

James C Larew

to wateruse@dnr.iowa.gov

I have reviewed facts related to the original permit issued to Supreme Beef, LLC, to withdraw water to support its planned-expansion of its cattle feeding operation. This operation is located on vulnerable land from which contaminated soils will adversely affect natural water sources used by many thousands of persons and businesses whose livelihoods depend on access to a healthy water supply.

At one time, such natural water supplies were a unique characteristic of the northeast area of our state. Today, the uniqueness of those water resources are severely, if not permanently, challenged.

It was clearly a mistake for DNR to have issued an initial permit based on misinformation presented to the agency by the owners / operators of the planned Supreme Beef, LLC, operation.

Now that more facts are understood and, now, that the planned scope of the operation has significantly expanded since its original permit was issued, it is clear that the operation poses dangers to the public's interest in have access to clean water. This increasingly-intensive cattle-feeding operation's resulting manures and wastes will exceed that ability of surrounding fragile soils and landforms to process them.

Harmful and long-lasting impacts will be imposed upon citizens who, even those living distantly from the site, depend for access to clean water on the very aquifers that will be contaminated by this cattle-feeding operation.

With the decreasing quality of Iowa's water in recent years--at one time, such water was prized as one of the state's unique and prized natural resources--citizens are increasingly concerned as to whether the DNR has lost its way and whether it is failing to protect the public from known causes of this declining clean water resource.

Thoughtful opponents of the water withdrawal permit renewal submitted by Supreme Beef, LLC, will be presented to the agency in this proceeding.

The public interest will be damaged by any effort by DNR to accommodate the operation of this cattle feeding operation whose scope has markedly expanded since the original permit's issuance. If the credible evidence submitted to the DNR is carefully considered, surely the agency will decide to protect the public's interest in access to clean water by refusing to renew the water withdrawal permit.

James C. Larew

Larew Law Office

Office: 319.337.7079

Fax: 319.337.7082

504 E. Bloomington Street, Iowa City, IA. 52245

252 E. 3rd Street, Des Moines, IA. 50309

210 Cedar Street, Muscatine, IA 52761