

Sludge Plant Public Hearing



**Wednesday, November 7
6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Wind Gap Middle School
1620 Teels Rd., Pen Argyl, PA**

PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) is holding this hearing on four draft permits for the facility that are open for public comment now. These will allow: stormwater discharge to Little Bushkill Creek from the industrial site; air emissions under an "Air Quality Plan"; and the handling of sludge waste (the waste management permits are not yet published). The proposed Synagro sludge drying plant site on the border of Pen Argyl and Plainfield Township, PA flows to the Little Bushkill and Waltz Creeks. Sign up now to be assured a spot to speak by emailing coconnolly@pa.gov or come to join the crowd to let them know you don't your water and community polluted!

The draft permits are open for public comment at this hearing and by written comment – see all the details here: <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/node/5559>

Please come out! Bring friends and neighbors to speak up about why you don't want the pollution from this proposed plant!

For more information: Sludge Free Slate Belt
<https://www.facebook.com/sludgefreeslatebelt/>

To: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Northeast Regional Office: Clean Water Program Manager, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA
18701-1915.

Re: Draft NPDES Permit No. PA0276120, Industrial Stormwater, Slate Belt Heat Recovery Center

I am opposed to the approval of the draft industrial stormwater permit for Synagro's "Slate Belt Heat Recovery Center", a sewage sludge drying plant, and request that you withdraw the draft permit. The potential impacts of the stormwater runoff and groundwater infiltration from this proposed sludge processing plant are too great to be justified. I request the permit be denied.

My concerns are many and include:

- ✓ It is stated in Synagro's application for the stormwater discharge permit that the project "meets the provisions of zoning ordinance" or that it has received zoning approval from the Township. Plainfield Township Planning Commission hearings are ongoing and no agreement has been reached regarding the approvals needed from the Township for this proposed project. **The draft permit should be withdrawn by PADEP on these grounds.**
- ✓ The draft permit is based on invalid information about sediment basin #2. Plainfield Township filed an appeal with PADEP on September 11 contesting the classification of the basin as described based on 17 objections. **The draft permit should be withdrawn until this legal matter is resolved.** Read the Township appeal here: <https://bit.ly/2BXuYU8>
- ✓ Sediment basin #2 is a former quarry pond that discharges to groundwater and is hydrologically connected to the Little Bushkill Creek watershed. The draft permit assumes there is no connection to this stream, which is protected from degradation as a High Quality cold water fishery under state regulations. The stormwater runoff from the site contains pollutants that would degrade the unnamed tributary of the Little Bushkill Creek and the creek itself. The Little Bushkill Creek and Waltz Creek, important high quality streams that I care about, receive untreated drainage from the entrance roadway that likely carries pollutants and both will be adversely affected by the proposed facility's additional stormwater runoff.
- ✓ Synagro claims that only "uncontaminated runoff" will be sent to the quarry pond/sediment basin #2 but this description does not consider the numerous pollutants, many of them toxic, that could be in the stormwater from the sludge and concentrated wastewater that will be constantly handled, processed and transferred and the air emissions that would be dispersed next to the pond/basin and the unnamed tributary to the Little Bushkill Creek. Polluted stormwater will enter the ground and surface water from the activities at this proposed project.
- ✓ There is an enormous volume of truck traffic using the SR 512 entrance and related roads to the landfill and the 50 additional diesel truck trips per day for this facility will have a negative cumulative impact on the environment and communities in terms of odors, air emissions, water pollution and public health. The potential impacts of the increased stormwater runoff from this cumulative day-to-day truck traffic is not addressed in the draft permit, despite the dangerous and, in some cases, hazardous materials being hauled through these locations.

Signed _____

Print Name _____

Address _____