

For Immediate Release: January 26, 2007
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ECCSCM Joins Lenawee Commissioners In Call for CAFO Moratorium

Hudson – Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan (ECCSCM) joined the Lenawee County Commissioners in calling for a moratorium on all new and expanding Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in Michigan, as well as:

- An **immediate** halt to new construction of CAFOs and CAFO lagoons in Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties.
- Mandatory groundwater permits for all CAFOs starting now.
- Mandatory monitoring wells around all new and existing CAFOs.
- A limit to the amount of untreated liquid manure and other CAFO waste applied in each watershed.
- Enforceable regulations and effective waste treatment of CAFO waste.

ECCSCM sent a letter today to legislators, MDEQ and MDA asking for an immediate moratorium in Hillsdale and Lenawee counties because of the threat to groundwater, the current contamination of our surface water and the pollution burden carried by this community and watershed from the 13 CAFOs, and their 50 lagoons with more than 134,000,000 gallon capacity of untreated waste.

“We need to proceed with more caution and not wait for children, the elderly and immune compromised individuals to become extremely sick from contaminated water as has happened in recent years in Walkerton Ontario and Milwaukee.” said Kathy Melmoth, R.N. a volunteer for ECCSCM.

The satellite lagoon recently built by Vreba Hoff Dairy in Medina Township also raised serious, immediate concerns. The lagoon is bordered on two sides by visible wetlands. Wetlands are areas which have high water tables and function as groundwater recharge areas. There are 19 homes with groundwater wells within a mile of this lagoon, and 8 homes within half a mile. There has been no testing on neighboring wells or groundwater by state agencies or local health departments to evaluate the water for possible contamination around CAFOs and CAFO lagoons.

ECCSCM supports vanguard, responsible agriculture, farms that looks ahead to the next generations, preserves biodiversity, raises animals in a healthy environment, does no harm to its neighbors, enhances the natural assets of living communities, and protects our natural resources -- air, soils, groundwater, stream, and lakes. More information available at www.nocafos.org