

## **Cambrians for Thoughtful Development Cambria, Wisconsin**

August 21, 2006  
NOT FOR RELEASE BEFORE  
AUGUST 21, 2006 AT 7:00 PM

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### **A Matter Of Trust**

Cambria, Wisconsin — According to documents obtained by Cambrians for Thoughtful Development from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, on March 20<sup>th</sup> of this year, DNR Air Management Specialist Michael Sloat made an unannounced visit to Didion Milling's current facility located in Cambria. The purpose of this visit was to check compliance regarding a New Source Review construction permit issued to Didion on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

It was during this unannounced visit that Sloat found Didion apparently still in violation of Wisconsin statutes and U.S. Clean Air Act laws and a Notice of Violation issued to Didion in 2002.

As a result of Sloat's March 20<sup>th</sup> visit, on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the DNR issued John Didion of Didion Milling a formal Notice of Violation alleging that Didion is, "operating in violation NR 406.10, Wis. Adm. Code. This code requires that the owner or operator of a stationary source construct and operate in accordance with conditions contained in construction permit number 02-RV-166, issued on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005."

The notice further states, "The United States Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Act enforcement response policy designates certain violations of federally enforceable requirements as High Priority Violations (HPV). The Department believes that violations alleged in this Notice meet the federal criteria of High Priority Violations. Under the federal HPV enforcement policy, the Department must seek an appropriate resolution to the alleged violations and refer Didion Milling, Inc. to the Wisconsin Department of Justice."

Cambrians for Thoughtful Development believe that these latest allegations call into question Didion Milling's willingness and ability to operate their present facility within the limits imposed upon them by State and Federal environmental law, limits imposed in order to protect the general safety, health and welfare of their surrounding community.

Cambrians for Thoughtful Development also believe that these latest revelations call into question Didion's willingness and ability to construct and operate their proposed new ethanol plant in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

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### Background information

Cambrians for Thoughtful Development(CTD) learned of these latest allegations after a phone conversation with DNR Environmental Enforcement Specialist Pamela Kober and a subsequent open records request to her office.

Didion Milling knowingly failed to install simple fabric socks needed to control dust from their grain milling operations. Didon agreed to install these socks during negotiations leading up to the issuance of the May, 2005 permit. According to the permit conditions, these socks were to be installed no later than 90 days following the issuance of the May, 2005 permit.

The discussions between Didon and the DNR leading up to the issuance of the May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005 permit were in response to an earlier Notice of Violation (NOV) issued to Didon Milling, Inc. on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2002.

That NOV refers to a meeting which took place between Micheal Sloat of the DNR and Didion Milling where Didon admitted, "...that at some point in 1999, total storage capacity became greater than the 1 million-bushel threshold as allowed in NR 440.47 (2) (h), Wis. Adm. Code. "

Under conditions of their then existing permits, Didon should have notified the DNR of their increased storage capacity and applied for a modification to their permit. This is another example of how reliant DNR permit compliance is upon honest self reporting by permit holders such as Didion Milling.

CTD intends to share this latest information with Cambria officials and the public in a special meeting being held tonight, Monday, August 21st at 7:00 PM in the Cambria Community Room.

The meeting was called to discuss the village's position regarding the upcoming September Columbia County Planning and Zoning committee meeting where a conditional use permit for Didon Milling's latest ethanol plant proposal will be considered.

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Cambrians for Thoughtful Development are a group of citizens seeking to inform themselves and others about issues such as the Didion Milling ethanol plant proposal. We inform our fellow citizens by sharing verifiable, documented information whenever we can. Copies of original documents are available on our web site, <<http://homepage.mac.com/oscura/ctd/ctd.html>>