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### **Miller Park Flushes Human Fecal Waste into the Menomonee River**

March 15, 2007 ,Green Bay, WI -The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported that, according to local sewerage officials, a sanitary sewer misconnection apparently is allowing untreated human waste to flow directly into the Menomonee River and downstream to Lake Michigan. It is unclear from initial tests if the misconnection occurred during construction of Miller Park 6 years ago or if the misconnection has existed since construction of the old County Stadium.

“Human waste discharges have been going on for decades. Statewide, in just the past 5 years, it has happened hundreds of times spilling onto the ground or into the water millions of gallons of raw or partially treated human waste. Many environmental organizations are quick to jump on dairy farmers, even if the discharge was out of the farmer’s control and the amount of the organic discharge is miniscule compared to municipal discharges. It is time for citizens and the environmental community to demand the municipalities to stop polluting,” said DBA Executive Director Laurie Fischer.

“Events like the discharge from Miller Park highlight the hypocrisy in the environmental community. If a Wisconsin dairy farmer had a discharge like Miller Park the environmental community would actively seek damages through DNR clean water rules and they would recommend the matter to be referred to the Attorney General for prosecution. Yet, they say nothing if the spill occurs in a city rather than in rural Wisconsin,” said DBA President John Vrieze.

Records show that when municipalities lack storage or have an equipment failure because of human failure or natural disaster, they are allowed to dump millions of gallons of untreated or partially treated human waste into bodies of the state waters and little if anything happens. “It seems in Wisconsin, the public, the environmentalists, the press and the state have a double standard. This double standard seems to be that it’s tolerable for municipalities to regularly dump ammonia, arsenic, lead, mercury, nitrates, phosphorus, barium, cadmium, iron and many other pollutants which make up human waste in the water, but if a farmer has a runoff of organic nutrients they stop them, ridicule them and make the farmer out to be a criminal,” said Fischer.

DBA does not condone any waste from farmland getting into any body of water. DBA does not blame the Milwaukee Brewers for the recent discharges. These are serious public health matters that must be resolved. It is time for consistent enforcement of clean water regulations.

The Dairy Business Association is an industry organization comprised of dairy producers, corporate and allied industry supporters. DBA promotes the growth and success of all dairy farms in Wisconsin by fostering a positive business and political environment. For more information about DBA, please visit our website at [www.widba.com](http://www.widba.com).