

Public Hearing Comments

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Wed 10/26/2022 1:30 PM

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

Comments on Docket #2022-P-MULTI-0012: Bioenergy Innovation Center

Name: Claire Simmers

Phone: 4844597029

Email Address: simmers.desierraclub@gmail.com

Organization:

Comments:

I ask that DNREC put the health and safety of residents ahead of big-business by denying any and all permits for the biogas facility. The proposed facility would operate in an area reserved for agriculture and residential neighborhoods, near a low-income, community of underrepresented residents who lack resources to fight back. Biogas is being falsely marketed as a renewable energy solution to solve the problems of an already polluting industry. Methane and carbon dioxide are the major components and neither is environmentally safe and they are not renewable energy solutions. Why should you be concerned and why you should protect Delaware citizens:

- Trucking the waste, the gas, the byproduct, and the wastewater associated with this operation would put up to 73,000 heavy truck trips onto local roads each year, including the emissions from these vehicles. Trucks will come from Delmarva Peninsula's chicken processing plants and potentially from other states as well.
- The plant would release air pollution including ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and nitrogen oxide that could cause chronic lung disease.
- The gas production plant would leave behind hundreds of thousands of tons of polluting byproduct each year. This waste will be sold, or given, to farmers and others to spread on fields where it risks leaching into drinking water and degrading the region's rivers, streams, lakes, and bays even more. They also plan to send their wastewater to the City of Seaford wastewater treatment plant, which discharges into the Nanticoke River.
- Delaware already ranks No. 1, as in the WORST, in the United States for wells polluted with nitrates. Nitrates have been linked to children with birth defects and developmental delays, and Delaware ranks within the Top 10, as in the 10 WORST, states for those problems, and poultry waste is largely to blame. The byproduct left behind by Bioenergy DevCo's digesters would worsen those problems.
- Delaware also ranks No. 1, as in the WORST state in the United States, for the percentage of its waterways that are polluted. More than 97 percent of Delaware's waterways, and 100 percent of its bays, are polluted, and poultry waste is largely to blame. The byproduct left behind by Bioenergy DevCo's digesters would worsen those problems.