

TRIUMPH FOODS...

AND HOW IT WOULD AFFECT THE ENTIRE QUAD CITIES

After years of controversy in the Quad Cities over Triumph Foods wanting to build one of the world's largest hog slaughterhouses here on the Rock River, in a flood zone, the war wages on.

“Why?” you may ask, would any individual or group not want Triumph to come into the Quad Cities, especially when jobs are so desperately needed here. The answer, quite simply, is because the cumulative (and hidden) COSTS of allowing a company like Triumph to come into our area, would far outweigh the few hundred jobs it created...jobs that could just as easily be created by a company that improves the quality of life for the citizens of this community, not diminishes it.

Indeed, if Triumph Foods were allowed to come into the Quad Cities, which presently is a rich jewel sitting atop one of the most amazing rivers on the planet – a virtual water paradise for tourists and vacationers from all over the world – one day the good people of this community would look back, and in anger, demand to know who was responsible for bringing such a pox upon the land. And of course that would be us.

Quite simply, Triumph Foods is not wanted here because of all that it brings with it... as other American cities that acted too hastily where Triumph was concerned, could attest. The threat that is posed to the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the Quad Cities, as well as to the environment, as a result of the nature of Triumph's business – i.e., a slaughterhouse processing of an unbelievable 16,000 hogs per day – cannot be overstated.

Below are some examples of why the Quad Cities does NOT want to incur the COSTS of doing business with Triumph Foods, including the COSTS associated with a diminished quality of life and the poisoning of our water and air, which will affect all who live in the Quad Cities, not just those living on Barstow Road. Here they are:

Thousands of hogs being transported daily through the Quad Cities to be slaughtered;

Thousands of feet of underground pipe, carrying over 3 million gallons of animal waste daily through Illinois wetlands and residential areas to the East Moline sewer treatment facility;

244 semis coming and going through the Quad Cities daily, with thousands of hogs on board;

3.4 million gallons of animal waste generated daily, headed for the Mississippi River;

3.6 million gallons of water usage daily;

Triumph's hog plant will be within walking distance to Silvis Jr. High's new Northeast campus ready to open in August. Approximately 240 local students will be enrolled, and also subject to all of the pollution from the plant and the hundreds of semi-trucks driving by every day.

Millions of gallons of animal wastewater being discharged into the Mississippi River beside Campbell's Island, and just upstream from the newly-approved River Eagle project, as well as all of the cities in the surrounding area...this waste being in close proximity to our restaurants, schools, churches, businesses – including those that depend on tourism – places of federal, state and local government, libraries, shopping centers, grocery stores, movie theatre...the list is endless.

For years to come, this waste water will be traveling by all of the cities that comprise the Quad Cities ...all because of the outright greed and self-interest of a few.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT JOBS PEOPLE! THIS IS ABOUT HUGE PROFITS FOR THE MEGA-CORPORATIONS THAT ARE OVERTAKING THIS COUNTRY!

THE PROFITS ARE THEIRS; THE LOSSES ARE OURS! OPEN YOUR EYES!

There will be prolonged – and profound -- loss of property values. Homes won't sell. Children and the elderly with asthmatic problems won't be able to move or escape. Shallow wells in the area could be contaminated. And what do you suppose the air quality will be like from the semis rolling through day after day, to say nothing of the ammonia sulfide wafting up into the air from the plant? In a word, it will be intolerable.

There will also be just as large of a loss to the environment...the wildlife, the fish, and the wetlands. Hog waste is much harder than human waste to break down because of the fats and oils in swine. It will take an industrial sewer treatment facility to properly remove all of the waste from the wastewater. The East Moline treatment facility will not be able to do the job, certainly not in its present sorry state.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported in 2006, that 224 lakes, rivers, and streams as impaired, unfit for human use.

The DNR just released in 2011 that 572 lakes, rivers, and streams are now listed as impaired, unfit for human use.

19 million hogs or more are in Iowa making as much waste as half of the nation.

According the 2010 Draft Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List, Animal Feeding Operations are listed as one of the potential leading sources of lake and stream impairment in the state. Illinois has 3,265 miles of rivers impaired with fecal coliform.

You do the math.

With Triumph planning to slaughter nearly 6 million hogs per year, it is expected that additional and larger hog operations will need to be built in the region to effectively feed the increased demand. Right now, the State of Illinois is being heavily scrutinized by the federal government for failing to adequately regulate concentrated livestock operations under the Clean Water Act. An influx of new and larger hog facilities in Illinois is sure to cause even further water degradation.

Recently the Illinois State Water Survey released a draft FEMA study that found the site of Triumph Foods in a floodway. We have been saying this for years...but it has been falling on deaf ears. Indeed, if the proper environmental study had been done as was requested by hundreds and hundreds of concerned Quad Cities citizens that signed sworn affidavits in support of their demands, this would have been proven long ago.

Please join your Quad Cities WATERKEEPER

Together we can stop this threat to the health, safety, and well-being of every man, woman and child in the Quad Cities, and preserve our environment upon which all of us and the wildlife depend.

Quad Cities WATERKEEPER

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