

May 21, 2023

RE: NTMWD Request for Permit No. WQ0005323000
TCEQ Docket No. 2023-0529-SLG

When we purchased a newly built home on County Road 644 north of Josephine, Texas, in January 2017, we had no idea that NTMWD owned the land less than .1 of a mile north of our property, where acres of corn, sorghum, and wheat have been planted and harvested each year. Therefore, we were stunned to learn less than 5 years later of the intention of NTMWD to build a Water Treatment Plant Disposal Monofil on that property. The notice we received gave little information about this facility, so we have tried to learn as much as possible. We attended a meeting at the Josephine City Hall in November 2021, but the people representing NTMWD had few answers to the many questions that residents were asking. Most questions were referred to TCEQ by NTMWD leaders.

After 18 months we still have many unanswered questions. Here are a few:

1. What hours will this proposed facility be operating? We have learned that TCEQ cannot address issues regarding noise. However, if trucks will be driving down our county road and unloading all night, that will likely cause us to lose sleep, and scientists have proven that lack of sleep adversely affects the physical and mental health of humans. Human health is definitely in the purview of TCEQ.
2. How will the dust created from this residual dump be managed? Many of us suffer from allergies caused by airborne particles. In an open and unobstructed field where this monofil would be created, dust can be carried for miles. Also, an elementary school is being built less than two miles from this site, and many children have allergies and asthma which could be exacerbated by the dust created at this proposed facility and should be a real concern. Could this dust also carry residual chemicals such as PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) or VOC's (volatile organic compounds)?
3. Although we are told that another issue that TCEQ cannot address is traffic, this proposed facility would be located in a residential area, and we believe the health and safety of our children and grandchildren are at risk. Their well-being should be a high priority for all decision makers.
4. We have learned that on March 14, 2023, EPA announced a proposed national Primary Drinking Water Regulation for six PFAS chemicals with the PFOA MCL of 4 parts per trillion. How would these new regulations affect concentration of these chemicals in the proposed monofil?
5. Before making a decision regarding this permit, do TCEQ staff plan to visit the site to see area for themselves? If so, when? If not, why not?

Since we know so little about the operation and monitoring of a monofil facility, we cannot begin to think of all the questions that need to be asked and answered. For that reason, my wife Judy and I are requesting a contested case hearing.

Sincerely,

Robert (Bob) Williams
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