

THE PROPOSED SLUDGE PROCESSING FACILITY 7146 FURNACE ROAD, MIFFLINBURG

Information from Ag Lime's 2008 Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Facility:

- The building will be **450'x120'**, the parking lot 120'. The building will be 45' high; the floor & 6' of walls will be concrete; the remaining portion will have a metal frame & fabric roof
- The building will include areas for dumping, mixing together, and drying **biosolids and lime products**.

Biosolids (human sewage sludge) to be brought into plant:

- The sludge will come from Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). It will be municipal waste, digested and dewatered but not stabilized (still containing pathogens), with approximately 18% solids content when delivered to the site.
- It will come **from various sources in PA and neighboring states and/or Canada**
- An average of **600 (and up to 800) tons/day** are to be delivered to the plant.

Operations

- Proposed hours of operation are **7 am to 5 pm, six days/week**. The sludge will be delivered to the plant during restricted hours of **8 am until 2:30 pm**. in order to avoid encountering school buses on the route.
- The sludge will be mixed with the lime (stabilizing agent) promptly to minimize odors.

Lime sources:

- May include drywall, quicklime dust, baghouse dust, and/or Pecoite.

End product

- The final product will be about 85% less in weight than the incoming biosolids; it will have an approximate ratio of 7:1 biosolids to stabilization material.
- It will be suitable for land application, site remediation, mine reclamation, and landfill cover.

Traffic:

- A traffic impact evaluation in the application is based on an estimated 52 trucks per day (104 trips past any one location on the route). This figure could be high. The actual figure depends on the size of the trucks used to bring in the 600-800 tons of biosolids and lime product and to haul out the end product.
- Trucks will be tractor trailers, tri-axle dump trucks, etc.
- **Truck route: Route 15 in Lewisburg to Route 45; west to Driesbach Church Road; south to Furnace Road; west to 7146 Furnace Road (just west of Skunk Hollow Rd) .**

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS OF AREA CITIZENS:

ZONING

- Should a sludge processing plant be located on a site zoned for agricultural use?

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Water:

- Isn't there a **danger of spills of pathogenic biosolids** in this Chesapeake Bay Watershed?
- Since this facility is to be built on land adjacent to the residential subdivision off Rte 45 & Skunk Hollow Rd., what guarantees do these residents have that there will be no **pollution of the ground water** that feeds their wells, and the **wells of neighboring homes and farms**?

Biosolids:

- How will the **quality of the biosolids** be monitored at the source (to exclude pharmaceuticals, etc.), so that dangerous material does not enter the site?
- **How can we be sure that none of the unstabilized human waste** (still containing pathogens) **will be spilled on the ground as it is trucked on our roads and delivered at the site**?

Traffic:

- How will the **heavy truck traffic affect the condition of our roads**?
- Won't the use of this many **trucks pose a health and safety risk**?
"Truck traffic hauling biosolids and stabilization materials to the site provides for a potential health and safety harm due to truck accidents." (stated in application to PaDEP on p. 29, Attachment D-1: Narrative Response to Environmental Assessment)
- What will be the **impact on the local residents** (including residents of Lewisburg) of the **noise, dust, noxious odor and possible spillage from the trucks**?
- What **danger** will the trucks pose to the **walkers, cyclists, buggies, and school children** that currently use these roads?

Air quality:

- How much will **air pollution be increased in this valley** by the addition so many trucks?
- How will **odor and dust** be controlled at the facility? Who will monitor emissions? The owner/operator or an outside agency? How often?
- **Where can we visit plants** that use this specific process (and that are similarly located at a distance from waste water treatment facilities) in order to assess accurately their impact on the surrounding area?

SUMMARY QUESTION

- Is it appropriate to build this kind of plant on high quality farmland? Isn't it more environmentally responsible to build such a facility adjacent to a publicly held treatment works?