

Reject permits for Bioenergy DevCo

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on behalf of
Sarah Bucic <sarah.bucic@gmail.com>

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

Dear DNREC,

As a Delaware resident of over 40 years, I am concerned about Delaware's practice of situating heavy industry and large agricultural practices next to communities without safety mechanisms in place.

In 2017, DNREC issued a Notice of Violation to a poultry processing plant in Millsboro for excessive fecal matter, also called nitrates, in spray waste. Contamination of residential water sources commonly occurs when nitrates from fertilizers and animal waste become runoff. These elevated amounts of nitrates adversely impact human health and are especially harmful to infants through nitrate poisoning.

I ask that you please deny permits for the Bioenergy DevCo biogas plant proposed for Seaford until satisfactory safety compliance can be demonstrated. We need jobs in Delaware however we need accountable employers that care about our communities. This plant would harm human health as well as Delaware's natural environment.

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. 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.

I urge you to say no to this dirty biogas proposal and reject Bioenergy DevCo's permits.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bucic
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