

My name is Phyllis Blackiston, and I live right around the corner from Inland Bays Regional Wastewater Facility.

I'm a retired career police officer and detective. In my professional opinion this looks like a crime scene.

I took a tour of the Inland Bays Wastewater Facility with my neighbor Don Burdick and the entire place is a disaster. There were weeds everywhere, remains of a crop of corn all over the place, mud, and nothing that looked like a crop. We drove to all of the fields and the entire facility was a disaster.

If the county engineer, Hans Medlarz, wants everyone to believe snow geese ate everything planted this winter I have a bridge to sell them. The damned things wouldn't be able to fly. I didn't see hardly any snow geese this year. Why didn't they eat the weeds?

Hans told Mr. Burdick he didn't excavate anything and I'm telling everyone I saw it with my own eyes.

If Hans wants everyone to believe that train wreck is 100% permit compliance, I want everyone to know Hans is a liar.

Todd Lawson said he wants to "maintain, maintain" permit compliance? Just because he said it twice doesn't make it true.

To stand up and lie to the public is contemptible. When people lie and say things that don't make sense, they do it for a reason.

Todd Lawson shouldn't be the county administrator and Hans Medlarz shouldn't be the county engineer. They should be asked a thousand questions starting with, "Why did you lie to the public?"

When I moved into my home in May 2002, I was a Slimnastics and Jazzercise instructor. Suddenly I started gaining weight for no reason and developed thyroid disease, I've had skin cancer twice, asthma, high blood pressure, allergies, burning eyes, problems with my joints and had to get steroid injections. I had to two knee replacements, and the doctor botched the surgery, so now I'm in terrible pain every day, and have problems that I'm currently in horrendous pain with.

In 2003 I married my husband Charlie and he moved into our home. In 2007 he developed a sore on his toe. The sore continued getting worse until his big toe was removed. His wound still would not heal. They put him on IV antibiotics in a nursing facility for six weeks, which led to the loss of his job and severe financial hardship us. We nearly lost our home.

Charlie then developed a sore on his other foot and lost a toe after being in rehab for two months with more IV antibiotics. As soon as he came home, he got another infection.

For years he got one infection after another, and more toes and portions of his foot removed.

Ultimately, Charlie had a hole all the way through his foot that I had to pack at home every day.

Like so many others in our community, in December 2017, Charlie was tested and found to have cancer. By February 3, 2007, the cancer ate up his entire body and Charlie died.

I had to dress Charlie's wounds as he died in front of me. This was my life.

After Charlie died God gave me another man, Jerry. We got engaged, exchanged rings, and were fixing up our home to move to Florida. On January 22 last year, Jerry's heart started racing. I told him he

needed to go to the hospital, but he decided to lay down instead. I want to check up on him a while later and Jerry was dead.

I stood in our bedroom and screamed.

The police came to our home because his death was unexpected. Instead of grieving like a double-widow should I was interrogated. To whoever the officer was who put his arm around me, thank you. I don't think I could have made it through that without you.

That was the worst of my life, but it wasn't all I went through.

My skin itched after showering for years but this winter was the worst. It itched and burned after I showered. I tried every kind of itching cream there is, prescription and over the counter. Nothing helped.

This winter Mr. Burdick and Mr. Bell thankfully loaned me money to get an Orbit water treatment system. Finally, my water is safe and showering isn't like being tortured.

My water test comes back fine, but I'm telling you, there is something else in that water. Mr. Burdick said he has forever chemicals in his water which means we all probably do.

The state tells us our wells are our responsibility. Well the state's responsibility is to run public utilities properly and not let them fall apart for years and do nothing about it. At the very least, they would warn us if they don't.

I want the county and everyone living here to realize the government is killing people. I almost lost my home, I almost lost my life, and I lost two men I loved with all of my heart in just a few years.

I enjoy my home and I love my community. This is where my friends are. I don't feel safe, but I can't just pack up and leave and start all over alone. I feel like I'm trapped.

I have terrible allergies, but only when I'm here. I never had them before. I just got back from Hawaii and I didn't have them there, but as soon as I got home my allergies came back.

Mr. Burdick showed me the photo of the spray heading toward our homes. Maybe that's why. I feel sorry for the people living in the new homes right next to the facility. They will be surrounded.

Now the county wants to double the size of that facility? Why? So Mountaire can double their profits?

No. We already have polluted water and air. We don't need twice as much of it.

Mountaire can build their factory somewhere else. It's a stupid place to put a factory anyway. Why don't we just build one on the Boardwalk in Rehoboth in front of the President's house?

Everyone knows how horrible it smells. It can't be safe. I roll up my windows when I drive by, but I shouldn't have to do that. They should be forced to keep their stench on their property, just like Sussex County should keep their polluted water and air on their property at Inland Bays.

Someone needs to fix the damned thing immediately and build a new one that can handle the number of people moving here. What they are doing now isn't working. The proof is in the pudding. If it worked then there wouldn't be problems.

I don't care how much it costs. It cost me my husband and fiancé and almost my home and my life. I pay taxes for a reason and one of them is to have safe public utilities.

I've heard there is an airplane spraying over the facility and other places around the area. I can personally vouch for that because it sprays something that smells like sulfur in the woods behind my home and my neighbor's home. I can't even get grass to grow toward the back of my property close to the woods they are spraying. Other people in our community have seen it, too. My neighbor across the street saw it flying over my home. Whoever it is, you got caught and can stop.

There are people parking in our community and walking through our yards into the woods and shooting guns like it's a war behind my home. I called the state police and they said there isn't anything they can do about it.

I'm a cop. There is something you can do. You put down your donut, get in your cruiser, and come tell them to stop. It's called law and order. It was my job to enforce when I was working and it's your job now.

Delaware needs to uphold all of its laws. Public nuisance laws and environmental laws. This state is polluted enough already. We don't need the government breaking the law and polluting our air and water, too.

Crimes were committed and they should be investigated and prosecuted. Since Delaware apparently has no intention of doing that, the federal government should.

I do not support criminals, and I do not support this permit.

Phyllis Blackiston

This is what you did to my husband.

