



Biosolids contamination on the Waxahachie school site

The Waxahachie High School, along with Mark on Conquest apartments and another facility, is sitting on 11,474 tons of Trinity River Authority (TRA) WWTP's industrial, medical, storm drain and household sewage sludge called biosolids. Ellis has, from TCEQ records, 667,286.11 tons dumped all over the county.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) 2014 report No.

1193318 shows this site is contaminated with heavy metal carcinogens (arsenic, cadmium, copper, chromium, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, zinc) and one group, fecal coliform, of over fifty different pathogens. The TCEQ has also stated the site to be of "no environmental concern" and closed my complaint.

They show metals but have no information or testing of chemicals like PFAS or tens of thousands more found in biosolids. Why?

WISD will tell you that they did a Phase 1 discovery, and from that discovery deduced that, "The soil was tested more aggressively than even TCEQ requires, and it was found to be free of any harmful contaminants".

As it turns out, "Phase 1" discovery did not even test one spoon full of soil for hazardous toxic chemicals.

I have no explanation for their statement, and they insist it is correct. I would hope someone pins WISD down for details as to what "harmful contaminants" they tested for and the written results of the test so the public will know. They will not give them to me.

According to the EPA, "Right now, the EPA cannot say that the pollutants found in biosolids will not cause harmful effects to you, your crops or your livestock. We will know more when we assess these chemicals – something we are actively working on.

... (The) decision to use (or not use) biosolids will have to be based on how comfortable you are with not knowing what harm the pollutants in the biosolids might cause. Pollutants present in the biosolids don't automatically mean that they'll pose harm."

Say what?! "Right now, the EPA cannot say that the pollutants found in biosolids will not cause harmful effects to you."

News flash: If it is not safe now, it darn sure wasn't safe in 2014 and before. These chemicals, the EPA is finally assessing, have been around for years, and they are on the high school site right now.

I am not sure if everyone has been keeping up with very dangerous chemicals found in sewage biosolids killing off dairy farms.

Still, just one of the 130 chemicals the U.S. EPA is now finally assessing, as noted above, is PFAS.

If this is not bad enough, biosolids also have tens of thousands of other chemicals and their compounds not yet regulated or tested.

Many are carcinogens.

Here is what the U.S. EPA is assessing. I could not list all the chemicals that are in this review, nor is it all the chemicals found in biosolids by a long shot.

Attempts to have the site tested and reclaimed have failed, so far. Too much money is involved on the site. The WISD is protecting our million dollar investment and themselves, they think, and "biosolids" are protected by State Legislature, Governor Abbott and his TCEQ, municipalities and the sewage industry.

Hundreds of billions.

Even Texas' media is afraid to publish meaningful information even though there are volumes written to show how dangerous this contamination is to our citizens. I do not have an explanation for the media either.

The only thing left is public outcry. Unfortunately, most would rather flush and forget to their own peril.

Craig Monk, Waxahachie

OPINION

Ask Pastor Adrienne: Which holiday belongs to veterans?



Dear Pastor, The 113th weekend about Memorial Day... changed and expanded its original purpose...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In recognition of Veterans Day

Each year on November 11th, we commemorate Veterans Day... This original day was chosen to honor...

Free thought

We all have the love of free speech, allowing us to add to the dialogue of whatever it is we choose to write...

over fifty different pathogens

The Waxahachie High School, along with Mark on Conquest apartments and another facility, is sitting on 11,474 tons of Trinity River Authority (TRA) WWTP's industrial, medical, storm drain and household sewage sludge called biosolids...

Biosolids contamination on the Waxahachie school site

The Waxahachie High School, along with Mark on Conquest apartments and another facility, is sitting on 11,474 tons of Trinity River Authority (TRA) WWTP's industrial, medical, storm drain and household sewage sludge called biosolids...

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) 2014 report No.

119318 shows this site is contaminated with heavy metal carcinogens (arsenic, cadmium, copper, chromium, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, zinc) and one group, fecal coliform, of over fifty different pathogens...

They show metals but have no information or testing of chemicals like PFAS or tens of thousands more found in biosolids. Why?

WISD will tell you that they did a Phase 1 discovery, and from that discovery deduced that, "The soil was tested more aggressively than even TCEQ requires, and it was found to be free of any harmful contaminants".

As it turns out, "Phase 1" discovery did not even test one spoon full of soil for hazardous toxic chemicals.

I have no explanation for their statement, and they insist it is correct. I would hope someone pins WISD down for details as to what "harmful contaminants" they tested for and the written results of the test so the public will know. They will not give them to me.

According to the EPA, "Right now, the EPA cannot say that the pollutants found in biosolids will not cause harmful effects to you, your crops or your livestock. We will know more when we assess these chemicals - something we are actively working on."

... (The) decision to use (or not use) biosolids will have to be based on how comfortable you are with not knowing what harm the pollutants in the biosolids might cause. Pollutants present in the biosolids don't automatically mean that they'll pose harm."

Say what?! "Right now, the EPA cannot say that the pollutants found in biosolids will not cause harmful effects to you."

News flash: If it is not safe now, it damn sure wasn't safe in 2014 and before. These chemicals, the EPA is finally assessing, have been around for years, and they are on the high school site right now.

I am not sure if everyone has been keeping up with very dangerous chemicals found in sewage biosolids killing off dairy farms.

Still, just one of the 130 chemicals the U.S. EPA is now finally assessing, as noted above, is PFAS.

If this is not bad enough, biosolids also have tens of thousands of other chemicals and their compounds not yet regulated or tested.

Many are carcinogens.

Here is what the U.S. EPA is assessing. I could not list all the chemicals that are in this review, nor is it all the chemicals found in biosolids by a long shot.

Attempts to have the site tested and reclaimed have failed, so far. Too much money is involved on the site. The WISD is protecting our million dollar investment and themselves, they think, and "biosolids" are protected by State Legislature, Governor Abbott and his TCEQ, municipalities and the sewage industry.

Hundreds of billions.

Even Texas' media is afraid to publish meaningful information even though there are volumes written to show how dangerous this contamination is to our citizens. I do not have an explanation for the media either.

The only thing left is public outcry. Unfortunately, most would rather flush and forget to their own peril.

Craig Monk, Waxahachie



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Comments from our readers in the form of letters to the editor or guest columns are encouraged. The opinions of columnists may not reflect the opinion of the newspaper. All letters and columns submitted must be signed and should include the address and phone number for verification. They should not contain any threats, libel or slander. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and brevity. Letters should be addressed to: Editor, The Waxahachie Daily Light, P.O. Box 871, Waxahachie, TX 75165.



Small text block containing contact information and publication details.

Small text block containing contact information and publication details.

Small text block containing contact information and publication details.