

Sept 1, 2020
Regarding Brown and Jackson SE-20-00003 Application

Hello Ms. Bacon;
In reviewing the application for open pits for biosolids (sewage) for this facility I offer some opinions.

Open pits in handling of sewage seem a violation of any reasonable way to handle sewage on any scale.

When I built my single family home on 50 acres in 2016, I was required to install a system with (3) septic tanks, UV lights and an air compressor agitator that runs 24 hours a day 7 days a week. My drain field is 400 feet away from my home. The septic tanks in my system retain all biosolids for pumping and removal. The liquid in my system, essentially, is a sewage treatment plant and will produce waste water into the environment (my drainfield) that is potable.

How is it reasonable that any facility is allowed to install open pits? Especially in light of what residential homeowners are required to do in rural Kittitas County as I have described and installed? And then spew waste onto the ground? How does that system equate to the system we were required to install?

Also, since we live in such a dry area, wildlife will be naturally drawn to the pits including migrating birds. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act does not allow the intentional or unintentional killing of birds. Open pits with any kind of liquid will draw birds and they will become contaminated if they come into contact with these pits and most likely become sick and die of this exposure.

How is mitigation achieved for this scenario?

Ground dwelling wildlife will also be attracted for the same reasons. How will local wildlife be prevented from gaining access to these pits?

I find this all unreasonable. If homeowners are required to install high-end sewage treatment on their properties, I think it should be required for large facilities as well. Septic / sewage treatment is part of all building construction costs.

I am strongly opposed to any open-pit scenario for sewage treatment on this scale—or any scale—in rural areas of our County.

Sincerely,
Meghan Anderson
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