

John J. Schmidt
5624 CR 262
East Bernard, Tx. 77435

HR
OPA

DEC 13 2007

TEXAS
COMMISSION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

2007 DEC 13 AM 10: 07

LaDonna Castanuela
Office of the Chief Clerk
Texas Commission on Environment Quality
MC-105
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Tx. 78711-3087

BY DM

CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

SLG
60709

To whom it may concern,

I am requesting a contested case hearing regarding Permit No. WQ0004451000. My wife and I, along with our two young sons live very close to the proposed Campbell dumping site and are very concerned about all of the environmental problems that Synagro can/or will cause. Synagro has been dumping all around us for years, both on Kaechelle Ranch and on Campbell property. HOW MUCH POLLUTION, OF WHO KNOWS WHAT, CAN THIS LAND TAKE? If anybody, other than those who are padding their pockets, knew the unique type of soil we have in this area, you would know the answer to the question would be; not much.

This soil, in Chesterville, Texas, is primarily used for rice production because it has a shallow impermeable clay layer that holds water and a low cation exchange capacity that does not tie up any of the nutrients and are plant available. Now, this brings up many concerns about sludge dumping. Since the soil holds water very easily and we have large flood plains due to the Bernard Rivers, what keeps all of this sludge from washing down stream after we have big rains and all of the sludge is on top of the ground in a ponding affect. If the sludge cannot leach down through the impermeable clay and we have flooding conditions, which are fairly common, especially on the Campbell ground, the sludge then goes off site on to other properties and waterways, thus causing water pollution and wildlife health issues. The low cation exchange issue I mentioned, which is the soil's capability to hold nutrients, cannot hold the amount of metals and other nutrients that are contained by the sludge, when it is dumped repeatedly at large volumes. If the soil cannot retain all of this and the proposed site has commercial cow/calf operation grazing the grass, who is to know what the cattle are picking up and ending up in our food chain. Economics and greed cannot out weigh our earth's future and our health.

I can understand the landowners/ranchers using the sludge for a replacement to rising commercial fertilizer costs, but there is no balance and set nutritional values to it. There must be more regulations and thought to these dumping sites. I have yet to see any person on these sites testing or checking paperwork from truck drivers. There have been instances of Synagro dumping the City of Houston's sludge on sites not permitted for that particular sludge, and if I am right, they have been cited and denied from another location. There are new advances in sewage treatment and renewable fuels that are being implemented called Monofills. I'm sure Synagro is well aware of this and realizes it has a short time to make more money and has no respect of the land and people in this area.

Please, do the research on the above concerns prior to granting the permit to Synagro. If you take time to research the issues, you will find my concerns very factual and realistically sound.

Thank you,


John J. Schmidt

MW

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DEC 11 2007

2007 DEC 11 AM 8:09

BY DM

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