

Public Hearing Comments

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Comments on Docket #2020-P-W-0026 (Artesian Wastewater Management)

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Comments:

DNREC Hearing of 11-17-20 Comments on: Artesian Wastewater Management, Inc.'s Wastewater Facilities Construction Application and Draft Permit (WPCC 3007/20) And Artesian Wastewater Management, Inc.'s Beaver Creek WWTP On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Draft Permit Modification (No. 359014-06) Docket #2020-P-W-0026 Attention: Lisa Vest, Hearing Officer The hearing officer is very professional and I'm sure she is doing the best she can do in this time of Covid 19 restrictions. The online hearing system does not allow the public to speak or ask questions. In fact the public can only see the hearing officers, the DNREC professional who presents for the government and the Artesian employee who makes a presentation for the project(s). This does not serve the public well. It serves to stifle public participation. This is the 2nd time that I personally witnessed a combined hearing on behalf of Artesian. A combined hearing does not serve the public but does confuse the issues at hand. It may be interpreted as a special treatment for Artesian, a massive multi-Billion Dollar entity with a presence on NASDAQ. I attended the online hearing of 11-17-20. I am requesting that you have Artesian submit a fresh application for each of these 2 ventures because the application is incomplete. Very little effort was made to accurately provide information for the DNREC review. Since it was posted this way, an assumption could be made that the application was not reviewed. DRAFT PERMIT It seems that the linear footage of the 12 inch sewage pipe is not represented correctly. It could be as much as 8,000 feet short. How could a sewer line of 2.5 to 4 miles exist without any cleanouts? Isn't that a regular maintenance and safety item? The application indicates it is a force main system. Shouldn't the application indicate the number of lift stations for pumps or compressors? Shouldn't the description indicate the method and how often the system would be scheduled for maintenance service or how a failure would be handled? The Draft permits mentions there will be 300,000 gpd of sewage piped to the Beaver Dam facility. This particular WWTP was built for the sewage of 2 residential sub-divisions, not to handle waste from additional residential sub-divisions, industrial waste or the overflow of 150,000 gpd of municipal waste that the municipality of Georgetown can no longer process due to a lack of capacity. Aren't there laws or rules that govern the types of waste and capacity for these WWTPs? Wouldn't there be an existing Gallons Per Day limit for a WWTP designed to handle the sewage of 2 subdivisions built in close proximity to each other? Aren't there certifications required for the capacity and types of waste? Wouldn't certification require a specified number of specially trained and certified personnel to handle the increased capacity and the industrial waste streams? Wouldn't this massive increase of at least another 450,000 gpd overload a WWTP built to handle 2 subdivisions of approximately 400 homes? It seems the new Buzzword in the world of sewage is Interconnectivity. It's very interesting that 2 subdivisions of homes have paid for several years for this service. Now, these medium size HOAs will have the burden of supplementing the municipality of Georgetown, the County Seat of Government in Sussex County! Of course, that is in addition to processing industrial waste of unidentified sources and other residential communities. A FOR PROFIT Conglomerate markets a concept of INTER-CONNECTIVITY to Sussex County, Georgetown and probably other places to take advantage of not investing their profits in more WASTE WATER treatment facilities to increase

the CONGLOMERATES PROFITS for their SHAREHOLDERS and this is all RUBBER STAMPED by DNREC. The oversight is the HONOR SYSTEM once again. No questions are asked. The PE's very short presentation during the hearing, a bunch of circles with short phrases did not provide any adequate explanation. No one could ask him questions or even ask for the numbers or details because the public was not allowed to speak, let alone ask a question. DNREC is supposed to protect the people and the environment. The DNREC mission is not supposed to be BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. The State of Delaware and the County of Sussex actually have Business Development Agencies. Please make Artesian reapply for both permits. Fill in those applications and provide all supporting information so DNREC can do the PROPER DUE DILLIGENCE to ask questions, due on site reviews and compare to the plans submitted. Due diligence should include calls to the department that regulates WWTPs to find out the current capacity of the Beaver Dam facility and the certifications for the plant and personnel. Questions about the content and an accurate estimate of Gallons per Day of the industrial and municipally sourced sewage/wastewater need to be made and documented. Please take this seriously. This is an abuse of power and the people. Sincerely, Shelly Cohen Concerned Citizen Milton DE