

Letter to USA EPA from Mary Lou Jones , Tennessee

"The sludge has been spread on a field adjacent to a subdivision with the cattle still standing on the field. Cows died and were taken to another private part of the county and hanged in trees for the bears to eat."

Message dated December 7, 2002 from Mary Lou Jones to US EPA:

My son has been desperately ill for approx. 2 yrs. after spreading Class B sewage sludge for local farmers. He has had open chest surgery, a mass removed, his thymus removed because it became so large because it had been trying so long to fight off the pathogens in his lungs, lung biopsies done. Yesterday he had to have 16 of his beautiful teeth extracted because the bacteria has moved to his teeth and abscessed them. After he gets over this, he has another mass in his testicle that is going to have to be removed because they say that it more likely is bacterial involved.

I have educated myself several months on the 503's and have found that not only was the sewer plant negligent, but also the local farm family that my son worked for were and still are grossly ignorant or either just don't care about the EPA rules. The sludge has been spread on a field adjacent to a subdivision with the cattle still standing on the field. Cows died and were taken to another private part of the county and hanged in trees for the bears to eat. I could go on and on, but we have gotten a lawyer because neither the sewer treatment plant manager or the farm family seem to have no compassion or even care about my son. I notified them when the biopsies came back from his lungs in Feb. of this year and the Drs. told us that it was the inhalation of the sludge. Our son will never be well again. They took biopsies via bronchoscopy a month ago and the bacteria are still there even after 2 yrs. of many different kinds of antibiotics. His lungs are permanently damaged, his heart is enlarging and his condition worsens each day.

I have heard of a grant that private citizens can apply for if they feel that the wastewater treatment plant needs it to be more safe in their practices. How do I go about doing that. There are other sick people, we are finding out thru our lawyer, in the adjacent subdivision earlier referred to. I know noone hurt my son on purpose, but he was injured critically and permanently. How much cost is involved to process the sludge to the Class A?

Desperate In Erwin, TN

Mary Lou Jones

LoudounNATS Postscript: This mother believes her son's severe health problems are linked to sludge exposure. She also describes sludge spread on a field adjacent to a subdivision with the cattle still standing on the field. Cows died and were taken to another private part of the county and hanged in trees for the bears to eat.