

Ms. Sarah Mundy, DEQ Valley Regional Office  
4411 Early Road  
P.O. Box 3000, Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
Phone: 540-574-7842, Fax: 540-574-7878  
Email: [sarah.mundy@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:sarah.mundy@deq.virginia.gov)

RE: Biosolids application for Nelson County  
Permit Number: VPA 01576, Applicant: Synagro Central LLC  
Public Comment Deadline: January 6, 2017

Dear Ms. Mundy,

I wish to express serious concerns regarding the application permit by Synagro which would allow for 2,205.9 acres of biosolids or sludge to be applied to agricultural land on nine sites in Nelson County.

The municipal sludge contains thousands of toxic substances and chemical compounds which include heavy metals, pesticides, pathogens, and infectious protein particles called prions. The sludge applications to land have caused death to farm animals and illness to humans. The materials in the sludge place at risk locally grown produce and could contaminate the produce from organic farmers. This affects me if I wish to consume local foods, including organic foods.

Pollutants contained in the sludge can migrate into the groundwater and surface waters, accelerated during heavy rain or storm events. The pollutants can enter drinking water wells, run into streams and rivers and affect me during outdoor activities such as walking, hiking, boating and swimming.

Marine life can become contaminated, which can pass up the food chain to humans and other living creatures. Of concern is chronic wasting disease (CWD) found in deer in Virginia and is spread via prions. The prions can be taken up by alfalfa, corn, tomatoes and other plants. More studies are needed to know how the spreading of sludge can contribute to CWD, and in addition to the deer, how humans and other wildlife can be affected.

Regulations prohibit sludge from being applied in our home gardens, yet allow applications to Virginia farmland. The study of persistent pollutants which accumulate and do not degrade should be examined prior to further sludge applications to the land in Nelson County. Virginia regulations should be reevaluated to include new safety measures in order to provide better protection to residents.

Please keep me informed on this permit, including notification of the meeting of the State Water Control Board when they will take up the issue.

Sincerely yours,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_