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Biosolids should be banned

Dear Editor:

Packer Township is in the news again with their battle against biosolids.

For a quick review biosolids are basically human or animal waste (manure). The manure or biosolids can come from people of a large city like Philadelphia or a pig farm all the way from Texas. There are hundreds if not thousands of possible trace chemicals still left behind after processing.

The sad part is that neighbors and communities are fighting one another over something that DEP should have outlawed. For every reason DEP feels that biosolids are safe there are two reasons why it should be banned. The entire procedure for issuing a permit to use biosolids is a joke that only the PA DEP could create.

Who in their right mind issues a permit to spread biosolids to a farmer or landowner in a remote piece of private property that is usually posted for trespassing? There is no bio hazard warnings posted that would protect children or sportsmen from the myriad of potential diseases that might be incubating in this waste. DEP only checks for compliance if they want to not because they have to. The responsibility for compliance lies strictly with the landowner.

There is an entire book of laws and procedures that must be followed to the letter in order for biosolids to remain harmless and not breed lethal bacteria. You practically have to be a chemist to understand these procedures and yet DEP entrusts Joe Farmer to comply on a remote section of private property?

The best part is that fellow neighbors and community leaders are prohibited under DEP laws from trespassing to check personally on compliance. D.A. Tom Corbet should stop wasting the taxpayer's money to fight ridiculous DEP laws and try standing up to DEP. Stop the source of these ridiculous laws and help fight the corruption that has infected an agency that was created to save lives and not corporate dollars.

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