

Reject permits for Bioenergy DevCo

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

Dear Gov. Carney and Sec. Garvin,

I support the efforts of Food and Water Watch to protect the health of local residents and the environment. The voices of local communities must be heard, valued and respected. A "Just Transition" requires that industry projects are not advanced if they do not move our state/nation to truly clean, safe and renewable energy.

Please deny permits for the Bioenergy DevCo biogas plant proposed for Seaford. This plant would harm human health as well as Delaware's natural environment.

Despite what the industry claims, anaerobic digestion is not a miracle cure for the pollution that the poultry industry brings to our state. The process uses a huge amount of water in the process of producing climate-altering methane gas, leaving behind contaminated waste. Bioenergy DevCo has failed to prove it can responsibly manage this waste after processing. In fact, Bioenergy DevCo doesn't even have the permits necessary to market many of the products its applications say it intends to produce.

What's equally concerning is that this project would create a new profit motive for the poultry industry to create even more waste.

As you know, Delaware ranks worst in the nation both for wells contaminated with nitrates and for waterways too polluted for use. This pollution can harm the health of babies and children and causes massive fish kills and toxic algal blooms. The vast majority of our water pollution is caused by the poultry industry and its mismanagement of waste. The proposed digester will only make these problems worse.

The Bioenergy DevCo plant threatens to pollute our air, poison our water, exacerbate climate change, and bring as many as 73,000 vehicle trips each year into a vulnerable neighborhood. It's clear that Bioenergy DevCo does not take these threats to human and environmental health seriously at all. They have not only failed to show any mitigation plan, but their cursory environmental analysis doesn't even acknowledge these threats.

Placing these dangers within close proximity to Delaware communities, especially vulnerable immigrant communities, is totally unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Richardson
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