing

behaviour. They have hooves that help them for stabilization when walking. Multiple studies have shown that pigs have an intelligence level equivalent to or above most dogs and have excellent memories. Yet in these types of operations we treat the animal like just another widget in a factory. They are kept over-crowded, under-stimulated, unable to root and the hooves that serve them well in a more natural environment, prove unstable when walking on the grates above the waste flow. This leads to a lot of stress on the animals making them prone to illness and disease.

Antibiotic overuse and contamination - Monoculture is the cheapest method of raising animals but has the highest risks when it comes to infection and disease. There is no way to raise this amount of singular animals in this type of environment and not have outbreaks - as evident by the outbreak in Southeast Manitoba in the summer of 2017 where thousands of pigs had to be destroyed. To mitigate this potential for disease high levels of antibiotics are fed to the pigs. Recent stats have shown that the majority of antibiotics are used in intensive farming operations with almost 80% of these drugs being used on Canadian farms. Even if it has been flushed out of the animals system by the time it is killed the antibiotics are still appearing in the waste that is spread on the fields for grain crops and leached into the ground water. Doctors have been warning us for years that we only have a limited number of antibiotics we can use in our arsenal against illness and potential death. In fact the World Health Organization has put out a statement that “ Antibiotic resistance is one of the most significant threats to public health” We have had media campaigns to educate physicians and us to use less antibiotics yet we are slow to control it in agriculture. Until this is addressed provincially and federally, intensive farming operations such as this should not proceed.

Environmental Damage - These antibiotics and the resulting pathogens from Topigs manure will leech down through the soil. Topigs is committing to the lowest level of risk management with respect to their application. The proposed plan does not include a cover for their earthen manure storage (i.e., lagoon) and their injection/application method of manure containing live pathogens like PED and antibiotic resistant bacteria is an environmental and health issue concern for everyone.

It will find its way into the Grass River, which is located only 1.75 miles east from the Site 1 proposed barn site and just 212 meters from the Site 2. From the Grass River, the water flows

onwards into the Grass Marsh which consists of 12,400 acres of a designated protected wildlife reserve for migratory birds. It is home to thousands of ducks, geese, gulls, sandhill cranes and also the decreasing population of the bank swallow and the bobolink. In Canada, the bobolink, its nest and eggs are protected under the migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994. From the Grass Marsh, the water flows into Lake Manitoba, from which Sandy Bay First Nations people get their drinking water.

Air Quality - The amount of waste that will be produced is like the operation itself - intense. Anyone who has driven in rural Manitoba will know the smell when they are passing by either a pig barn or manure on the fields. But for most this is momentary unpleasantness suffered through for a few minutes and forgotten. Not for the neighbouring communities. In countries and provinces with better regulations there is a filtration system known as Air Scrubbers/Washers. This proposal has no mention of this added protection for the municipality members and will instead save this money for the shareholders not people paying taxes to the municipality.

My parents lived in Southeast Manitoba for many years. We were forced indoors often on a beautiful day because of this odour. They did not have air conditioning and on many occasions they could not open their windows to catch a breeze because it would make the house smell of manure. I also would find my mom washing the outside walls and windows of the house, I would ask why she was doing it again so soon after the last time just to be told again that the wind blew the flies back in from the pig barns. We were not living on a farm we were in town and we were in excess of 3kms away from any pig barns.

Socio-Economic - Topigs is not a local company. It is an international company based out of the Netherlands. Due to the fact that the Netherlands is a small, densely populated country with strict regulations on how these companies must be regulated, it only makes sense to increase profits you must increase production and lower costs. This means finding a place to operate without such financially onerous animal welfare and environmental regulations. "Welcome to Friendly Manitoba."

Proponents that support the ongoing development of these types of intensive operations will always highlight the economic benefits for the municipality and province. For this proposal let's break that down a bit. I have learned that two farmers will

sell land to Topigs and this will be a nice payday for them. Topigs has said this will employ 20 local people. In the past this has rarely come to fruition. The wages are very low, the work is dangerous, demanding, and unhealthy. Examples;

Factory farm workers are exposed to numerous workplace hazards. There are studies that have shown that workers, due to the nature of the work, can become desensitized to violence which has led to increased drug and alcohol use as well as an increase in domestic violence. Workers in hog barns are exposed to much higher levels of dust, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, noise, and odour than are farmers in smaller scale operations due to the difference in the amount of time each spends in barns. They are also exposed to drugs and hormones used in factory farm production.

Hydrogen sulphide poisoning

Hydrogen sulphide is produced by decomposing liquid manure. It is a colourless, odourless deadly gas that can reach hazardous concentrations in confined spaces. Several Canadian workers have died and many have been affected by H₂S poisoning.

Exposure to Antibiotic resistant pathogens

The routine feeding of antibiotics to livestock in factory farms results in microbes evolving antibiotic resistance. Workers exposed to these pathogens can become sick, or become carriers of the disease, spreading it within their communities.

- [Guelph Researchers Find MRSA in Pigs](#)
- *“The researchers found no difference in the prevalence of MRSA among suckling, weanling and grower-finisher pigs, but they concluded that people working on pig farms are at higher risk for MRSA than the general population.”*

Noise

Thousands of pigs in a confined space make a lot of noise. Studies have shown that decibel levels in intensive hog barns are above safety thresholds much of the time. Continuous exposure to such noise leads to stress and hearing loss.

- [Occupational noise exposure assessment in intensive swine farrowing systems](#)

Air quality and respiratory disease

- *“Large hog barns are complex environments with a variety of gases and dusts present. It is well documented in the international scientific literature that exposure to the air in large hog barns may cause short and long term harmful health effects in workers.” [Industrial Hog Barns - Air Quality Occupational Health Considerations](#) by Manitoba Federation of Labour, Occupational Health Centre, Inc.*

As was the case when Hy-life came to Neepawa and Topigs to Woodlands, workers were sponsored from other countries with subsidies provided by the government for their labour costs. These may still provide some economic benefits but let's understand what this will likely look like for the local population in this case. It is not a labour boon and working in the barns are not good jobs.

An increased tax benefit will be realized by the municipality. But have all considerations been made as to what infrastructure will need to be upgraded and maintained in order to support this one international corporation? What will happen to property values around these factories? Or after the honeymoon period will the municipality be left holding the bag with no one answering their phone calls anymore?

Water usage and Quality Issues - Site 1 will draw up to 19,371 IG/day or 7,070,415 IG/year. A normal household use per person is generally between 60-75 IG per day. I can see no mention of water feasibility studies being done and what if any provisions have been allocated to the municipality and province to ensure this water remains potable and any pressure concerns addressed.

As we are still in the midst of struggling through yet another zoonotic disease - COVID-19 - I am disheartened that this proposal is in the works not just for this municipality but all of Manitoba. At a time when we need to review our current intensive farm operating practises to ensure ongoing stability for our environment, our people, and our economy, this short sightedness is disturbing. Instead of supporting smaller farmers who can raise animals in a humane manner, provide safe healthy food for local buyers we lay down before international corporations to receive their pennies while shareholders in other countries become rich. We are decimating our waterways, our forests, our wildlife. We are introducing chemicals and pathogens we may not be able to

someday recover from. Intensive animal agriculture needs to be paused and reviewed without political or financial influence.

It is for these reasons listed above that I am opposed to this operation and do not want to see it established in the RM of Westlake-Gladstone or anywhere in Manitoba.

Thank you for your time.

Bonnie Kallert
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Arnold H. Coutts
Plumas, MB

Monday, May 3, 2021

Attention: Government of Manitoba – Livestock Technical Review Co-ordination Unit

Good Morning!

Re: Livestock Technical Review by the TRC
Proposed Topigs Norsvin Canada Inc. – GN2021 Project located in WestLake-Gladstone
Site 1 and 2 Site Swine Barns
“Concerns and Questions”

My name is Arnold Coutts and I am writing in regards to the proposed Topigs Barns.
I have several concerns about this proposed project.

CONCERN 1

The first is the process of notification of said project. I am just outside of the area of the barns, the 3 km circle, so I did not receive info about this until 10 days ago and that was from a person inside the 3 km circle. I have been told since then that there was a notice in the Neepawa Banner. Also, apparently there was a virtual town hall event on December 11th, 2020. Previous to that, Topigs had an initial informal meeting with the Municipality of WestLake-Gladstone, of which there was no mention of this anywhere in their minutes. You would think that something as major as this would appear in the minutes. For example: road building, gravel, increased maintenance. “Some THING” or someone should have reported on this. A project of this magnitude, which will involve over 7 miles of road work with 3 needing work significant enough to handle many semis a week. A cost that will be paid by the whole municipality. And this is just from barn site one to barn site 2.

The least that could have been done was paper notices put up at the Post Offices in Langruth, Plumas, Westbourne and Gladstone as not everybody has good access or any access to the internet to see what is going on in OUR municipality. Unfortunately, due to the lack of information in the municipal minutes, this leads to my second concern.

CONCERN 2

And a very sad one at that. There is a strong public perception that there is a conflict of interest concern. Ratepayers are concerned that it took until a petition was presented at the March 17, 2021 council meeting before a conflict of interest declaration was made. That was 3 months after the virtual Town Hall meeting took place, and previous to that the informal meeting with Topigs. This is a touchy situation to have anybody in, but with lack of information in the minutes, the public and ratepayers need to know what is going on.

CONCERN 3

The third concern: "WATER" - I have no problem with water being taken from the Grass River or Preisentanz Drain but sure do not want that volume of water removed daily from the pipelines. Site 1 alone would be like adding 260 new residents to the pipeline that is already suffering from poor pressure in some locations. Even if a booster station was used, it would still cause trouble with the lines because of pressure issues. That small line can only handle so much more but not 19,300 gallons a day more.

CONCERN 4

Fire Department (Volunteer): special training? Cost? Municipality pays?

CONCERN 5

Lagoon – Site 2 needs to be able to hold enough manure for 500 days as the marsh land is very sticky when wet and also susceptible to run off with all the drains that are on some of these fields. With Jackfish Lake being a fish and wildlife gathering area, any runoff is unacceptable. In the Site 2 manure plan, it is not going to be plowed in as it says. They have 48 hours to work it in. Some of the fields where it is being planned on being put on is close to residents. They can negatively be affected.

CONCERN 6

Roads that are to be used: are they the only roads they will use? Restrictions on PR260 will limit use during March, April and May. Will they be using other municipal roads when restrictions are on? If so, which ones? Can roads handle that much more traffic, especially speed and weight?

LAST COMMENT

These barns are here for years to come if passed by TRC. I appreciate your time in this matter but also please be thorough.

If problems should arise with said barns, who is left to correct them?

A \$2 million bond should be in place as this municipality cannot afford anything else if problems arise.

Thank You,

Arnold H. Coutts

Municipal Relations TRC

Re: Topigs Norsvin Site 1 and Site 2 (12-083&4) Public Comments

May 1st, 2021

I am strongly opposed to the above developments, including but not limited to potential ecological damage, lack of local economic benefits, costs to the neighboring farms, and the simple fact that local groups and First Nations have been left out of the early planning and delivery of these projects. I hope Topigs aren't permitted to proceed. or are moved to an alternate, more remote area where they won't affect so many people.

My concerns are with the safety and health of the community, biological and residential. Topigs is an International firm, with profits going elsewhere. The timing of the application period to coincide with spring seeding and planting, not providing solutions to road conflicts, access, odor, mortality, or erosion controls for all aspects of the barn buildings and operation and transport, no accident plans or contingency plans are troubling, and following a Topigs formula. They have been choosing edges of municipal boundaries, deliberately, where people's farms are close to the operations but in another municipality that doesn't have a council directly involved with permits. This reduces their rights to be heard in opposition to the barns. It's an outrage and anti democratic. Applications for barns in Woodlands and Grasslands R.M.'s were permitted over the strong objections from local residents. It means the provincial and municipal systems have failed the public. We don't even know to whom or where Topigs is selling the swine they plan to raise. Product goes elsewhere, pollution stays.

A two million dollar bond posted with the municipality in an accessible but separate account as insurance for contingencies, whether it is in falling hog prices (corporate welfare, like our current pricing policy for water) or on the ground, is advised. Barn fires from failing exhaust systems have occurred and will again. Topigs is getting your water, air, and land for no more cash than anyone else in this community has paid for their land and taxes. You're supplying them with about a million gallons of water per year, six times the amount the whole town of Plumas uses annually. Can you imagine how much they'd be paying if we added in all the incidental costs? How much does it cost to clean up a contaminated aquifer or lake? The poor Assiniboine River has so many straws stuck in it the domestic or treated water supplies for Topigs operation might be cut off. What do they do when the water runs out in a low year. Set their barns on fire? Donations and contributions already come from community members , Topigs is making token gestures of benefits but bringing great harm. They are here to avoid the strict regulations they have to follow in similar operations in the

Netherlands. What does that say about Manitoba's Pork Producers defense of our environment? The excess nutrient loading in surface water originates on the land. Stop allowing it to happen. You're permitting ecological harm. And If there is a financial or environmental disaster, those who live locally will pay. That's unethical and unacceptable. I have participated and presented at most of the Clean Environment Commission Hearings about these issues , joined in several conditional use processes, yet I am convinced we are throwing communities under the wheels of hog barn bus, still , causing pigs to suffer in confinement , in slaughter, and in transport. Investors from other countries are laughing at us, before they deposit their profits at our public and ecological and animal expense. As Minister Squires writes " We want to stop singling out hog producers and saddling them with unfair barriers (like sewage treatment) that limit growth and development here in Manitoba." This means the growth and development of other , nearby, farms and established farming families will be limited instead. And water quality is gone.

The people who live and farm in this area have a right to say no to outside development that reduces their health and quality of life. I support their views and the majority of the public who are opposed to the ever expanding industrial strength hog barns. The municipality must listen to the people. Are we so overdeveloped in southern Manitoba that this company couldn't choose sites without victimizing adjacent homes? It is a pattern being followed in multiple R.M.'s. Yet few of the decision makers live close to the barns. If a proposal for two barns had come to a neighborhood in Winnipeg, would there be stronger opposition? Trouble began with getting intensive livestock production labeled as a farm instead of an industry, and changing planning acts and conditional use hearing and zoning by laws to allow expansion of swine production at the expense of local residents. If we had added pigs to every farmstead in Manitoba we could supply lots without bio hazard barn building. Now we have covid outbreaks in many facilities for pork production across our nation. We'll be sitting in our cars listening to loudspeakers for a hearing on the barns when the whole matter could be postponed until restrictions end and we can gather in person. Why not wait ? We should be at home, and zoom meetings won't cut it.

Employment : From the Pork Council of Manitoba " Today's livestock barns require skilled, motivated workers. Because of the high degree of knowledge required to operate our newer barns, industry and government have established accredited apprenticeship and production manager training programs." Where are these programs to support local jobs? How long do they take? Has the company made any effort to train (or even talk) to area residents about work? If not, they are contributing

to worker exploitation and more human health concerns by bringing in outsiders, often immigrants with less rights. All health effects on workers are transferred to Manitoba Health. And there are many of them. That is a public subsidy to off setting costs. Topigs intends to put a duplex on its property to house workers. The workers will have 24 hours of noxious odors to cause health problems. No.

I recommend that local people be used in a workforce to monitor operations, including daily air quality monitoring on an off site and that specific employees are chosen from communities such as Plumas and Gladstone to be trained in erosion and storm water controls, site supervision, and installations for all aspects of the operation. Creating experts to act as supervisors and site managers will prevent problems from occurring. There are training manuals, expert advice and workshops available through the International Erosion Control Association. IECA also provides lists of emerging products and techniques appropriate for agricultural operations and suitable for northern climate conditions. The state of Minnesota has the strongest legislation, funding and practices within North America. Council and Topigs can research and then follow their examples. Topigs should pay for it. Topigs should have a community person and an aboriginal person doing outreach before any permits are in place for operations. The aboriginal person should be fluent in Ojibwe and have cultural experience. The company is used to doing an end run around communities, not collaborating. And we as a province are enabling this. Fix the problem by making it a condition for proposals. If the company can afford to expand, they can afford to engage with the people whose lives they are affecting. It's a justifiable cost to do business these days. Respecting aboriginal rights and acting on reconciliation is our collective duty.

Emergency preparedness -The company is following an adaptive management technique, which fits into the best management practices portfolio for projects. One example of this is calculating and planning for rainstorm events and fires. But, the mitigation plans don't describe the sediment and erosion control measures that would offset the harm from catastrophic events, accidents, and mistakes. There is no detailed description of equipment, installation techniques, timing, products or placement for pollution control, fires, or even spread field applications. Reference is made to supervision and monitoring but the details are again lacking. I suggest they avail themselves of the latest training manuals, products and application rates for proper road bed installation and maintenance and both de watering and dust control techniques. For the road issues that have been part of every community's concerns. That would be evidence of a sincere desire to reach a successful outcome for nature and our climate, sadly lacking in ToPigs current plans. Listening to the Public Works department employees around Plumas is a sensible start. Respecting them is even

better. Woodlands was able to convince their council to relocate the Topigs barns to a community pasture , but council and taxpayers paid for a road into it. Council ought to be looking at maps and sacrificing other, less populated areas for barns. That's a compromise. Otherwise , it's an adversarial process. Of course, our biodiversity and natural systems don't have the human voice to raise in protest to these concentrated animal productions harming their living space.

Mortalities are routine during the course of this operation. On site burial is unsuitable due to the soil types and freezing cycle by Plumias. Incineration causes air pollution, rendering may be unavailable locally, so that leaves composting as a the preferred method of dealing with hog carcasses. Composting in one of four bins, with 8-12 cubic yards of compost material on hand for coverage of every 1000 lbs. is recommended. By the U. S Gateway Pork Information Source. Add it as a condition to any licensing. And recommend full odor reducing landscaping with quickly growing willows, such as the Bassfords, on all sides with prairie grasses in between. it's the least the sites can do to add to habitat displaced by buildings and contribute to biodiversity.

With minimum setbacks, over applications run off, amount and position of spread acres, once the Manure Management Plan is filed, who is out there to watch it being followed? Most crops can only take up a small amount of phosphorus per year. With application limits in manure management regulations providing a top limit of 271 lbs. per acre , Topigs must provide assurances they will limit their P content to avoid the situations we have in south east Manitoba, where soils have been saturated beyond remediation. Soil tests should be adequate, multiple in the acreages, and the results made public. Topigs can pay for the tests, from an accredited lab, from their profits., perhaps cost shared with the owners of the spread acres. The latest equipment for manure injection should be used, and the timing ought to prevent any manure from sitting on the soil's surface. Our sudden intense rainfalls can bring disaster to spread fields. People have already observed green slime in feeder streams to Lake Manitoba after Topigs set up their Woodlands Operations. What will happen to Jordan Creek , Big Grass Marsh, Big Grass River, the Whitemud River and Lake Manitoba and other important surface waters in the case of spills and accidents ?

Above ground storage of waste is called for, on both sites, not the in ground lagoons without covers that will sicken both people and wildlife. With more than 1200 spread acres for manure available within one mile of the game bird refuge at Big Grass Marsh , what safeguards are in place to protect the wetland? Multiple drains entering the Wildlife Management Area buffer are also possible contaminant sources. The uncapped well on site 1 is an entry point for aquifer and local well water contamination. Topigs says it will cap it. When? Additional acres in perennial cover

would support the Watershed Area plans, buffer the wetlands, and provide additional grazing and hay during droughts. Why not make as many acres of that as spread acres?

Marsh levels were so low one year the birds got botulism and died off. Who will monitor water levels in the marsh and have authority to protect the birds? Where terrestrial and aquatic wildlife is concerned, a comprehensive plan for protection for insects, waterfowl and wildlife has not been submitted. The Topigs proposal may lead to alterations of road use and construction when it is the roads themselves that cause harm to wildlife populations and critical habitat. One has to wonder what losses of these forms of life will occur in connection with this project even though the claim has been made that cumulative and potential effects won't be harmful. Prove it.

And about roads, surface conditions and truck traffic are an additional environmental, farm equipment and recreational use concern. The Westlake – Gladstone RM has to import gravel at great cost for maintenance. If Topigs is only contributing part of the escalating costs for roads, it is an unacceptable burden to the both the RM and its residents to pick up the slack. It is a subsidy for an unwelcome proposal. Our research led us to a woman who lived next to an operation similar to the one proposed for this area. **In her own words “We had to drive around our road to take our kids to school. The slurry trucks left such bad ruts only a 4x4 could get down them. The school bus couldn’t get on the road at all. Hog barns are considered essential services and the feed trucks came from all directions to keep up supplies – we counted a 1000 cement trucks just for the buildings, and 100 trucks per year for loads of gravel - Spring and fall were the worst for smell, our 12 year old daughter brought a friends home from school and took her outside, where she gagged, left, and never came back.**

What does your aquifer complex need to survive? Who will replenish the recharge areas in times of drought ? Where are they? Who has established the response times and systems for this aquifer? If the proponents had been serious about safeguarding the health of the aquifer they may be polluting they would have planned for recharge of the system. Making efforts to allow water to get back into the ground is vital. And, when the proponents assert that withdrawals of surface flows are adequate, they ignore the dynamics of change. How , then , will the rivers and ditches make up for the withdrawals except by lowering themselves. Efforts to recharge the watershed system (not net loss) should take place whenever there is a withdrawal, or a water license issued. This would constitute a balance. The most efficient way to do this is to maintain areas that allow water to percolate or penetrate into the ground, usually through the ground between the stems of plants, or beneath the sediment of streams and lakes and ponds. We must preserve and protect wetlands, keep or plant shelter

belts, forests and riparian zones, install water gardens for concrete areas and native prairie grasses and forbs in yards and along ditches. - to aid pollinators, allow water to fill aquifers, provide deep roots, against erosion, prevent weeds from spreading and reduce our mowing costs and fossil fuel consumption - and rebuild our depleted soils with amendments of compost. There are so many techniques for reducing wind and water and motorized transport harm. Where are the erosion control plans for the pipeline work to bring water to the barns and send it to possible spread acres? Where is the basic analysis of slopes, predictions of slumping, emergency plans to deal with human error, the consultation with the Certified Professionals in Erosion and Sediment Control? Indeed, the consultation with First Nations, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Birds Canada, and Habitat Heritage Corporation has been avoided. When something happens in our rural area, we check with our neighbors. An area resident was the first to contact Ducks Unlimited. The limits for contact may be suggested, but Topigs and Council avoided doing any more than what had to. Many worthwhile investments in ecological health have been made. Habitat Heritage holds the largest conservation agreement in Canada with Westlake/Gladstone R.M. The amount of publicity generated by this, only a few years ago, warrants a call to them about the R.M. is going to do to protect the other parts of the this Watershed Area. It is the lungs of your community. Council and the company ought to have negotiated with people who have already spent dollars to protect the Marsh. One wonders if this was deliberately avoided. These organizations have compiled the only information we have about wetlands in your area. Of course, a community engagement person could have done all that outreach on behalf of a good corporate company. I get more notification of upcoming literary events than your local people have had about the barns coming their way.

Marsh - The amplitude and frequency of water-level fluctuations through changing seasons, commonly termed the hydro period, affect wetland characteristics such as the type of vegetation, nutrient cycling, and the type of invertebrates, fish, and bird species present. How will this be monitored and mitigated for the Big Grass Marsh? There may be forthcoming applications for water withdrawals as there is nothing in your ditches to siphon off right now. Under the provincial Water Rights Act, works cannot alter a class 5 wetland by changing the natural boundary or result in a reduction of its class. Section (d) in clause (e) states the marsh is to be managed “primarily for the beneficial effects for protection, preservation or conservation of resources.” Pumping from the marsh for water supply to the barns directly contradicts the Act. There are federal policies for wetland conservation (Green Plan 1998) that may also be contradicted. The municipality has a responsibility to uphold the intent of the provincial and federal protection policies for the public and ecological good. The marsh is a molting and staging area for thousands of waterfowl, and the watershed

includes Jackfish, Seagull and Chandler Lakes. Data for this area is over 30 years old. We need an updated and a full comprehensive inventory of the watershed area, including protection for the least bittern to survive, a provincially listed endangered bird, ahead of any development. Where are the company plans to address this? Canadian Wildlife Service banded more mallards in Big Grass Marsh than anywhere else in Western Canada. They have a banding station there. Why didn't Topigs make plans to find out about that and protect the need for game birds like ducks?

From the Whitemud River Watershed Water Quality Report – The watershed area is primarily characterized by agricultural crop land, urban and rural centres. All these land uses have the potential to negatively impact water quality if not managed appropriately. Cropland can present water quality concerns in terms of fertilizer and pesticide runoff entering surface water. The Springhill Farms hog processing plant has the potential to present water quality concerns in terms of wastewater effluent and industrial runoff. The town of Neepawa and other rural municipalities present water quality concerns of wastewater treatment and effluent. The Whitemud river is a major tributary to the Watershed. Currently, there are two long term water quality sampling stations (monthly and quarterly). The TEC should acquire the sample results and request that sampling include nutrients, use it for baseline data and begin monitoring the run off from the Big Grass River as it enters the Whitemud., as these two barns and their spread acres have the potential to negatively impact water quality.

We could be doing so much better by the beautiful close community that exists in this area of our province. I support family farms, niche farming, heritage farms, healthy watershed area management, habitat protection , animal welfare and best practices in industry and commerce that cover all aspects of life . Expect me to bring you a glass of water covered in slime as a demonstration of what could have been prevented through proper planning, conditional uses, and community involvement. The technical review committee has the obligation to act on our concerns. So does the council and administrators.

Sincerely, original signed by

Lindy Clubb

La Salle , Manitoba

Headingley, Mb

Technical Review Coordination Unit
Municipal Relations
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3G 0N4

Re: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site number One, TRC-12-083
Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site number Two, TRC-12-084

I own land in the RM of Westlake-Gladstone - SW and SE 24-17-12. Although I do not live on the land, there is a yard site on the property. My property is approximately 2 miles from either of the proposed hog barn sites. I am writing to advise that I am OPPOSED to both of these hog barn proposals for several reasons. I am a retired physician and therefore many of my concerns are for the health of the community. I also have concerns regarding the wetlands nearby.

My first concern is the effect on health of the workers and nearby residents. The World Health Organization definition of health is : "Health is a state of complete physical , mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Large industry hog barns have an effect on all three of these parameters of health.

There is evidence that workers in the barns suffer from adverse respiratory health effects from inhalation of gases, vapour, and biologic aerosols. Some of these symptoms include cough, wheezing, shortness of breath, sore throat from inhalation as well as dizziness associated with working with liquid manure. The workers are known to have approximately a 25% higher incidence of chronic bronchitis and sinusitis and are prone to organic dust toxic lung syndrome which can lead to chronic lung problems. In one study it was noted that after as little as two shifts, changes were noted in the lungs of workers. FEV1 is a measure of lung capacity and has been shown to decrease as a result of exposure to the pollutants in hog barns. I would expect that workplace safety and Health would be consulted by Topigs regarding the proper protective equipment for workers such as respirators with dust and gas filters and that workers would have someone to advocate on their behalf should they experience health issues. (especially if they are foreign workers). I would also suggest that the Worker's Compensation Board be consulted as to whether workers should have regular surveillance of lung function. Noises in hog barns are often over 95 decibels and hearing deficits should also be monitored, as should air quality on a regular basis. On Site 2 there are plans for housing for workers. Living right on the property will definitely impact the health of workers.

The Manitoba Federation of Labour Occupational Health Center would be a good resource for the employer and the workers should this project be approved.

Another concern is Swine flu. Just this past week in the news we heard of two cases in Manitoba in people indirectly or directly related to pigs. Although rare, one of the cases was a Influenza A (H1N1) variant, (the second in Canada). Rarely does it spread from person to person but it is of concern as it is not out of the realm of possibility. Viruses can pass between humans and swine and change in the process making them more virulent. Workers and pigs need to be protected with influenza vaccine.

The odours from the barns, lagoons and spread fields have a negative impact on the health of the community. The odorous compounds are adsorbed onto dust particles less than 10 microns in size. These particles can be carried long distances from the source — at times as far as 5-6 miles. Odorous mixtures (containing ammonia, hydrogen sulphide, methane, dust and endotoxins) can cause irritations of eye, nose and throat and produce inflammatory responses in the lung. Higher rates of cough, headache, nausea, dizziness, irritated eyes, runny nose and headache are reported in people living in close proximity to large hog operations. In a study done by the University of North Carolina measurable changes in lung function in residents living within two miles of the hog operation were observed. Similar observations have been noted in other areas such as Germany. There is evidence that the health of individuals with asthma and underlying lung conditions who live nearby hog operations, is affected adversely. In other words, their condition is worsened by the pollution in the atmosphere emanating from factory hog operations.

The presence of large hog barns will severely impact the quality of life and have psychological consequences for the nearby residents. The area surrounding the proposed site 2 is home to seven family farms WITHIN the defined 3 km radius and several others just outside the 3 km radius and also others who will be affected by the spread fields closer to their homes. Country living is a way of life for the farmers, some of whom have built new homes and plan to continue to live in the area far into the future. It is well known that the odours from these large pig operations are not limited to a 3 km radius. It has been noted that those living in close proximity to hog operations have more depression, tension, anger and fatigue. This is understandable when people are exposed to air pollution and have no control over the intrusion into their lives. The odours are most prevalent in warm weather. Our summers are short and the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors is limited. Can you imagine not knowing if the outdoor party you planned will be “rained out” by odour from the nearby lagoons full of manure or the injection of manure on the nearby fields? Or not knowing if the kids can play outside without having to endure the stench? This is definitely an intrusion into the life of the neighbours. People who live in the Woodlands area near a large hog facility report odours up to 5 miles away. It is understandable that residents nearby experience more stress and sometimes embarrassment as a result of having to tolerate noxious odours. There is also the very real worry of house values decreasing. Residents in the area have invested in their homes and now will have to face the prospect of potential buyers being put off by the stench of the nearby hog barn.

The presence of large industry farms and their intrusion causes alienation and social divisions amongst the people in the community. This has been noted in other areas when they set up shop. Topigs is not a new farm family moving into the area with the hopes of becoming part of the community but rather they are a large corporation looking out for their own profit.

In European countries such operations are required to “air wash” to eliminate odours and toxins being released into the air and there are also requirements to cover the manure lagoons to decrease the environmental impact and odours. These regulations are in place to protect the environment and the residents living in the area. In Manitoba we have minimal regulation to control odours and toxic emissions from the lagoons.

In the additional supporting documents and information provided on line, Topigs states that they are prepared to add a cover to the manure lagoon if “deemed warranted and requested by council”. What does deemed warranted mean? How many complaints are needed to be deemed necessary? There are many sources indicating the benefits of manure storage covers. I would advocate that lagoon covers should be the minimal Topigs is required to provide and council should demand this from the outset. However not having a cover is an advantage for

the company as approximately 30% or the nitrogen dissipates into the air and thus less spread acres are required.

Topigs has also stated that they are planning to provide a shelter belt to help contain the odours from the manure lagoon. This may provide some protection from odour but far from complete and will take years to grow. How many rows do they plan on planting to make it a possible break to the odour?

Another source of odour is from the spread acres. I note that on the application regarding Site 2, it states that "partial injection" of the liquid manure is planned. It is my understanding that with partial injection, the manure needs to be worked into the soil within 48 hours. How does Topigs plan to ensure that this is done?

I am also concerned about the potential for water contamination and the effects on the marsh or wetlands and the ecosystems that it supports. The lagoon on Site 2 is only 212 meters from the Grass River and on site one is only 1.75 miles away. Breaks in lagoons are not unheard of and this could result in millions of gallons of animal waste and disease producing pathogens and nitrates entering into surface water. There is also a concern that with heavy rains there could be considerable run off from the fields saturated with liquid manure. As stated, both sites and manure spread fields are very close to the Grass River and the Grass Marsh. From my property all of this run off goes east and ends up in the marsh, which is a protected area for wildlife and research. The marsh ultimately drains into the Grass River and Lake Manitoba.

In the Walkerton, Ontario disaster of 2000, heavy rains fell over a four day period. This caused run off from the fields which had recently been spread with manure, to contaminate the well with E Coli 0157 and *Campylobacter jejuni*, both of which cause severe disease in humans. Over 2300 people fell ill and 7 died. Of course there were other factors in this disaster but the ultimate source of the contamination was the livestock manure. Manure and urine are associated with numerous pathogens that are transmissible to humans if not handled properly or if ground water is contaminated and this is quite possible if there is run off from the fields when saturated with liquid manure and heavy rain. The pollution strength of raw manure is 160 times greater than raw municipal sewage.

According to the Federal Government's website on wetland , " Throughout Canada, wetlands have been adversely affected by land use practices that have resulted in vegetation destruction, nutrient and toxic loading, sedimentation, and altered flow regimes" Marshlands in Canada are in jeopardy as many have been encroached upon by industry and destroyed. Pig manure is very high in phosphorus as well as nitrogen. Contamination of the marsh from run off from fields could mean that the Grass Marsh, the Grass River, Jackfish Lake and ultimately Lake Manitoba, suffer the same fate as Lake Winnipeg. The algae blooms and eutrophication of the lake has been traced directly to agricultural runoff from fertilizer and hog manure. The algae blooms decrease the amount of photosynthesis of the bottom dwelling plants, which results in hypoxia or lack of oxygen in the water. Ultimately fish and other living creatures die. The hog manure is very concentrated with phosphorus and there is no way to inject only a set amount into the soil. Therefore the saturated fields with manure combined with heavy rain and run off could easily contaminate the marshland. This could endanger yet another wetland.

Excess nitrogen is also a concern especially if there is contamination of well water. Contamination of well water with nitrates (causing methemoglobinemia) is especially harmful to infants, causing blue baby syndrome. In 2000 two cases were reported in Manitoba, both caused by contaminated well water related to a nearby hog operation. I would suggest the nitrogen levels be monitored by insisting that Topigs have some test wells which are regularly tested. They should also be required to have water run off tested by an independent lab in the spring and after rains in regards to phosphorus and nitrogen levels.

There is evidence in the literature of human health issues related to living close to factory hog operations. In Manitoba we have over 600 hog barns and approximately 8 million hogs. The lack of research into health effects here in Manitoba is disturbing. Why have there not been any studies done in Manitoba in regards to community health, and effect on the environment of these factory farms? Over the past 15 years more and more factory hog operations have been welcomed into Manitoba. It is the responsibility of the government that allows operations such as Topigs, to ensure that the health of Manitobans and our environment and resources are protected. The conflict arises when the same government that provides invitation to this industry is also the regulator.

To be fair there are guidelines in the Provincial Planning regulations but they are much less stringent than those in other countries such as the Netherlands where Topigs originate.

What will happen if there is a breach of the lagoon such as a rupture after heavy rains ? Who will pay for the clean up ? Are the tax payers whose taxes have already doubled in the last five year going to be liable for the costs? It should be mandatory that Topigs put up several million dollars as a bond in the event of a disaster. There will be other expenses regarding roads and water supply. The profit from taxation may not prove to be so great when all these factors are taken into account. The tax payers of the municipality should not be stuck with the cost.

In other jurisdictions in Manitoba these industries have employed foreign workers for a lower wage and have also benefited from the government wage subsidies. I am not opposed to industry in Manitoba but I am opposed to operations that are self serving with minimal benefit to the surrounding residents. It seems the only people benefiting are those who sell the land to Topigs and perhaps those who will help in the construction of the buildings which is a short term venture.

Topigs has stated that they have worked closely with the community in the planning of this venture by having an informal meeting with the municipal council in the fall and a virtual town meeting in December. I for one was not invited to a town hall. Tentative land deals were made months ago and yet many of the land owners like myself did not find out about this proposal until early April. Topigs also entered into agreements with renters in regards to manure spreading and did soil testing without land owners permission. I have not given permission for the spreading of manure on my property and have asked that it be taken off the agreement. It is hard to put trust in the people in charge of this venture when there has not been transparency to all affected.

I understand that a public hearing will be held if there is opposition to the proposed barns. This needs to wait until we can gather in a large enough venue to be safe (given the pandemic) and certainly NOT BY ZOOM. Having a hearing like this in any other manner than in person is inherently unfair to those opposing the proposition.

In summary, I am **totally opposed** to the proposed Topigs Site one and Site two for the reasons stated above.

Dr. Arlene Walker.

References:

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CALPUFF and CAFOs: Air Pollution Modeling and Environmental Justice Analysis in the North Carolina Hog Industry

Yelena Ogneva-Himmelberger *, Liyao Huang and Hao Xin

Pulmonary effects of exposure to pig barn air

Chandrashekhara Charavaryamath and Baljit Singh*

Joy Klassen

Brandon, MB

Technical Review Co-ordination Unit

Municipal Relations

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Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4
Fax: 204-948-4042

Date: May 3rd, 2021

Re: File No. TRC-12-083 / File No. TRC-12 – 084

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our opinion about the proposed 10,000 animal pig operation outside of Plumias, MB. Topgis Norsvin Canada Inc are hoping to establish a pig operation in the RM of Westlake Gladstone which will have a significant negative effort on the community.

There are 8 family farms within a 1 -3-mile radius of the proposed swine sites. The waterways near an industrial pig farm of this size are a public threat. A swine farm has a high potential to contaminate fields, groundwater, public waterways and create air pollution, affecting animals and people alike. This directly affects the lives and health of these people and their families. All of these factors, coupled with a significant increase in local traffic will result in the reduced value of the surrounding established properties.

These eight families including mine have lived in this area and operated these farms for over 100 years. They have spent several generations building their farm operations and supporting the community. So, I am asking that their long-term success be respected and chosen over of a new business that can be established elsewhere.

Building a new 150,000 square foot operation will without question have a negative impact on the community. The farmers and families in this area have made costly investments in the farms that they run based on business cases that will no longer be valid with the introduction of a swine farm and the above-mentioned impacts. Their land will no longer be appraised for the same value if this swine operation is established in this area. The market value of their land will immediately decrease if these swine sites are approved. What recourse will these land owners have to assist them with the negative consequences if this decision is made in favor of Topgis Norsvin Canada Inc proposal?

I ask that you deny the request to proceed with these proposed sites in RM of Westlake Gladstone. I would encourage the company to find land that does not directly affect the health and livelihoods of other people, their businesses and families.

Sincerely,

Joy Klassen

From: [Robert Kitter](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Cc: [Arlene Walker](#)
Subject: Fw: TRC 12-083 Site 1 and TRC 12-084 Site 2, TOPIGS PROPOSED HOG OPERATION SITE @ GRASS RIVER, MANITOBA
Date: May 4, 2021 7:10:14 AM
Attachments: [Nitrates and Their Effect on Water Quality - A Quick Study - Wheatley River Improvement Group.html](#)
[factsheet_nitrate.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Note: I am sorry that I forgot to include an important sampling protocol via Agvise by a reporter for the [Manitoba Co-operator](#).

I feel that there must be an independent (no conflict of interest) company to conduct a thorough sampling program at the correct time of year to demonstrate that sandy soils and high water tables (the marsh) are not the kind of area to establish hog barns...along with the spreading of manure....that will no doubt destroy the water quality of the aquifer:

It's been the accepted wisdom to soil test as late as possible in the fall, but one soil test lab says it might pay to go earlier.

Agvise Laboratories, that has soil-testing labs in North Dakota and Minnesota and a large stable of Canadian customers, told growers in a recent email it may be a sound strategy to soil test right after the combine.

"Crop residue from spring wheat or other cereals is very high in carbon and takes a long time to break down," Agvise wrote Aug. 9. "Since the wheat straw breaks down or mineralizes so slowly, soil nitrate levels from samples taken right after harvest change very little through the entire fall season."

RELATED ARTICLES

[Manitoba's insured acres of CPS wheat grow exponentially](#)

[Foliar fertilizer shows promise in reducing zinc deficiency](#)

[Applied research already well underway at MBFI](#)

The company added it's done several sampling date projects over the past 25 years, which show the soil nitrate level in wheat fields is very stable all fall. Researchers from North Dakota State University also recommend soil sampling right behind the combine to get the best-quality soil samples, Agvise said.

Manitoba Agriculture soil fertility specialist John Heard agrees.

"Historically we have stuck to the 'best' principle, but the best principle is not always the most practical principle," he said. "The best would be to wait until spring, closest to the time when the crop needs it (nutrients). But that is not at all practical."

Agvise lists the following advantages for sampling cereal fields following the combine:

It provides very stable nitrate test levels.

It gives the highest-quality soil sample before any tillage occurs.

Sampling an undisturbed soil profile means accurate depth control.

Sample depth control is important for getting consistent results for tests such as phosphorus, potassium, zinc and organic matter percentage from year to year.

It reveals the nitrate level in the soil profile before volunteer grain starts taking up nitrogen a few weeks after harvest.

It allows more time to make plans for variable-rate fertilizer applications.

It ensures that each field gets sampled, avoiding bad weather, which can prevent sampling later in the fall.

Ideally sampling would occur in spring just before the crop is planted, but it doesn't give farmers enough time to plan, Heard said.

If it's a wet fall, which can result in nitrogen leaching, a farmer can adjust their fertilizer application rate, or resample, Heard said.

"Winter is not necessarily a downtime for farmers, it is planning time and they are far better to do their planning when they have soil test values in hand so they can do their budgets," he said. "There's just no time to do sampling in the spring. Fall soil sampling is our competitive advantage."

By starting earlier soil-testing services can also do a better job, Heard added. With more acres of soybeans and corn, which mature later and are harvested later, there's less time to get all the sampling done before freeze-up.

Soil test results are just the start of the planning phase for farmers, he said. Farmers need to take other factors into account such as potential yield, whether the fertilizer will be applied in spring or fall and whether it will be banded or broadcast.

"It's nice to wait until you are at the finish line to make your decisions, but you may not have time to do that so you have to sample earlier," Heard said. "And that allows the soil test industry a head start."

"Going earlier allows farmers to make some fertilizer plans in the fall."

Steve Barron, business development manager in south-central Manitoba for crop input supplier Double Diamond, is seeing more interest in earlier soil testing.

"A lot of our customers plan on applying fertilizer in the fall and need the results," he said.

"When a guy takes a soil test core when the field has been worked the consistency and the depth of the core are so marginalized. If you can take it before the field

is worked the depth and the consistency are so much more accurate and what you learn from it is so much better.

"It's not just about nitrogen and phosphorus, but all the micronutrients. If you can be more consistent with that zero to six (inch) core it's going to help a lot with your interpretation for your seed-placed micronutrients as well."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Allan Dawson

Reporter



Allan Dawson is a reporter with the Manitoba Co-operator based near Miami, Man. Covering agriculture since 1980, Dawson has spent most of his career with the Co-operator except for several years with Farmers' Independent Weekly and before that a Morden-Winkler area radio station.

Bob

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Allan Dawson's recent articles

- [Know the soybean varieties you're planting](#)

From: Robert Kitlar
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2021 10:05 PM
To: TRC@gov.mb.ca
Subject: TRC 12-083 Site 1 and TRC 12-084 Site 2. TOPIGS PROPOSED HOG OPERATION SITE @ GRASS RIVER, MANITOBA

To whom this may concern:

Although I do not live in the area...Reference TRC 12-083 Site 1 and TRC 12-084 Site 2.....I wonder why the process seems to be speeding along without proper sampling having taken place (some sampling was done in January)...when this is not the norm to obtain pertinent scientific data to make proper informed decisions, especially regarding a marshy area...for the proposal of building hog barns.

Why doesn't TOPIGS stay in the Netherlands? Is it because our Manitoba AG laws have no teeth in them...so they can pollute our watersheds and aquifers...so that potable water will need to be treated by Reverse Osmosis...which is extremely costly. Who will compensate the citizens of Plumas for the high quantity of potable water needed for hog operations...once the aquifer is polluted with Nitrates, etc.?

There also seems to be multiple conflict or perceived conflict of interest with Provincial MLA's and municipal members and various other parties. Why?

- **Site 1 where the lagoon is 1.75 miles from the Grass River and on Site 2 which is closer to the Grass River Marsh, the proposed lagoon is only 212 meters from the river!!!**

Hog operations need to be in the Red Valley clays that are impervious...to protect the aquifers which are of extreme importance for the future development of any community trying to attract business for their area.

- **I have attached an detailed article about Nitrates from Prince Edward Island (PEI) and the concerns regarding the same type of situation that resident of the Grass River area are voicing.**
- What will the effect be of high ammonia and nitrate concentrations on the water table (wells for human consumption) waterfowl and other creatures of the Grass River Marsh?
- **Please find attached the MB Government Fact Sheet on Nitrates... October 2019... Prepared by Manitoba Sustainable Development and Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living**

Glenella Series (GNL)

The Glenella series consists of imperfectly drained, carbonated, Gleyed Rego Black Chernozem soils developed on dominantly coarse loamy sediments overlying clayey lacustrine sediments. Surface texture is dominantly very fine sandy loam, but may vary from loamy very fine sand to sandy clay loam. The topography is level to very gently sloping; runoff is moderately slow to slow; permeability is moderate in upper coarse loamy sediments and slow in the underlying clay. In some areas, lateral flow of water may occur through the very fine sand strata above the clay. Salinity may be present in some soils. The native vegetation consists of tall prairie grasses, some aspen or willow. The soil is characterized by a very dark gray, strongly to very strongly carbonated Ah horizon 10 to 20 cm thick, a thin 7 to 10 cm, transitional AC horizon. The underlying stratified sediments often contain less carbonates than the near surface horizons and are mottled; they may have coarser strata of loamy very fine to fine sand. Associated soils are the imperfectly drained Greenwald series and the poorly drained Delmar series. The soil description is similar to Plum Ridge series except that moderately calcareous clay occurs within a depth of 1 metre. Glenella soils were previously mapped in the Lakeland soil association in the reconnaissance survey of soils in the Winnipeg map sheet area

Soils of Manitoba

Description of soil MBWDE~~~~N (Waldersee)

General Characteristics

--

Classification	THU.M Terrie Humic Mesisol
Profile	Native soil profile The soil is in native condition (undisturbed by agriculture).
Kind of material	Organic The soil material is primarily composed of organic particles.
Water table	Always The water table is always present in the soil.
Root restrictions	No root restricting layer The growth of plant roots is not restricted by any soil layer.
Type of root restricting layer	n/a Not Applicable
Drainage	Very poorly drained Water is removed from the soil so slowly that the water table remains at or on the surface for the greater part of the time the soil is not frozen. Excess water is present in the soil for the greater part of the time. Groundwater flow and subsurface flow are the major water sources. Precipitation is less important except where there is a perched water table with precipitation exceeding evapotranspiration. Soils have a wide range in available water storage capacity, texture, and depth, and are either Gleysolic or Organic.

Parent Materials

	Mode of Deposition	Texture	Chemical properties
Uppermost	Fen Peat These deposits consist of sedge peat derived primarily from sedges with inclusions of partially decayed stems of shrubs formed in a eutrophic environment due to the close association of the material with mineral-rich waters.	Mesic Mesic	Medium Acid to Neutral pH 5.6 - 7.4
Middle	Fen Peat These deposits consist of sedge peat derived primarily from sedges with inclusions of partially decayed stems of shrubs formed in a eutrophic environment due to the close association of the material with mineral-rich waters.	Humic Humic	Medium Acid to Neutral pH 5.6 - 7.4
Lowest	Lacustrine Sediment, generally consisting of either stratified fine sand, silt, and clay deposited on the lake bed, or moderately-well sorted, stratified sand and coarse materials that consist of near lake shore or beach deposits. These materials have either settled from suspension in bodies of standing fresh water or accumulated at their margins through wave action.	Coarse Coarse (USDA Texture Classes: FS,LCS,LS,LFS,GLS,CBLS).	Undifferentiated Undifferentiated acidity and/or calcareousness

Soil Layer Characteristics

Layer Number	Upper depth	Lower depth	Classification				Physical						
			hzn_lit	hzn_mas	hzn_suf	hzn_mod	bd	cofrag	tsand	tsilt	tclay	domsand	yfs:
1	0	35		O	m	1	0.14	0	-9	-9	-9	-	-9
2	35	90		O	m	2	0.14	0	-9	-9	-9	-	-9
3	90	115		O	h		0.15	0	-9	-9	-9	-	-9
4	115	160	2	C	kg		1.7	0	93	6	1	F	7

[Report a problem on this page](#)

Sincerely with grave concerns for the Grass River area residents and beyond,

Robert S. Kitlar
Wpg, MB

Nitrate in Manitoba Well Water

In some Manitoba wells, nitrate has been found at concentrations exceeding health guidelines. High nitrate levels are a particular concern for pregnant or nursing women and for infants less than one year old.

What is nitrate?

Nitrate and nitrite are naturally occurring forms of nitrogen found in the environment. Nitrate is essential for plant growth and is present in all vegetables and grains. Nitrate is commonly used in fertilizer. Nitrite is less stable and therefore less common in the environment.

Common sources of nitrate in well water are:

- chemical fertilizers used to improve plant growth
- animal waste from livestock barns and manure storage areas
- manure applied to land
- human waste from septic fields, leaking septic tanks or holding tanks
- soil that contains nitrogen compounds from naturally decaying organic matter

Exposure to nitrate

Everyone is exposed to small amounts of nitrate. Food contributes about 87 per cent of the average daily intake of nitrate for a typical North American adult. Most of the remaining 13 per cent comes from drinking water and a small contribution comes from the air we breathe. For bottle-fed infants, water used to prepare infant formula is usually the main source of nitrate.

Drinking water standard for nitrate

Health Canada has established a maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) for nitrate in drinking water of 45 milligrams per litre (mg/L). This guideline value is intended to protect infants, the group at risk of nitrate effects. Concentrations of nitrate and nitrite in drinking water are often expressed in units of nitrate-nitrogen or nitrite-nitrogen - 45 mg/L nitrate is equal to 10 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen.

Where nitrate and nitrite are measured separately, the Health Canada Guideline recommends nitrite not exceed 3.2 mg/L (approximately 1 mg/L nitrite-nitrogen).

The provincial standard for all public (municipal) drinking water supplies is 45 mg/L nitrate (10 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen). Private well owners are not legally required to meet the standard but where levels are high, a treatment device or other corrective action is recommended.

Such action could include protecting wells from contamination, finding an alternative safe water supply or installing a treatment device.

Health effects of nitrate

The primary health concern associated with nitrate exposure is methaemoglobinaemia, or blue-baby syndrome. Nitrate is converted to nitrite in the stomach and absorbed into the bloodstream where it interferes with the ability of hemoglobin in red blood cells to carry oxygen. Symptoms of methaemoglobinaemia include cyanosis (bluish discolouration of the skin and mouth), shortness of breath and fatigue. Most cases occur in infants under one year of age. Infants less than three months of age are particularly susceptible.

Water high in nitrate should not be used to prepare infant formula and should not be given to infants to drink. As nitrate may be present in breast milk or transported through the placenta, nursing mothers and pregnant women should also avoid drinking water high in nitrate.

Evidence of other health problems associated with drinking well water with high levels of nitrate or nitrite over a lifetime is inconclusive. Some studies suggest a possible association with stomach cancer, whereas others do not. Overall, evidence of associations with cancer, birth defects and other health effects is insufficient to be able to draw firm conclusions.

How nitrate gets into well water

Nitrate in Manitoba well water tends to be found in groundwaters from shallow wells in rural or agricultural areas. Nitrate moves faster through light, sandy soils than through clay soils. Heavy rains and flooding can increase nitrate levels in well water. Shallow wells are more susceptible than wells drilled into deeper aquifers. Wells drilled into deeper aquifers rarely have a nitrate problem.

Nitrate in Manitoba well water

Manitoba Sustainable Development evaluated the results of groundwater samples collected through a number of regional groundwater quality surveys and its provincial observation well sampling program. A map of the distribution of nitrate in groundwater samples is available online at <http://www.manitoba.ca/sd/water/drinking-water/well-videos/index.html>.

Approximately 16 per cent of the water supply wells sampled in rural Manitoba had nitrate levels above the drinking water standard of 45 mg/L (10 mg/L nitrate- nitrogen). Concentrations more than ten times the Provincial standard have been measured in very poor water sources.

Because high nitrate levels tend to be associated with localized nitrate sources, and shallow or poorly constructed wells, rather than particular aquifers or geologic formations, it is difficult to pinpoint specific areas of the Province that are likely to have nitrate problems. In addition, nitrate levels may change over time, varying with both the season and the weather.

Recommendations for testing well water

Private well owners are responsible for testing and, if necessary, treating their water to ensure it is safe to drink. Well water should be tested for nitrate if:

- someone who drinks the water is pregnant, nursing or planning a pregnancy
- there is an infant or toddler less than a year old drinking the water
- sources of nitrate are present in the area or the area is known to have elevated nitrate levels
- the well is old, shallow or poorly constructed
- contamination of the groundwater is suspected

Wells should be retested every three to five years or whenever there is a change in the taste, smell, colour or clarity of the well water, or if there is a reason to believe the water quality has changed. In

areas where nitrate is a concern, well owners should consider testing for nitrate more often. If nitrate is at or near guidelines levels, well owners should consider testing at different times of year to get a better understanding of seasonal variability.

Public (municipal) water systems that use well water are tested regularly by the water system owner or by the Office of Drinking Water as required under *The Drinking Water Safety Act*.

How to test well water for nitrate

Nitrate does not create a taste or odour in water. The only way to know if well water contains nitrate is to have a water sample tested by a laboratory accredited by the Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation (CALA). Information on accredited laboratories is available from your local telephone directory yellow pages (refer to Laboratories - Testing).

Three accredited laboratories in Manitoba test for nitrate:

ALS Environmental

12-1329 Niakwa Road E.
Winnipeg, MB R2J 3T4
Phone: 204-255-9720
Toll Free: 1-800-607-7555
Fax: 204-255-9721

Horizon Lab Ltd.

4055 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3K 2E8
Phone: 204-488-2035
Fax: 204-488-4772

Bureau Veritas Canada Inc.

Unit D, 675 Berry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3H 1A7
Phone: 204-772-7276
Fax: 204-772-2386

Test costs will vary from year to year, and well owners should contact the laboratories directly for an estimate.

Well owners should use the bottle(s) provided by the laboratory and should collect samples carefully, following the instructions provided.

What to do if nitrate is found in your well water

If the nitrate level in the well water is above the drinking water standard, private well owners should consider how they are using this water and may wish to contact their local public health office or discuss health risks with their doctor, who can consult their regional medical officer of health for more information.

The presence of nitrate in your well water is often an indicator that your well is impacted by surface water, and possibly human or animal waste. The following steps are recommended:

1. Find another safe source of drinking water. Do not use the well water for preparing infant formula. Bottled water can be used until a long-term safe water supply is identified (see Step 6). Nitrate does not pose a risk when the water is used for washing or bathing.
2. Test the well for bacteria. Nitrate is an indicator of potential contamination from human or animal waste, and bacteria may be present as well.
3. Re-test the well water for nitrate. Nitrate levels can change.
4. Inspect the well. Wells should be constructed and maintained to minimize the risk of contamination. Ensure the well has a secure, watertight cap/lid and that the ground slopes away from the well.
5. Remove or reduce sources of nitrate if present:
 - Avoid over-application of fertilizers.
 - Do not apply fertilizers near the well.
 - Have your septic system inspected and repaired, if required.
 - Ensure manure or other animal or plant waste materials are not stored or applied near the well.

6. Consider options for ensuring a long-term safe water supply, such as:
 - hooking up to a public (municipal) piped water system if one is available in the area
 - installing a water cistern and arranging for the delivery of safe drinking water by a water hauler
 - drilling a new well at a different location or to a different depth. This may or may not solve a nitrate problem. Manitoba Water Stewardship can be consulted for advice.
 - using commercially bottled water from a supplier who is a member of the Canadian Bottled Water Association or International Bottled Water Association
 - treating the well water

Treating well water

Common treatment systems like water softeners, carbon filters and sediment filters cannot properly remove nitrate from drinking water. Boiling will only concentrate the nitrate, it will not remove it.

Water treatment methods that can remove nitrate from drinking water include reverse osmosis, distillation, anion exchange units and special filters. A treatment device may be installed at the kitchen faucet (point-of-use) or where the water enters the home (point-of-entry).

The treatment device should be certified to meet the NSF International (NSF)/American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard for removal of nitrate. Accredited certification organizations include NSF, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Underwriters Laboratories Incorporated (UL), the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), and the Water Quality Association (WQA). Certified devices are tested to ensure the safety of the materials used in the devices and to ensure they perform as claimed.

Quotes should be obtained from reputable water treatment equipment suppliers. The supplier should provide information on how much nitrate will be removed, maintenance requirements and costs.

Once installed, manufacturer's instructions on the use and maintenance of treatment devices and disposal of filter media should be followed. The well water and treated drinking water should be tested annually for nitrate to confirm that the treatment system is working properly.

For more information

For more information on nitrate, refer to Health Canada's website at www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/guidelines-canadian-drinking-water-quality-guideline-technical-document-nitrate-nitrite.html.

For more information on well construction or on relocating your well, contact Manitoba Sustainable Development's Groundwater Management Section at 204-945-6959.

For more information on water treatment, contact Manitoba Sustainable Development's Office of Drinking Water at 204-945-5762, or refer to the website at http://www.manitoba.ca/sd/pubs/water/drinking_water/odw_contact.pdf for a local office near you.

For information on certification of water treatment devices visit www.nsf.org.

For health related questions on nitrate, call Health Links/Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll free at 1-888-315-9257 or your local public health office.

From: [Court Seeds](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: TRC 12-083 and TRC 12-084
Date: May 4, 2021 8:05:41 AM

Re: TRC 12-083 and TRC 12-083

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee.

Upon reviewing the 2 applications, we believe that Topigs Norswin proposal meets all requirements concerning us and the community, regarding environment and social impacts. Therefore we support the development.

Randy Court
President

Court Seeds Ltd.
Plumas, MB

Jackey Kreutzer

Plumas, MB

Technical Review Coordination Unit
Municipal Relations
604—800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB
R3G 0N4

RE: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 - TRC 12-083 Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 -
TRC 12-084

I strongly oppose the building of Topigs hog facilities in areas NW 1/4 25-17-12 WPM
And NW 1/4 16-17-11 WPM in the Rural Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone.

For a rural community we have many farm yards in the area. Many of our children are choosing to stay on the family farm and continue farming on farms that their family has had for generations. Having a hog facility so near by would deter them from this. If you take a drive in rural areas in the prairies you would see many places where nobody lives. There is no need to put a hog barn in a populated area. The obnoxious odours from these barns ruin the ability to enjoy our yards and the outdoors with family and friends. This would contribute to young families who have chosen to stay to leave. Not being able to be outdoors would impact everyones mental health.

The impact of these operations raise many health concerns. Studies show emissions of toxins released in the air from these operations have lead to respiratory issues, head aches, depression among many others.

I strongly believe our Provincial Government is failing rural communities. More regulations need to be in place regarding hog barns. The ability to put these operations near bodies of water is a great concern and the fact that they are allowed to put manure on the surface of fields when there is always the potential for run off in spring and heavy rains in summer is completely appalling. The contamination of wells, dugouts, marshes, and Lakes is unacceptable. The water in this area runs to the Big Grass Marsh and then into Lake Manitoba. This would greatly effect the birds, fish, and other wildlife in the area.

I sincerely hope you take the letters and concerns of this community seriously. This will impact our lives for years to come.

Jackey Kreutzer

May 4, 2021

Technical Review Coordination Unit
Municipal Relations
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

RE: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 (One) – (TRC 12-083)
Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 (Two) – (TRC 12-084)

Please accept this letter as my formal objection to the aforementioned proposal by Topigs Norsvin, to build industrialized sized pig barns at NW ¼ 25-17-12 WPM in the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone (Site 1) and NW ¼ 16-17-11 WPM (Site 2). We are located at SW 33-17-11 WPM which is located 3 miles east of Site 1 and 2 ½ miles north of Site 2. We have major concerns about the proposed operation, including, but not limited to:

- 1) Odor – Our family recently happened to be driving by a swine operation elsewhere in the province, while the process of removing dead animals was underway. There were three large dumpsters full of dead animals. We are now wondering if this was connected to the swine flu cases recently reported in the province. The sights and smells were nothing short of overwhelming. You could clearly see the pigs overflowing out of the bins. I don't think children nor adults would want to drive by that regularly. It is my understanding that the lagoons are going to be open. The smell of the manure will be atrocious. We have members in our family living with medical conditions, which at times already force them to remain indoors. Having a large swine production in our area will greatly enhance the chances of air pollutants and will increase the likelihood that family members won't be able to spend time outdoors. This would be most damaging to a child especially. Imagine living on a farm where they can't be outdoors playing sports, riding their bikes, playing with their pets, hiking in the trees, swimming, sledding, and helping in the garden. Our family made a choice several years ago to remain living in this area and have been in the process of converting our farm to a more sustainable environment. We have already invested a considerable amount of our resources into this process. We have been able to move from a period of time where frequent emergency room visits, hospital stays, and medical appointments were frequent and have now been able to significantly reduce those medical incidents. The proposed barns could threaten to diminish or destroy what we have worked so diligently to create.

- 2) Water – Where will the water supply for this operation come from? At times we already have very little water pressure for our residence, and I am concerned that if they tap into the municipal water line, we may have little or no water at all.
- 3) Traffic – With the addition of these barns it will bring large trucks to our area causing dust, noise, and road damage, among others. Many of the farmers use these roads for moving large machines, especially in the spring, summer, and fall. The road to Site 1 is also a bus route. Heavy trucks cause major damage to roads such as ruts and washboard, causing excess wear and tear, or loss of control of our vehicles, potentially causing accidents.
- 4) Roadways – Many of these roads are too narrow for two vehicles to meet and pass each other, one or both vehicles must already drive partially in the ditch. Roads would have to be widened. In speaking with current or previous municipal personnel, it is my understanding that widening these roads can become very costly, with the possibility of the following costs being as high as: Gravel costs alone can run up to \$10,000/mile. Widening a road can cost around \$40,000/mile. Some of the roads leading to the barns pass through some very saline like soils. These roads are very difficult to maintain, and when they get wet, are very slick and greasy. To fix these roadways properly, costs could run up to \$250,000/mile. There is approximately 5 miles of road that would have to be fixed between Sites 1 and 2. Where will the funds come from to cover the cost of these road enhancements and maintenance? The improvements will have to be made prior to construction of the barn starting. Will taxpayers be expected to cover these costs?
- 5) Shelterbelts – It is my understanding they are planning to plant trees on these sites. I highly recommend that they not plant close to the roads causing blind intersections or in places where the result is winter snow build up on the roads. This becomes a major problem for us. Road 101, which leads to Site 1, is the main road to our residence, and detour options are few. We have members of our family that live with life threatening medical conditions. We need these roads to be clear and drivable in case we have a medical emergency, whether it is to get to a hospital or call in an ambulance.
- 6) Environmental – Site 1 is 2 ½ miles west of the Grass River and Site 2 is 1 mile west of Jackfish Lake. Any kind of runoff will automatically start flowing east to the river. The Grass River flows to Jackfish Lake then eventually to Lake Manitoba. Any kind of runoff in this area will all lead to Jackfish Lake. This will cause major pollution for many of the species that call Jackfish Lake their home. My family at one time owned the land where Site 2 is to be built. In 1993 we had to wait for the ground to freeze to harvest our

barley crop. In the middle of the field there were two big dirt mounds. On closer inspection it turned out to be two muskrat houses. There was so much water that the muskrats moved in and found a new home. In the late 80's or early 90's Ducks Unlimited purposed to buy some of the land that was close to the marsh and was prone to flooding. The land at Site 2 NW 16-17-11W was one of the quarters they were proposing to buy. If manure is pumped to the fields, they will be running pipe through the ditches. These pipes in time will start leaking and manure will be seeping out into the ditches, eventually all leading to Jackfish Lake. This lake is part of the Big Grass Marsh, a ground breaking and long standing wetlands conservation project in North America, restored in the 1930's.

- 7) Perception of Conflict of Interest – There is a perception in our community of a conflict of interest in this matter, which needs to be clarified.

We have considered this project from another perspective, that is, what will it bring to our community? In an area that already seems short of skilled farm labourers, how will this company fill the positions available in this operation? If these jobs are filled with people outside our communities, how will this help our economy? Will the company look for families with young children who are willing to settle long term in our community? How has this company shown considerations for the environment in their other operations? Have they been successful with other environmental guidelines and initiatives? Have they ever been fined or penalized for environmental breaches? If so, what are those breaches and how did the company respond? How have they contributed to the communities in which they operate?

Many of the farms in this area are 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generation farmers, most of them are against the operation. We are the people that have to live and work in the area where the barns are to be located.

While we think it is easy to ask the local landowners and community to show why the operation shouldn't go ahead, it may be more useful as a first step to put the onus on our leadership, to show why it should. What, if any, are the actual benefits, who will actually realize these benefits, and with full disclosure, how are others going to be affected?

Sincerely,

Jason Schmidt

PLUMAS GAME & FISH ASSOCIATION
PLUMAS MB

Technical Review Coordinations Unit
Municipal Relations
604-800 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg MB
R3G ON4

Plumas Game & Fish Association wishes to oppose establishment of Pig Barn operation
Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site1 TRC 12-083
Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 TRC 12-084

Plumas Game & Fish Association is a non-profit organization that does volunteer work of wildlife, habitat, migratory and game bird, and local fisheries. Proposed site locations are near the Big Grass River and Big Grass Marsh ,which is a game bird refuge.

Topigs is not required to have covers on lagoons and not required to incorporate manure into the ground. Both of those concerns will have negative effects on fish , wildlife and marsh ecosystem. Also nitrogen emissions from lagoon into atmosphere will be substantial.

Plumas Game & fish Association strongly opposes both build sites.

Darin Walker President
Plumas Game & Fish Association

From: [Janice McLaughlin](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: TRC 12-083 and TRC 12-084
Date: May 4, 2021 12:12:58 PM

I am communicating to strongly oppose the proposed hog farm operations (TRC 12-083 and TRC 12-084) planned for the western watershed area of Lake Manitoba. One of these proposed operations is only 220 meters from the Grass River which flows into Grass Marsh which drains into Lake Manitoba.

Please do the right thing and do not let these hog farm operations go ahead. The possible unfortunate outcomes are too great! Lake Manitoba already suffers from the operation of the Portage Diversion.

Lake Manitoba Matters! Don't let us down.

Sincerely,

J McLaughlin

From: [bameikle](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: TRC12_083&TR-C12-084
Date: May 4, 2021 2:05:15 PM

I am very concerned about the proposed hog farms harming Lake Manitoba. We already have enough pollution in our lake from the diversion and have had enough destruction. Please locate the hog farms away from our lake.

Brenda Meikle
Cottage owner Delta Beach

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Randy and Janet Painter](#)
To: [Malinowski, Don \(MR\)](#)
Subject: re: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2
Date: May 4, 2021 2:06:37 PM

Hello,

My name is Janet Painter and I live in Portage la Prairie. I also have a seasonal cottage at Delta Beach on Lake Manitoba.

I read today of a proposed establishment of a hog facility, Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 (Two) and I have many concerns about this.

I did read what information I could see on the MB Government website.

These are a few of my concerns:

I understand there is no manure storage coverage. If so, this is dangerous because birds heading to the lake can land around the area and possibly transmit viruses to their lake area.

I am not a biologist but did hear this from a biologist friend at Delta. Hog facilities should not be close to lakes with nesting birds.

Is this an earthen storage area? If so, I did see any sea level measurements given. Forward thinking municipalities do not allow manure storage at or below certain sea levels.

This should be a provincial requirement if it isn't already.

From what I see, the proposal listed the proposed facility as being in the Red River flood plain. The proposed facility would not directly affect the Red River flood plain as that is not the area it is in.

https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/floodoutlook/forecast_centre/maps/drainage/maj_dr_area_b.jpg

Any heavy rains or 100 year events (think 2011) affect many areas, including Lake Manitoba drainage area and Assiniboine drainage area (which, thanks to the floodway affects Lake Manitoba), not just the Red River area.

Janet Painter

Portage la Prairie MB

From: [Laura Meikle-Sokolosky](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: TRC 12-083 & TRC 12-084
Date: May 4, 2021 2:34:47 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

As property owners on Lake Manitoba,
we wish to express our concern and opposition to the proposed hog farm operations which are planned for the western watershed area of Lake Manitoba. We believe this will have a detrimental effect on the flora and fauna living in and around the lake.

With the lake finally improving from the aftermath of the flood in 2011, it is not right to then create more damage. Let the water, wildlife, people, and the land heal and thrive. Please do not allow this pollution.

Thank you,

Laura Meikle & Jamie Sokolosky

Darrin Bulas

Plumas, MB

May 4, 2021

Technical Review Co-ordination Unit
Municipal Relations
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4
TRC@gov.mb.ca

Re: TRC 12-083 and TRC 12-084

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed establishment of two pig operations in my community: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 (TRC 12-083) and Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 (TRC 12-084). I am definitely **not** in favour of these pig operations going ahead as planned.

Both sites connecting to our rural water pipeline is a concern when we can't get enough water volume at our place already. For example, when our washing machine is filling I can barely rinse my toothbrush. For our small herd of 40 cows we have an elaborate water system set up so the rural water pipeline only supplies the cattle water cistern from 12 am to 6 am. It takes all that time flowing to provide 40 cows water for their daily supply. I can't imagine the problems that would be caused by having 2 hog operations drawing water from this pipeline.

Both sites have such greasy, saline, clay soil that a huge amount of gravel would be needed. Between building up the roads to these sites with gravel and the gravel needed on site, all the local gravel pits would be depleted resulting in higher future gravel prices for the local area.

Both sites are too close to existing farm yards and the smell would be unbearable. Also, increased truck traffic and dusty roads are undesirable and unsafe.

With Site 1, there is a widespread belief in the community that there is a conflict of interest.

Site 2 is too close to the Big Grass Marsh. In wet years, the marsh can back up to within 100 metres of Site 2. The land is very flat there. The water table would be about 2 inches below the working area in Site 2 resulting in miserable muddy working conditions for the employees.

The soil at Site 2 is so saline that trees and lawn grass will not grow. The soil at Site 1 also has the same problem to a lesser degree. The salinity is due to excess magnesium, manganese and calcium.

If these operations were to go ahead, both sites must have totally enclosed manure storage to prevent nutrients from leaching into the ground water or escaping to the Big Grass Marsh that filters Lake Manitoba. The manure storage must be covered to reduce smell and nitrous oxide, which is a greenhouse gas, from getting into the atmosphere. All manure must be deep injected into deep bands in the soil at rates no higher than the crop can use.

A \$2 million bond per operation must be given to the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone to hold in case of Topigs Norsvin insolvency so that money can be used to clean up any environmental mess.

Thank you for taking the time to read about my concerns.

Sincerely, Darrin Bulas

From: [Ryan Lee](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: TRC 12-083 and TRC 12-084
Date: May 4, 2021 2:44:42 PM

I strongly oppose and very concerned.

Ryan Lee

Christina Bulas
Plumas, MB

May 4, 2021

Technical Review Co-ordination Unit
Municipal Relations
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4
TRC@gov.mb.ca

Re: TRC 12-083 and TRC 12-084

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed establishment of two pig operations in my neighborhood: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 (TRC 12-083) and Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 (TRC 12-084). I am definitely **not** in favour of these pig operations going ahead as planned.

Both of the proposed pig operations would be connecting to our rural water supply. This is a huge concern. The water pressure at our yard is already low, and is sure to get worse if these pig operations are drawing a large amount of water. We spent a lot of money to have the rural water supply connected to our yard, and I would be very disappointed if our water service was negatively affected. Furthermore, I can foresee the pig operations having water supply issues as well if they are using the rural water. We have to run the water all night long to fill a cistern to supply our 40 head of cattle with enough water for the day. We do not have enough water volume coming through the water line for the water to go directly to the cattle. I don't see how these large pig operations would ever have sufficient water available.

Another concern I have is that the proposed pig operations are too close to existing farmyards, including our own. We do not want the smell or the increase in traffic and dust on our road. The increase in large trucks on our road would definitely be a safety concern when walking or riding bikes on the road.

Both sites have such greasy, saline, clay soil that a huge amount of gravel would be needed. Between building up the roads to these sites with gravel and the gravel needed on site, all the local gravel pits would be depleted resulting in higher future gravel prices for the local area.

With Site 1, there is a widespread perception in the community that there is a conflict of interest.

Site 2 is too close to the Big Grass Marsh. In wet years, the marsh can back up to within 100 metres of Site 2. The land is very flat there. The water table would be about 2 inches below the working area in Site 2 resulting in miserable muddy working conditions for the employees.

The soil at Site 2 is so saline that trees and lawn grass will not grow. The soil at Site 1 also has the same problem to a lesser degree. The salinity is due to excess magnesium, manganese and calcium.

If these operations were to go ahead, both sites must have totally enclosed manure storage to prevent nutrients from leaching into the ground water or escaping to the Big Grass Marsh that filters Lake Manitoba. The manure storage must be covered to reduce smell and nitrous oxide, which is a greenhouse gas, from getting into the atmosphere. All manure must be deep injected into deep bands in the soil at rates no higher than the crop can use.

A \$2 million bond per operation must be given to the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone to hold in case of Topigs Norsvin insolvency so that money can be used to clean up any environmental mess.

Thank you for taking the time to read about my concerns.

Sincerely,

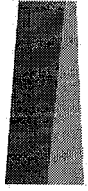
Christina Bulas

From: [Deanne Foster](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: TRC 12-083 and TRC 12-084
Date: May 4, 2021 3:08:25 PM

I am very opposed and concerned about this proposed proposed pig operation.

Sincerely,

Deanne Foster



Myers LLP
Barristers & Solicitors

May 4, 2021

Reply to: Michael Gerstein
File No.: 39156-069

Technical Review Co-ordination Unit
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB
R3G 0N4

By email: TRC@gov.mb.ca

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Re: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Sites 1 and 2, TRC-12-083 and TRC-12-084

We act as legal counsel to Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation ("SBOFN") in connection with the proposed expansion/development of the Topigs Norsvin hog operation in Westlake-Gladstone (the "Project"). We take this opportunity to provide the Committee SBOFN's comments on the Project. For the reasons that follow, SBOFN opposes the Project and says that the proposal fails to adequately respect and/or interferes with SBOFN's constitutionally enshrined Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.

We hope that this comment period is the first of many opportunities for SBOFN to provide meaningful input on the Project to ensure that the potential environmental, social, economic, cultural, historical, and Aboriginal and Treaty impacts are understood by all parties.

The Project is located on Treaty 1 land approximately 25 km from SBOFN and within SBOFN's traditional territory. For time immemorial, SBOFN members have exercised their Aboriginal and Treaty rights to hunt, fish and harvest in the area and specifically in close proximity to the Project site. As explained further below, SBOFN has serious concerns about the Project's potential effects to the area's natural resources, environment and to the traditional uses of lands which remain sacred to SBOFN and its members.

To date, there has been no consultation with SBOFN regarding the Project and the foreseeable impacts and adverse consequences it may have on the exercise of

Aboriginal and Treaty rights. We therefore take this opportunity to urge Manitoba, with participation from Topigs Norsvin (the "Proponent"), to engage in good faith and comprehensive consultation with SBOFN. We can advise that Chief and Council are prepared to begin consultations immediately within the limitations we are currently operating under caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

We stress, however, that this correspondence and the comments contained in it do not constitute consent or agreement to the Project and this letter is not, and is not to be considered to be, consultation with SBOFN.

We have had an opportunity to review the Project proposal and supporting documents provided by the Proponent that were posted on the Livestock Technical Review public registry. What is evident from reviewing the proposal is the absence of any consideration of the impact of the Project upon constitutionally protected Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

At present, SBOFN says the failure to consider the potential effects on constitutionally protected rights and the failure to provide meaningful and robust accommodation and mitigation of foreseeable harm seriously undermines the Proponent's proposal.

Turning to the specific concerns of SBOFN, we note that the Proponent has failed to advise of the anticipated adverse effects on the surrounding area and how they intend to mitigate those effects. Accordingly, in the absence of that essential relevant information, SBOFN is unable to appropriately determine the extent to which the Project will impact its community. We request that the Proponent provide a more fulsome application which addresses these effects.

With respect to hunting, SBOFN has for time immemorial hunted on the lands near and adjacent to the site of the Project. The Project would amount to a significant expansion of the hog farming operation both in terms of infrastructure and the number of animals produced. The Proposal, however, does not meaningfully or adequately address what effect such a change would have upon the surrounding environment and the wildlife.

Given the anticipated significant increase in noise, smell and traffic associated with the Project, SBOFN has serious and reasonable concerns that the area's wildlife will be adversely affected by these changes which will result in reduced or diminished game to hunt.

These concerns were not addressed by the document purporting to be a "Conservation Data Centre Report". This "report" is merely an email from Mr. Colin Murray of Agricultural and Resource Development which states that Manitoba is unaware of rare

or endangered species in the relevant area. Further, this email explicitly states that **"An absence of data does not confirm the absence of any rare or endangered species"** (emphasis original to email). SBOFN, therefore, says that further investigation is required into what effect the massive hog operation may have on its members' constitutionally protected rights. The Proponent has not addressed this potential adverse effect in their Proposal. SBOFN says it is incumbent on the Proponent to provide an assessment of the said potential adverse effects in advance of the Project proceeding.

SBOFN also has significant concerns about water quality degradation adversely effecting their members' rights and ability to fish. As outlined in the Proponent's documents, the Project will require a significant increase in the amount of water used to sustain the animals. While the proposal provides some information relating to water management, the proposal does not adequately address the potential risk of runoff or other contaminants reaching the ground water or the numerous rivers and lakes which SBOFN members have relied on historically and continue to rely on today.

Respectfully, the Proposal and supporting documentation put forward by the Proponent appear to focus entirely on the operation of the livestock operation and do not adequately assess the potential regional and cumulative effects associated with the Project. SBOFN therefore says that prior to Conditional Use being granted, the Proponent must adequately assess project effects and determine how adverse environmental effects will be mitigated.

Presently, owing to the paucity of relevant and necessary information provided by the Proponent, SBOFN is unable to meaningfully assess this matter. We welcome further information which will allow SBOFN to conduct a more comprehensive and robust analysis, thereby allowing our client to provide further, more detailed comments.

As a result of the foregoing, SBOFN says that the Proponent has failed to satisfy section 106(1)(b) of *The Planning Act* which requires that conditional use must not be detrimental to the health or general welfare of people living or working in the surrounding area, or negatively affect other properties or potential development in the surrounding area. SBOFN says there is a high likelihood that the Project will adversely affect their members' Aboriginal and Treaty rights, which would be clearly detrimental to the general welfare of the members of SBOFN. The Proponent's failure to address these issues requires further study, consultation and accommodation of SBOFN.

There is a long history of development in the Province of Manitoba that has been to the detriment of First Nations communities. Often development occurs despite clear

and unequivocal warnings from First Nation communities of the potential harms to the environment and First Nation way of life. We strongly encourage this committee to give effect to our clients' warnings and require the Proponent to satisfy *The Planning Act* requirements and assure SBOFN, and the region, that the Project will not cause lasting and irreversible damage to our client's most precious rights and natural resources.

Moving forward, SBOFN welcomes further information from the Proponent with respect to the potential adverse effects of the Project and the required mitigation strategies. SBOFN is not seeking to prevent development in the region, rather SBOFN is committed to ensuring that development in the region is done in a lawful and responsible manner consistent with the Province's duties to protect and uphold SBOFN's Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.

Moreover, SBOFN says that prior to the Project advancing any further, meaningful good faith consultation must occur. We encourage both the Province and the Proponent to contact us upon receipt of the letter to begin planning a proper consultation process.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and look forward to discussing the Project with Manitoba and Topigs in the near future.

Thank you

MYERS LLP

Per:



MICHAEL T. GERSTEIN

MTG/as

Cc: Chief Trevor Prince
Indigenous Services Canada



To Whom It May Concern:

It has recently come to our attention that there is a proposed development of two hog barn sites in the Rural Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone by Topigs Norsvin Canada. This proposed development is in close proximity to the Big Grass Marsh and Langruth Important Bird and Biodiversity Area.

Big Grass Marsh and Langruth Important Bird and Biodiversity Area is Globally Significant for a huge diversity of birds including, shorebirds, waterfowl, and songbirds. Birds that rely on this area as migratory staging grounds and as nesting and breeding habitat number in the tens of thousands, as is mentioned on the [Rural Municipality's Website](#).

As you know, the Big Grass Marsh is an important part of the Lake Manitoba watershed. Lake Manitoba has several Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas located on its shores, including the nearby [Sandy Bay Marshes](#), [Kinosota/Leifur](#), and [Delta Marsh](#).

Water quality issues caused by increased nutrient concentrations in water bodies can have negative impacts upon waterbirds and their habitat (Murphy et al. 2000; Espelund & Klavness, 2014). Should high concentrations of nutrients enter the waterbodies surrounding the proposed development, this could have adverse effects on water quality in the Big Grass Marsh Important Bird and Biodiversity Area and Lake Manitoba, affecting several other Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. This could lead to a significant increase in mortality in waterbirds from botulism outbreaks or harmful algal blooms.

Birds are an important part of our lives and waterbirds specifically provide a number of ecosystem services that have direct and in-direct benefits to humans, such as controlling pests (including predation of invasive zebra mussels), cycling nutrients and providing cultural services such as recreation and meat harvest (Green & Elmberg, 2014).

We are confident that all legal requirements will be fulfilled and precautions taken to prevent nutrients entering Big Grass Marsh Important Bird and Biodiversity Area and Lake Manitoba. However, we want to emphasize the importance of this area to a vast number and diversity of birds and the potential significant negative impacts to thousands of birds should water quality be degraded in the Big Grass Marsh Important Bird and Biodiversity Area and Lake Manitoba. We would encourage all parties involved to take all precautions available to eliminate all risks that could degrade the habitat in in this globally important area for birds.

Thank you,

Ian Cook P. Ag
Grassland Conservation Manager
Birds Canada
Minnedosa, MB

National Headquarters/Administration Centrale

From: [Kathryn McLaughlin](#)
To: [Malinowski, Don \(MR\)](#); [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: Topigs - TRC 12-083 & TRC 12-084
Date: May 4, 2021 4:31:23 PM

Technical Review Coordination Unit
Municipal Relations,
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

Re: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 (One) - (TRC 12-083)
Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 2 (Two) - (TRC 12-084)

Attn: Mr Don Malinowski

This is our request to deny the proposal by Topigs Norsvin to build two industrialized sized pig barns at W1/2 of NW 1/4 25-17-12WPM and N 1/2 of NW 1/4 16-17-11 WPM in the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone. We are taxpayers and land owners of property at Twin Lakes Beach in the municipality of St. Laurent.

In order to maximize their profits, Topigs is committing to the lowest level of risk management with respect to their application, instead of investing in business practices that would minimize the impact to the community in which they want to operate. Hence no manure storage cover or construction of a primary and secondary lagoon, just a shelter belt. There are a number of different storage cover options available; all of which decrease odour and toxic air emissions, but their proposed plan does not include a cover for their earthen manure storage (i.e., lagoon) and their injection/application method of manure containing live pathogens like PED and antibiotic resistant bacteria is an environmental and health issue concern for everyone.

High levels of antibiotics are fed to the pigs to keep them healthy in their confined quarters to prevent disease, and this practise will see high levels of antibiotics flushed into the surrounding fields creating the perfect environment for multi disease resistant bacteria and the development of untreatable diseases in humans and other livestock. It's unbelievable to think that 80% of all antibiotics in Canada are used on farms, and that the resulting pathogens from Topigs manure will leech down through the soil and find its way into the Grass River, which is located only 1.75 miles east from the Site 1 proposed barn site and just 212 meters from the Site 2.

From the Grass River, the water flows onwards into the Grass Marsh, 12,400 acres of designated protected wildlife reserve for migratory birds. It is home to thousands of ducks, geese, gulls, Sandhill Cranes and also the decreasing population of the Bank

Swallow and the Bobolink. In Canada, the Bobolink, its nest and eggs are protected under the migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994.

From the Grass Marsh, the water flows into Lake Manitoba, from which Sandy Bay First Nations people get their drinking water. As you can see, this problem is far reaching and peoples' lives have to be taken into consideration. Water is our most precious resource. We don't want to see the fishing industry and beaches of Lake Manitoba destroyed by green algae blooms in a few years!

An article provided by World Animal Protection dated April 7, 2021 discusses a new report that finds waterways near industrial farms in Canada could be a public health threat. It states that these waterways contain "antibiotic resistance genes that are dangerous to public health. ARGs should be of concern because they are the building blocks for "superbugs". That means those antibiotics will be ineffective in treating infections in humans".

- <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/a-new-report-finds-waterways-near-industrial-farms-in-canada-could-be-a-public-health-threat-844408743.html>).

Topigs is an international company, based out of the Netherlands. The legislation for hog barns in the Netherlands is far superior to those in Canada, so the company is reaching out to countries that have weaker environmental legislation, which helps them reduce costs and increase profits. In the Netherlands, they cannot use antibiotic growth hormones, their lagoons are covered and they use what is called air scrubbers/washers to help cleanse the air. Not only that, but they have legislation in place regarding stench circles which prevents these type of barns from being built in an area if there are existing homes/residences that reside within the defined parameters. There are 7 family farms within a 3 km radius of these proposed industrial barns.

As it is proposed, in this location and without appropriate environmental precautions, the Topigs industrial pig farms will cause damage to the health of the community, the air and water quality, the waterways, and ultimately, to the health of Lake Manitoba. We implore you and your committee to reject this application from Topigs.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Kathryn McLaughlin & Larry Harder

Twin Lakes Beach, St Laurent, MB

From: [keith koncz](#)
To: [+WPG139 - TRC \(MR\)](#)
Subject: Topigs Norsvin Nucleus Site 1 TRC-12-083 and Site 2 TRC-12-084
Date: May 4, 2021 11:31:48 PM

I am writing in regards to the establishment of a pig operation by Topigs Norsvin Nucleus site 1 (TRC-12-083) and site 2 (TRC-12-084)

I currently live in the municipality approximately 6 miles East of site 2. I do have several concerns/issues with these hog barn proposals.

1. Daily water consumption

This is a huge concern for me. Most residents that are on the municipal water line already experience low water pressure. What happens if there is a breakdown or water shortage. The Yellowhead Water Line currently comes from Portage and the Assiniboine River. The amount of water drawn along this river is increasing every year. What happens when we are in a drought cycle like we are in now? Where will our water be coming from?

2. Migratory Birds

The Big Grass Marsh is well known for a stopping point for fall migratory birds. With development close to the area, how will this affect them?

3. Soil Salinity

Site 2 is well known to be very acidic. The northern end can't even grow grass, how are you going to establish trees for your shelter belt.

3. Fire Protection

I have been on your local fire department for the last 20+ years. Every year, spring and fall, we constantly deal with fire calls coming from the marsh which we usually can't control. Site 2 is only 1/2 mile from the edge of the marsh. We are also limited with water. If a fire where to occur, the likelihood of saving the building would be impossible. Water would have to be trucked in. Also depending on the time of year, neighbouring crops could catch on and spread like a wild fire.

4. Bond

Is the company willing to put up a 2 million dollar bond in a case of emergency. As a taxpayer, I don't want to be on the hook for repairs for their negligence.

Keith Koncz

Sent from my iPhone