

I oppose the Bioenergy DevCo biogas plant

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To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources) <DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov>

Dear DNREC,

I am writing to oppose the proposed Bioenergy DEVCO biogas plant. As you are charged with protecting Delaware's natural resources, I hope you oppose this plant also, as it threatens our precious air, water and people.

The proposed plant would truck in 200,000 tons of poultry waste from three states -- Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia -- to Sussex County. Why must we be a dumping ground for other states' corporate poultry waste??

The chemicals likely to be released into our air have been linked to chronic lung disease. Chemicals that will invade our groundwater have been linked to disabilities and developmental delays in children. Not only will this have tragic consequences for people living near the proposed plant, many of whom are low income families who lack the resources to provide top notch medical care, but longer term consequences of increased needs and dollars for educational services for these children as they enter our public schools.

I would think that you would be most concerned about the release of chemicals linked to the degradation of surface waters into the state's rivers, streams, and bays which you work so very hard to protect. Why make and enforce regulations that require private homeowners to follow costly procedures to protect our watershed and then allow a large corporation to pollute these same waters??

The additional heavy truck trips (up to 200 a day) that will disturb the peace of our back roads in the area will not only greatly add to air and noise pollution, but tear up our roads, imposing additional burdens on the state and county with very little return. Obviously, there will be potential for an increase in tragic accidents along these rural roads that were not built to handle this kind of truck traffic.

I have additional concerns about the water needed for this plant. In previous hearings, I heard a lot of doublespeak about temporary plans to provide water but no concrete answers about the long term use of water hitch is also needed for local homes. I hope you are able to get some clear answers in order to protect precious clean water and groundwater needed for families, not corporations.

I especially hate how this huge corporation portrays itself as a "green" business and denies ANY negative environmental impacts on our small communities. How have they informed local residents about this proposed plant and it's far reaching effects on their daily lives? Are there plans to train local VOLUNTEER firefighters to handle toxic accidents and fires? What, besides the removal of poultry daf from Sussex County corporate chicken plants, and possibly a very few jobs past the construction phase, is the benefit to our area? Do these "benefits" to large wealthy corporations outweigh the risks to our local residents and natural resources? I hope you consider these questions and deny the approval for this biogas plant.

Thank you for your consideration, and for all you do to protect Delaware's natural resources.

Beth Kopicki
Seaford resident