

Public Hearing Comments

DoNotReply@delaware.gov <DoNotReply@delaware.gov>

Wed 5/25/2022 9:48 PM

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

<DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov>; veretasimon@gmail.com <veretasimon@gmail.com>

Comments on Docket #2022-P-W-0008 -- Inland Bays Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility

Name: Vereta Simon

Phone: 302-934-7678

Email Address: veretasimon@gmail.com

Organization: no

Comments:

Regarding Docket#2022-P-W-0008 Please take my comment into consideration. My family already has an illegal landfill on the side of our home. We do not want the wastewater facility behind it, either. We have been through enough sickness from polluting already. Inland Bays Regional Wastewater Facility is currently in failure and has been operating on an expired permit since 2017. In 2018 County Administrator Todd Lawson was given a Notice of Noncompliance about the facility and didn't make the changes required to make it safe and bring it into compliance. During the public hearing for this permit, Mr. Lawson stated he will maintain 100% permit compliance. Did that really happen? I am very doubtful that this permit will be in compliance 100%. We were never told they were planning on putting it there. We found out from friends. DNREC is not being fair toward any homeowner to have to take on two environmental issues at the same time. I am very concerned about the wastewater facility in the back of our home. Put yourself in our place, would you like to have a failed wastewater in your backyard? No! It's wastewater. If it fails where it is, it will fail by us, too. Please think about the people who can't afford to just pick up and move to another location because of the environment. Sussex County has overbuilt the area without an infrastructure plan to properly address the amount of waste produced by the number of people and businesses moving into the area. The result of that has been disastrous for those living downstream. Where the county is planning to expand to is upgradient of my home. I met an old widow who lives by the facility. She had sores all over her. I don't want to be the next widow, covered with sores. The technology in use is antiquated and can easily be manipulated and has been proven it can be used in an illegal fashion. A dear friend, Dr. Gerry Bell, who holds a PhD in meteorology, explained that there is a very good chance the spray irrigation will fail for several scientific reasons. We don't want that behind our home! It is terrifying! Another friend, Don Burdick, was told by David Baird of Sussex Conservation District that the EPA and State were warned that the way Sussex County is handling wastewater facilities was going to cause major problems because of anticipated population growth. That was before the ongoing pandemic, which only accelerated that growth. There were scientific reasoning to consider. As was expected, the facility failed. Now Sussex County wants to double the size of that failure and put it behind our home where we already have environmental injustice happening on two sides of me. That is not fair. We would like the State of Delaware and Sussex County to take citizens' lives and health seriously and accept the fact that Sussex County can no longer handle the population growth of the region and face up to the fact that we need modern wastewater facilities that can. My husband and I pay our taxes. We do not want the wastewater facility behind our home, and would also like the illegal landfill beside our home removed. We do not support this permit. Respectfully, Vereta Simon