Cambrians for Thoughtful Development, UA
Cambria, Wisconsin

July 28th, 2009
For Immediate Release

Over 1500 Violations Alleged In Latest Didion Notice

Cambria, Wisconsin — The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources details more than 1500 separate air and water permit violations in their latest Notice of Violation issued to local milling operator and ethanol producer Didion Milling, Inc.

Many of the violations allege that Didion failed to operate equipment within parameters established in their various air and water permits, limits designed to ensure that Didion is not producing excessive amounts of harmful air or water pollution. Other allegations include faulty record keeping and Didion's failure to conduct compliance testing in a timely manner.

According to the notice, "... the alleged violations meet federal criteria as High Priority Violations (HPV)." According to the EPA ECHO database, Didion has been a Clean Air Act High Priority Violator since 2006.

Due to the severity of the allegations, an enforcement conference with Didion has been scheduled in Fitchburg for August 12th.

This latest notice comes on the heels of two recent spills at the Didion Ethanol plant. On June 4th, 2009, over 43,000 gallons of fermenting corn mash spilled from the plant, overflowing a containment pond and escaping into a wetland area.

On July 26th, 2009, between 4,000 and 5,000 gallons of a caustic sodium hydroxide solution leaked from the plant, again reaching the containment pond, where some escaped into the wetlands.

Cambrians for Thoughtful Development (CTD), through our attorneys at McGillivray, Westerberg and Bender, filed suit this past spring against Didion. Our action utilizes citizen enforcement provisions of the Federal Clean Air Act to allege violations of the Act and Didion's own permits.

Information on Cambrians for Thoughtful Development, the latest notice, and other documents and information regarding the Didion mill and ethanol plant can be found at the extensive CTD web site:

http://homepage.mac.com/oscura/ctd/ctd.html

###