

P. O. Box 539  
Ophelia VA 22530  
March 22, 2010

Governor Robert F. McDonnell  
Office of the Governor, Patrick Henry Bldg.  
1111 E. Broad St.  
Richmond VA 23219

Dear Governor McDonnell:

As a new elected official, I request that you confirm whether or not your administration intends to continue existing Commonwealth policy with regard to the land application of sewage sludge. Sludge is used to fertilize less than 2% of Virginia's agricultural acreage, saving very few farmers about \$56 per acre according to JLARC House Doc. 89. Sludge is a highly inefficient fertilizer and causes massive pollution of rivers and Chesapeake Bay, at great cost to Virginians. Appended are public comments regarding a permit DEQ intends to issue in Northumberland County, documenting the pollution this single, small application will cause. According to EPA, the land application of animal waste (poultry litter, sewage sludge and manure) causes 25% of Bay pollution, similar to the pollution caused by all the wastewater treatment facilities in the watershed.

In the case of Phosphorus (P), common sense dictates that the soil should be analyzed and P application should be restricted to the amount required by the crop (the Soil Test P method), as is mandated by 9VAC25-32-600 "The applied nitrogen and phosphorous content of biosolids shall be limited to amounts established to support crop growth." Instead, the law is being violated and a permissive method known as the P-Index is used. This is because, according to DCR (Form TH-03, 11/02/05) "...dairy, poultry, swine, and biosolids sectors have all voiced a strong desire to have an option to use the P-index." and because the Soil Test P method could not "... accommodate the volumes of animal and human waste generated in the watershed ..." according to Secretary Tayloe Murphy (his letter is posted on [www.VaBayBlues.org](http://www.VaBayBlues.org)).

Science, along with common sense, dictate that the Soil Test P method is protective of both water quality and crop yields, unlike the P-index that permits disposal of much more P than is needed by crops. If you choose to continue existing policy in violation of 9VAC25-32-600, Virginians must understand that your administration, like those that preceded it, values the profits of special interests, namely the dairy, poultry, swine, and biosolids sectors, over Chesapeake Bay water quality.

Yours sincerely,

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Chair in Subsurface Geology, Univ. Texas, Austin

cc: Secretary Nat. Resources Domenech; DEQ Director Paylor; DCR Acting Director Baxter; Anita Tuttle, DEQ; EPA director Lisa Jackson; Northumberland County BOS