

March 11, 2005

Dear Editor:

I recently responded to media articles re sludge/biosolids disposal in Virginia. In my letter to the Editor, I offered a challenge to anyone to show proof that sludge/biosolids applications in Virginia, under current practice and regulations, are "safe".

To date, I have not received any acceptance of this challenge. However, I have received a number of citizens' requests for additional information and assistance in understanding their concerns re sludge/biosolids applications in their communities.

Normally, one would be pleased to have his writings published and read. However, given the severity of the issue and the dire need for factual knowledge on the subject matter, I take no solace in this action. More so, it is sad to acknowledge the vast available information that has been hidden by our government officials in order to offer protection and to promote the profits of the waste industry in general. Here again, I will accept any challenge to this statement.

While there is little comfort in being correct that there are no "safe" buffer zones from sludge applications, it is enlightening to know that fellow citizens do thirst for the higher truth concerning sludge/biosolids applications in Virginia. Be assured that every effort will continue, on my part, to present the undisputable facts along with supporting documentation. Presentations to citizen groups will continue statewide. Documentations will continue to be gathered. Research of sludge related scientific current events will continue. Dissemination of factual information will continue to citizens and government officials. What any one group may do with the facts is up to their conscience.

Though the efforts of us to promote responsible and accountable sludge/biosolids disposal in Virginia may be viewed as a "passion", I would refer to our actions as a "compassion" for our fellow mankind and our environment. Is it so wrong, in this century, to care for the children, elderly and the severely immune-compromised citizens' safety and quality of life? Should one become a prisoner in one's own home in order to avoid forcible exposure to sludge/biosolids' harmful effects? Should a community bear the costs, risks and suffering to appease the political and profit appetites of the waste industry? These are the real questions that must be challenged and addressed.

Thank you for your efforts to inform your readers by fair and balanced reporting.

Respectfully,

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