

NEWS ALERT

CONGRESS BEGINS INVESTIGATION INTO EPA MALFEASANCE AND THE PRACTICE OF LAND APPLICATION OF TOXIC SEWAGE SLUDGE

Before Congressional Oversight Briefing, Victims of Poisoning, Farmers, Food Safety and Environmental Advocates Speak out at Media Briefing

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

WHAT: The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works will hold an oversight briefing investigating the Environmental Protection Agency's malfeasance in dealing with the dangers and consequences associated with disposal of hazardous sewage sludge on farms, public parks and other lands.

Prior to this meeting, a press briefing will be held nearby.

WHO: At the EPW Committee Oversight Briefing:
Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Briefing Chair;
Andy McElmurray, a Georgia farmer who successfully sued the USDA over contamination to his farm due to toxic sludge application;
David L. Lewis, PhD, former EPA research microbiologist;
Ellen Z. Harrison, former Director of the Cornell Waste Management Institute.

Immediately prior to the oversight briefing, the following experts will be available to media at the nearby press briefing:

Andrew Kimbrell, founder and executive director, Center for Food Safety;
Andy McElmurray (see above);
and other **Victims of Sludge Poisoning**.

WHEN: Thursday, September 11, 2008
Press Briefing, 9:30 am
Senate Oversight Briefing, 10:30 am

WHERE: Press Briefing, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room SD-G11 (ground floor)
Senate Oversight Briefing, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 406

MORE: In his decision in **McElmurray vs. USDA** (February 2008) 11th Circuit Court Judge Anthony Alaimo found that "Senior EPA officials took extraordinary steps to quash scientific dissent and any questioning of EPA's biosolids program," and called data used to support EPA's 503 sludge regulations as "fudged," "fabricated," and "invented." The by-product of sewage treatment, sludge is a toxic mix of heavy metals, poisons and pathogens. Government regulations allow sludge to be disposed of on farms and public land, where it can easily contaminate earth, food crops, and groundwater, and can also sicken or kill people and animals.

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