

Public Hearing on Biosolids Site Authorizations in the Siletz-Logsden Area

Date of hearing: Dec. 13, 2018, 6 p.m.

Host (Katherine Benenati): I'll be back in just one second.

Host: Great. I'll now call the hearing to order. The purpose of this hearing is to take public comments on the proposed renewal site authorizations for the cities of Toledo and Siletz and the Inn at Otter Creek. The hearing will be recorded to maintain a permanent record. Today is Thursday, December 13th. The current time is 6:13 p.m., and we are at the Newport Visual Arts Center. I'm gonna call people to comment in the order that they've signed up. Again, this meeting is being recorded. And by signing up to comment, you are consenting to be recorded.

I will ask ... I know this is an emotional issue for a lot of people. If you can hold any reaction or applause until the end of the comments, that would be great. It will help us with the transcription of the public record. DEQ will consider comments to the extent that our authority allows. Please be aware, you may raise issues that are outside our scope of authority.

You can also submit written comments via fax, email, or U.S. mail. The details on how to do this are included in a public notice document, which is available at the sign-up table up front. Written comments have the same weight as any comments provided during this hearing, and DEQ will be accepting comments through 5:00 p.m. on December 21, 2018. After the comment period closes, DEQ will consider all comments received.

I'll now begin calling the names of people who have signed up to speak. We have about 15 speakers. Is there anyone else that wants to submit a comment? Okay. If you decide to change your mind, then go ahead and get one of these slips at the front table and give it to the woman in the red dress up front.

So the first commenter is Cyndi Karp. Because we do have so many speakers, if you could just take a seat here. Because we do have so many speakers, we are going to ask that you keep your comments to five minutes. And my colleague Ranei will give you a signal at the one-minute mark and the 30-second mark. Thank you.

Cyndi Karp: Thank you. I'm Cyndi Karp. I wear one hat: Cyndi Karp hat. I get asked that a lot, because I'm involved in the community efforts a lot with wildlife, watershed, and contamination of the ecosystem. There are lots of things that are causing our problems; not just one. It's a million cuts to the ecosystem that's happening.

And during that, we've had a hundred years that we began the sixth extinction. That includes us, if we don't turn this around.

Part of what we're here tonight about is biosolids. That's why we're here tonight, to talk about that as a community. I recognize so many faces in this room, because I've worked on this for maybe 10 years, maybe longer. Because I attended the Siletz Watershed Council meetings, and they were really concerned that the river was dying. I've given testimony at Lincoln County Commissioners, and did really good 'til I left my notes. And then I broke out in tears, crying, and asking, "Please, save our Siletz River."

I was embarrassed terribly, but I had to scold myself for being embarrassed, because it come from the heart. I love my Siletz River. You all love your Siletz River. And since biosolids started, all of the locals have said there's something bad in the bio-solids, because things are happening in the river that's never happened before.

Well, biosolids are human waste. And human waste doesn't include just what we do; it includes industrial, hospital, everything comes into the sewer system within a city that is filtered through the wastewater treatment plants. Some of it comes out; some of it don't. Some of it goes into biosolids; some of it just goes out into the river. We've had a lot of questions about pharmaceuticals and what pharmaceuticals are doing to us in our waste products.

Well, DEQ doesn't test for very much. It only tests for a little tiny handful of things; not all the possibilities by any stretch of the imagination. Of course, the possibilities of what could be in there is 1.5 million chemicals, because that's what we're doing to our ecosystem. And how do we do that? And how do we be able to help that? Well, we become really good stewards of our watershed. We become good stewards of taking care of indigenous species, that includes humans.

And how are we gonna go about doing that? Well, we're gonna stop them, stop putting biosolids on our fields. It is well-documented for a very long time that there are things in it that don't do humans or the soil or the water or the wildlife good. One of the things that I heard from the biosolids caucus meeting at the end of the summer sometime, if I remember right, seems like an eternity ago ... But there was testimony by a local horse owner, and her horse got really sick from eating the hay from the biosolids. She has to go clear over into Eastern Oregon where there's no people for him to spread bio-solids around, to be able to have hay for her horse.

What is that doing to us when our elk eat the hay, when our cows eat the hay, and wildlife eats the hay, our elk and our deer? Well, they're out in the field, and they don't know that they're supposed to ... Elk don't know that they're supposed to stay off that field for three or four months. Yeah, the rancher can

keep the bio-solids in control, and keep his cattle off, but he can't keep the elk off.

So does that poison our meat too, where that woman has very well-recorded history of sick animal? Well, we're making ourselves sick. There's a lot of my friends that have been sick that live out in that area of Logsdon. And it's long overdue that we just stop this nonsense. And I'm gonna let you guys cover the rest. I've got two more meetings tonight, so I won't be able to stay too long.

Host: Thank you, Miss Karp. Next up is Larry Hammonds. Larry Hammonds, and then on deck is Alan Davis.

Larry, thank you.

Larry Hammonds: I'm Larry Hammonds. I live at the 12-mile marker on the Siletz Highway, been there since 1989. I've watched the river change like night and day. And just so you know that I'm not talking off the top of my head, I'm a retired engineer, I've worked for food companies for 30 years before I retired. And so chemistry was my favorite subject. I know a lot about it, scares the hell out of me sometimes, to know these things. And a lot of people I've talked to have even said that they really don't wanna know, it's so scary.

The one thing that I talked to the same people and a number of different officials about this problem with the bio-solids ... And the one thing that I think people really don't understand is that it isn't just the bio-solids; there's other problems involved with this. But there's no reason why we can't know, as a community, what's in those sludge materials before they're put on the land.

The state says they test the material. Well, just like she said, they test for a small range of heavy metals from lighter to heavy metals, which are harmful. And that's great that they do that, but all the other things that go in there, just like she said, are not tested for. Now, why would they do that? Why would our great state allow this material to come on land without knowing what's in it?

I believe that they do know what's in it. But if they were to publish that and make it public knowledge, there would be liability far beyond what the state could afford. So we need to know what's in that before it goes on the land; not after. Not when the damage is already done. I've been on the Siletz River right on the first rain after that's been applied, just upstream from my place. And you can smell it.

They say it doesn't get to the water: that's a damn lie. It does get to the water. You can smell it. And it runs off ... It may not run directly toward the river, but it runs off into little ravines and streams and goes one way, it goes the other way, and it ends up in the river no matter what. I watched the salmon population crash. There used to be ... My place had a 30-foot hole right in front of it. I used to put a snorkel on, go in there, and count hundreds of fish in there. Chinook

salmon. There isn't a single fish in there now. The seals haven't helped any, but the fish population has just crashed.

One thing that people don't think about: it isn't the toxicity, always, the toxicity of this stuff. Salmon come back to their spawning waters because they taste that water. They get to the mouth of that river, and they set up and they go, "Hey, that's where I came from." When you go in September, which is when they usually do it, and you apply those biosolids and it runs off into the river at the exact time the salmon are getting ready to come up that river, that changes the taste of that water. And they can taste parts per million of a chemical, and it changes the way that they act.

They go to the mouth of that river and they go, "Hey, this is not where I came from. It smells different, it tastes different. I guess I'm gonna cruise on by and see if I can keep finding where that river was." And they don't find it. They end up in somebody else's river, or they don't end up spawning at all.

There's a lot of other damage going on: logging, things like that. I've watched some of the spawning beds get silted over from excess logging, things like that. But my biggest worry is that there's no reason why we can't know what's in that sludge before it's put on the land. And I've asked that gentleman there, and I've asked a lot of other people why I can't know. They say, "Well, we can't test for everything." Well, that's just a damn lie. I'm a chemist and an engineer. I can test for that. You might have to break it down into pieces before you did it, because there is complexities in the chemistry, the way that it's put together, the way they process the sludge, things like that. It does take a certain amount of effort and thought process to do it, but it can be tested. And you could know what's in it.

But if they did put that out, and you knew what was in it, I guarantee you, if you're a farmer and you were puttin' it on your land, you'd be scared to death once you saw that list. It isn't just a few things. It isn't just the nitrates and the chemicals that make your crops grow better. It isn't just those things.

There was a deal in Northern California about robins disappearing. I just talked to the fellow about it earlier. And I couldn't figure out why the population was dropping. Turned out, they were eating worms that were saturated with Prozac from the sludge that was delivered to the land, and they lost the desire to mate. So their robin population dropped over 50 percent in this area where they put this sludge on.

They found out about it, and they stopped doing it. But that was because they tested to find out what was in these robins that made them stop producing other robins. We are not doing that. There's no reason why we can't. So I just hope that people will make enough of a fuss that we'll get some information, whether they wanna give it to us or not.

Host: Thank you, Mr. Hammons. Next up is Alan Davis, and on deck is Kayleen Davis.

Alan Davis: Hello. My name's Alan Davis. I live in Logsdon, have for 27 years. Own a land [inaudible 00:12:59]. Took our kids swimming over here ever since then, grandkids. We don't do anymore, because the algae's so bad, so terrible, we don't do it. We don't know what's in the water. But ... can I borrow this?

First of all, this is from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Officer Inspector General. They found 352 pollutants in biosolids. This came out November 15, 2018. This is how ... And on here, they say there is 61 designated adequately hazardous or hazardous pollutants. So there you go with that. I was in the military. These people inspect, and they usually find out what's wrong.

And here's what's really puzzling to me about all this, because there's just a lot of nitrates and a lot of things that causes algae to grow. But since the Siletz River, as Larry said, the Coho, [inaudible 00:14:06] Coho is in danger, or threatened, excuse me. And so, it is in a designated critical habitat area, also. It's under Title 40, Environmental Standards for Use of Disposal of Sewage Sludge, 503-14. I'll read A out of it: Sewage sludge shall not be applied to the land if it's likely to be adversely affect ... Excuse me ... to adversely affect threatened or endangered species listed under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, or a designated critical habitat area, which is both on the Siletz River.

And then, dumping bio-solids that are leeching into the river is a direct threat to the environment to the Coho's existence and equivocal habitat. They're violating federal law there. And we've been in touch with two federal agencies. There is an investigation going on about DEQ doing this.

And this is also from DEQ ... Or, excuse me, EPA. It's June 28, they had the meeting, they came out with the report December 4, 2017. On page 10, it asked how they think micro-plastics or micro-sources come. On the first one, it says "Sludge land applications and landfill leeches." So you're also getting microscopic plastics, nano-plastic, microscopic plastics, all these bio-solids ... You know what plastic does, they float on water. It gets into the water, the micro-organisms leech onto it, they grow a little bit smaller, organisms eat on it, fish come and eat on that, boom. It's in our food chain because it's just been absorbed through it.

All this is online. You could look at all this. All this is the truth. That's another one. And this is from United States Geological Survey, 2017 study. They studied all this. It said, "Wastewater treatment is effective at removing portions of chemicals from incoming waste. However, some chemicals are not removed, but instead, are absorbed biosolid materials. When bio-solids are allowed applied as fertilizers, the potential exists for chemicals to run off the land surface and the local surface waters."

Back again, we have the Coho salmon. They're violating federal laws, all the municipals. We've sent letters to the municipals, we've talked to people. We've talked to everybody involved, but nobody has told us why they can violate a federal law and get away with it. And I'm still ... Can you tell me that, Andrew Grant, how you guys can do that?

And here's a copy of Toledo's ... some of the stuff Toledo has in their biosolids. This is an analytical report. Wait a minute. Okay. Has ammonium nitrate, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, iron, lead, mercury, millenium, nickel, nitrate, nitrate, PH, phosphorous, which feeds algae, potassium, selenium, silver, cogedol 00:17:16, nitrogen, total solids, volatile solids, and zinc. And zinc is a major killer, and copper. Zinc and copper are major killin' the fish.

We no longer have any water bugs out by our place anymore. We have no crawfish anymore. And when we first moved out there, until about five years ago, there was very little algae. We used to take the kids down and watch the kids ... or watch the salmon go right by us, in schools. There hasn't been schools in years. So this hasn't stopped. This is all these municipals' drinking water. You're getting all these toxins in our water, and most of them cannot ... They can only take out about 50 percent of 'em, and a lot of 'em cannot be taken out of your water at all, by water treatment.

This is very dangerous, and people really need to look at this, really strong and hard. Because we have a very high cancer rate, heart attack rate, and just the way it is. And when you use chlorine, you get a byproduct, and so as things start-

Host: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

Alan Davis: Okay. As things get bad, you add more chlorine, which breaks in the bad things [inaudible 00:18:15].

Host: Kayleen Davis, and then up next is Andrew Grant. Mr. Kennedy, can you get me some water?

Thank you.

Kayleen Davis: Kayleen Davis, farmer, co-founder Save Our Siletz River. [inaudible 00:18:40] everybody go see our Save Our Siletz River Facebook, we have a lot of information on there. We sent a lot of emails to DEQ, so they've heard a lot of what we've had to say. As far as their recordkeeping, well, it's a joke. It really is. And part of the meeting today is because of these permits were so old, one of them back to 1993, well that's because the NPDS, the Oregon's National Pollutant Discharge ... what were ... [inaudible 00:19:13] system, second worst backlog in the entire nation.

The mid-coast basin, they've been meeting for years. DEQ is aware of the Siletz River quality, is evaluating the potential force of impairment. People consider the biosolids may contribute to the water quality issues. DEQ assembled a local stakeholder advisory committee in 2012, and they had ones before that. The TMDL, that was targeted to be ready 2015, '16. Now where are we? 2019? Is that what I hear?

In the meantime, our river's dying. I grew up on that river. I moved down there when I was 12. I swam in Cedar Creek. There was not algae like this. This river was full of life. Not anymore. I held my babies in that river. The little smolts, they come up and they tickle their toes, and then you put 'em in the water when they toddle and they'd run from those little smolts. And then later they'd try to catch 'em.

As an adult, I'd still try to catch 'em. But when do we quit? Well, when they're gone. The lamprey eel, they used to be thick. In fact, at the end of the season, they'd be all over their bodies, so it's kind of creepy. You don't see their skeletons any longer, either. The crawdads, the in-water bugs, they're all disappearing. And this stuff, it is dangerous. And it is toxic, and it contaminates the air, the water, and the land. There is airborne dangers. It is in the EPA health assessment manual. I read it.

Then, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, they did a study on this, because the people around there were complaining. And there were health effects. So I'm wondering why the DEQ hasn't done a health study around where the bio-solids have been ... or toxic sewage sludge ... They're not biosolids; they're toxic sewage sludge are placed. We do have a lot of cancer around here.

And one of the regulations, the 503.5, "Additional stringent requirements," on a case-by-case basis, the permit authority may impose requirements to use the disposal to sludge, or dis ... excuse me, are more stringent requirements as part necessary to protect the public health in the environment from the adverse effects of the pollutants sewage sludge. They place this right next to the church. This year, they knocked down the weed hay, I agree, thistles, was not fit to be fed to cattle.

And then they [inaudible 00:21:41] H2MS, they brought out the toxic sewage sludge, and they dumped it right on top of there. And they left it to rot down, and it stunk. And I could smell it at our house. Then, oh, I don't know, at what point, Howard, that you went out and tried to rake it, but I was told it was disked under or tilled under by an email. It was not. It wasn't hoed under, either. It sat there. He tried to rake it around, but it didn't really go anywhere. And eventually, the rain probably washed it. It's in the river probably, by now.

I filed complaints. Complaints are not followed up on. You get no satisfactory answer. This is just crazy. I just don't understand why anybody would do this.

And neighbors, farmers, I'm asking you. If the city and the DEQ won't stop, why won't you? Please think about the health, welfare of your neighbors, in your case, because this stuff isn't [inaudible 00:22:38].

Host: Thank you, Ms. Davis. Next up is Andrew Grant. And on deck is Claire Hall.

Andrew Grant: All right. So, I represent a biosolids applier. I've reviewed these permits, and I think that updating all the permits to the current standards is a great idea. The agronomic loading rates, I would agree with. The even restrictions for all sites provides not only easier oversight, transparency to the public, and it's easy, it benefits the appliers that we have one set of rules for all sites throughout ... that we may use throughout the year.

So yeah. In summary, I've reviewed the authorizations, and I feel as though they're in the best interest of the cities, the land owners, the community. And it's important to remember that setbacks and restrictions, these are all science-based. These numbers aren't pulled out of thin air. So there is a margin of safety, a safety factor built in to all of these numbers. And that's it.

Host: Thank you, Mr. Grant.

Andrew Grant: Thank you.

Host: Claire Hall.

Claire Hall: Good evening. My name's Claire Hall. I live in Newport, I am here in my role as the Lincoln County Commissioner, and also appearing on behalf of my colleagues Terry Thompson and Doug Hunt. We have submitted a detailed letter for the record, electronically, in the interest of time. I just want to briefly summarize the high points of the letter. We are asking DEQ to consider a moratorium on land applications within the Siletz watershed at this time. Failing that, we're asking that no land application be approved within 500 feet of the river or 250 of any year-round tributary that drains directly into the river.

We are asking for significantly more restrictive conditions on time frames where applications will be allowed. May 1 is likely too early a starting date, under recent weather trends. Spillage of liquid class B biosolids has been a documented problem in the county. Disqualification or elimination of noncompliant contractors must be undertaken, and local operators must be held accountable for violations by their contractors.

Inspection and monitoring requirements remain unworkable, unless state and operator resources are increased to ensure compliance. Notifications to interested persons and groups of application schedules, testing and reporting documentation, and enforcement activities should be automatic if requested. Onsite signage and public access to application site requirements needs to be adequately enforced. Thank you.

Host: Thank you, Commissioner Hall. Up next is John Sullivan, followed by Linda Hughes and Cliff Mann.

John Sullivan: My name is John Sullivan. I live in the Logsdon area, and I've been out there almost 30 years. I am a fisherman, so I'm very familiar with the river. I monitor the river, I'm a river steward. I have some questions I'd like to get some answers for. In the past, you asked questions, and you never get an answer.

Number one: can we get a testing baseline for each of these sites for they're gonna apply on? I went back and reviewed all the land site tests that I can get my hands on, and the latest one I can find is four years ago. Before that, it was seven years ago. And there are some sites that I can't find ever having been tested, period, for what damage is being occurred to them.

If we're not going to monitor this program, it can never work. I don't think it can work anyway, but if you don't monitor, and that is DEQ's responsibility, the state of Oregon has total control over biosolids. DEQ has total responsibility for monitoring their program that they put out. They're failing.

Tonight, we're reviewing these, as already been said. Most of these, five out of these six, the last time they had a permit was in 2005. It was for a five-year period of time, 2010 it ran out. Here we are, over eight years later, after the termination date of that permit, and we're now finally getting some new permits. Have anything changed? Let's talk about it.

What about the testing of these sites? One of the sites, they proclaim very loudly, "We're gonna test every two out of three years." My friends, two out of three years is just a figure to put out there to figure out how to get around it. Ask Lincoln City. They tested for two out of three years for almost 20 years, and never did they make one land test on any site they had. Not one.

When I talked them into testing a site, and it was saturated, they stopped applying on all sites they had. DEQ didn't enforce that. My question is, when you say "two out of three years," is that whether they're applying or not applying? Is it every two out of three years? No. They say, "put on two, stop a year, put on two, stop a year." You never test. There are no tests being done on over 90% of the sites. That's number one.

Number two: the other dodge. At agronomic rates." Oh, 100 pounds an acre. Not to worry, buddy. I have to test if I put on 100 pounds an acre, so I'm gonna put on 90 pounds an acre and I have avoided ever having to test that soil. So DEQ has a heck of a time trying to monitor the program. Their program is a paper tiger. It's useless.

The setbacks. They say that the operator communities have the responsibility for doing the setbacks. And then the setbacks are not defined strongly enough. 200 feet from a water source, drinking water source. It took us quite a while to

get them to put the Siletz River in as a drinking water source. One of these sites is up on Rock Creek. Rock Creek is only 500 yards from where it empties into the Siletz River. Are you gonna set back 200 yards from the Rock Creek? That's a drinking source.

The city of Toledo, written up in the paper, they don't meet the biochemical oxygen demand, better known as "BOD." Many times ... Not once, not twice, not three times, not four times, they're waiting to see if they're gonna get fined. That same sewage sludge is still taken out and applied. Even though it did not have the proper amount of oxygen in it to get the biochemical breakdown. Still applied, it just didn't do what it's supposed to do.

We're monitoring this program, aren't we? Application. They say this ... I'm gonna give you an example. 10 acres. I've got 10 acres to apply on, but the setbacks are determined by the people who apply it. DEQ doesn't have a clue what the setbacks are. They devoid themselves of having to even check 'em, whether it's from rivers, wells, roads, et cetera. When you get done, that 10 acres is down to about eight acres. When you send it in, they're still running on the 10 acres, because that's what this plot is-

Host: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.

John Sullivan: I have one more thing to say. Can we please get a baseline test for these sites so that later on, we know where we started and where we're at? Right now, you don't know where you're at and you don't know where you're going.

Host: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan. Linda Hughes and Cliff Mann.

Do you need an extra chair?

Clifford Mann: No, I'm gonna stand [inaudible 00:31:38]

Host: Okay. And do you need more than five minutes because there's two?

Clifford Mann: No, I don't think so.

Host: Okay. So we'll keep it at five minutes.

Linda Hughes: I'm not very good at speaking in public. My name is Linda Hughes.

Clifford Mann: And I'm Clifford Mann.

Linda Hughes: And I live at 7174 Logsdan Road, and I have a permit for biosolids. I've lived out there for 33 years. I run cattle and a hay production, a small contained operation. The vet comes out annually. My cattle are healthy, and my background has been 20 years in water treatment. And I hold four certificates. I

have worked for the City of Toledo for over 20 years, in water treatment, and I've treated the Siletz River.

Host: Please ... Hold on just a minute, Linda. It really makes it hard to hear the recording if there's background noise. So if we can let Linda continue, I'd appreciate it.

Linda Hughes: Anyway, nobody cares more about that river than me, since I had to treat it daily for 20 years. I have worked with the health department, Safe Water Drinking Act, and have met all the standards. And I care about that land. Now, if you wanna come out and test my soil and my wells, you're more than welcome to. What I feel, based on scientific evidence, is that I'm doing no wrong. And straight cow manure that comes out of my barn applied to the land, or from pigs that I'm entitled to grow, or commercial fertilizer, which is pure nitrogen, which is all within my rights ... My rights are I'm zoned ag, I have the right to farm.

And I'm going to do so under the current regulations of meeting farm deferral and being zoned ag. So that's all I have to say.

Clifford Mann: I'd like to add some stuff. I was born here in Newport. I was raised in the upper valley. My grandparents sold the property to the county that is now Moonshine Park. So I've lived there all my life. We farmed, and back to stewardship, I am a steward. So I really don't like you people telling me that I'm wrong because I support this.

Now, Mr. Sullivan brings up a lot of interesting issues. Perhaps we do need more testing, and I agree with that. And if we can get the government to go along with that, I'm okay with it. But we need to quit being hysterical about this. These are the laws. They're the rules and the regulations. Let's work together. When you guys claim that I am a bad person for what I do, I shut you out. I call you kooks. So please, let's get along. Don't look at me like I'm a kook. Thank you.

Host: Thank you, Ms. Hughes and Mr. Mann.

The next speaker ... I'm not sure I have this right ... the last name right. First name is Selene, and I believe it might be

Selene Rilatos: [inaudible 00:35:09].

Host: She'll say it. I think it's R-I-L-A-T-U-S

Selene Rilatos: Rilatos.

Host: Rilatos, okay.

Selene Rilatos: I left all my notes at home, but I just can't believe what I just heard. I grew up on the Siletz River my whole life, and for the people that just spoke to say that it's safe, I'm just appalled right now. But I did leave my notes at home. I will send them by the 21st.

And yeah, I think we all care about the river. That's why we're all here. I look at Jeff Mann, Kayleen, Robert, a lot of the core people here. Kathy, Shereen, we all went to school together. And here we are, friends of the river. Well, it doesn't feel very friendly sometimes. But I just really feel like I work for my tribe for 35 years, and when I think about not having a permit all this time and still allowing this to happen, who's answering for that? The government testing, there's so many loopholes in there. You heard Mr. Sullivan speak about that.

He said most everything that I would like to say in my email to you all. A lot of good speakers have spoke today, and I don't know if there's any name calling being done here. I've not heard it. Every time I've been to the commissioner's meeting, there hasn't been name calling. That's not why we're here. We're here to say, "Who's not doing their job?" Our river is dying. I haven't even taken my grandkids to swim in the river this year. Not one time. That's the first time in my whole life I have not swam in the river. I used to go eeling when I was a little girl with Robert and Kathy Kemtta.

Like Kayleen mentioned, there are no eels. And is that partly because of biosolids? Of course it is. And to say it's not, who are we kidding? Who are we kidding here? I didn't plan on speaking today, but I love our river, and it is a very passionate subject for a lot of us. And we had a reputation, apparently, the core group of us, Betty. It's because we care about the future generations. It's not just about you and me; it's about our great-grandchildren. We have that in our constitution with the tribe, that we need to protect and promote our religious ways. And that river is part of our religion.

Without our river, without our water, what are we gonna do? How many brought bottled water here today? It's really sad. And to think that it's not about you and me. That river matters to each one of us. That's why we're all here. And yes, I'm very upset, and there is no name calling here. I'm just saying, we need to protect our water. And that's why each one of us is here. And somebody's not doing their job. And so, why are they still working for us? They're not working for us. They're not working to save our river.

Host: Thank you, Selene. Next up is, I believe, it's Crystal Martin. Is that correct?

Crystal Martin: Mm-hmm (affirmative). I decline my comment for right now.

Host: Okay. Next up is Susan Wetherbee, followed by Betty Kamikawa. Is that correct?

Susan Wetherbee: Well, I wrote down what I had to say, because I'm scared to death. I wanna say a word about duty. Duty to keep our children and our grandchildren safe. Duty to

keep our water and our Earth safe. We gotta love our Earth like we love our grandchildren. We all have grandchildren. We know that that's a special kind of love. We need to save our water, or our children aren't going to be here.

We've got to quit dumping sludge. We call it "biosolids," we all know what it is. We all know where it comes from. They're finding chemicals in it that I don't understand where our sense of duty comes from. Is it about money? Why isn't our laws being upheld? People sit here in this chair and tell us about what our laws are, and what they are supposed to do for us. They're doing nothing for us.

You have a sense of duty to us. DEQ works for us. I don't understand why that's not being followed through on, why these laws aren't being upheld. I don't understand where our sense of duty is. Where does it start? It's gotta start with us, just people. Just people that love our rivers, our water, our Earth. It's not just our water we're hurting; our water feeds us. We live. Water is our lives. We have to stop dumping. I hate to say "biosolids." We have to stop dumping.

We have to save the Earth and the water. We have to save it. We have to start here, on our river. Thank you.

Host: Thank you, Susan. Betty?

Betty Kamikawa: I'm Betty Kamikawa. And I'm part of the Save Our Siletz River group. First, I wanna say that I have the utmost respect for everybody in this room, and everybody who lives on the river and around the river and all of Lincoln County. I have a degree in agronomy with an emphasis in soils, and I've worked in the soil testing industry. I worked with biosolids back in the 80s, when all we thought was, we had to worry about the heavy metals.

It's a lot more than that. Every year, as human beings, we make new compounds that we use all over this world. And it ends up in our biosolids, and it ends up in our drinking water. And we have got to be concerned with that. We don't test for nearly any of it. We're told we can't, we're told there's not enough money. It goes on and on and on. It just doesn't happen. So there's no proof that it's safe, and there's no proof that it's not safe. But we're the test subjects. Do you really wanna be the guinea pigs? I don't wanna be a guinea pig, and I certainly don't want my daughters and my future grandchildren, I don't want them to be the guinea pigs. We need to think about what we're doing to this planet.

The EPA, the thing that Alan brought up, the official Office of Inspector Generals, said that there are things in the biosolids, lots of chemicals. And I want you to understand that that part of the EPA is paid separately. Their funding is totally separate from the U.S. EPA, which means that they are completely independent of the EPA. Which means when they say that they've tested it and they know that it's in there, that has nothing to do with the U.S. EPA; that has to do with them testing it and saying, "It's there, we need to take this seriously."

And now the EPA is trying to discredit their own Inspector General's office, because they don't want us to get into this kind of thing that we're doing here. We have to do something with biosolids. We have to. We're gonna continue to make 'em every day, just like we always do. And the only other option is, we're not here on the planet, which we could end up killing ourselves with the biosolids. We have to think of other ways to dispose of them than putting them on the land. And this is our drinking water. This is our lives.

And like I said, I have all the respect in the world for everybody in this room and everybody in this county. And I don't wanna see any of us get sick from this. And I don't wanna see anything happen to any of us. And I don't wanna be a guinea pig. Thank you.

Host: Thank you, Betty.

Audience member: Send her to the governor's office.

Host: Next up is Kathy, I believe it's Robins, followed by Sherene Rowland.

Kathy Robinson: My name's Kathy Kemta Robinson, and I've lived-

Host: Closer to the ... Do you mind repeating that? I wanna make sure-

Kathy Robinson: My name is Kathy Kemtta Robinson, and I have lived in the Siletz River area for most of my life. I raised my children in Eugene and Bend, and moved back just a few years ago to live on our family property, and was shocked entering into the river, and realizing the degradation, mainly in the sediment, had completely changed from when I was a child. It was disgusting. I almost went up to my knees in different layers of scum and clay: heavier, darker clay, Sticky, slimy slime, and green algae that was stringy and alarming.

And so, I had noticed for a few years, and always kept thinking, "One of these days, I'm gonna make time to call and try and figure out where these trucks are coming from, because it seems very suspicious." They're always coming right around at 6:00 in the morning, and they're flying past the house, and they're tandem, you know? And I always wondered, "What the heck are they doing? What are they hauling?"

And it wasn't until this year that our local little neighborhood became more investigating, "What is going on?" And talking amongst each other about what we were experiencing. And I've had quite a few childhood friends die at my age, that were serious: cancer, all kinds of serious abnormal diseases for our tiny little community. And this has been going on for decades.

And so, my concern, first of all, we're talking about a lot of different concerns. But when I found out that the ... which are my neighbors, my friends. I grew up with a lot of these farmers and ranchers ... is why, if it's such a benefit to them,

and it reduces their cost for fertilizer, are they still getting compensated? To me, it's a buying off. It's like buying off their silence. And that feels really icky.

So I suggest you change that budget around a little bit, and let's move that money that they're getting compensated like double, because not only are they getting the benefit, but now they're getting paid off. So let's move that budget around a little bit, and why don't we pay for more testing before the applications get approved? Stop compensating the ranches, the farmers, immediately. Because it's so dangerous. We don't know. You don't know. We know you don't know. So that's my [inaudible 00:48:48].

Host: Thank you, Ms. Robinson. Next up is Shereen. And let me take this opportunity. Andi, do you have any more cards?

Andi: I have what you turned in.

Host: Okay.

Andi: [inaudible 00:49:06]

Shereen Rowland: I'm Shereen Rowland, I'm the crazy lady that the first lady spoke about, that spends a lot of money on her horse's hay. I'm gonna tell you that I, too, grew up on the Siletz River. I used to buy hay from Jeff. My family bought hay from Jerry [Kosydar00:49:22] for over 45 years. And then my horses started getting sick. And so, long story short, I switched hay, and I now drive to Redmond in the Madras area, and I pay \$255 a ton plus a four-hour drive to drive over and bring back eight ton of hay.

Would I rather be buying it from local people? Damn straight. And here's a little funny thing that happened since our last meeting. I started asking my fellow horsemen in the area when they started switching hay over to the valley. Every one of 'em, same reactions my horses got. The cough, the swollen lymph nodes, the soaking of the hay, and finally just cutting it out altogether, whammo. Five people I talked to that owned horses that used to get 'em in this area, four of 'em sold their horses, three had to be put down.

So, I'm paying \$250 a ton for orchard grass hay and driving over to the valley and buying it. This year, I thought, "I'm tired of feeding my goats \$250 orchard grass hay." And a friend of mine just so happened to inherit a farm that does not use biosolids and feeds locally. Guess what? My 20-year-old mare is cleaning up the hay, and not a sniffle. No biosolids.

So, because I compete in horse and cow events around the state, I belong to five different clubs. I have friends that own the Knee Deep Cattle Company, if you're familiar with that, in Eugene, that they sell organic beef. I have a friend that I compete with, Floyd Foster, down in the ... further south in the Rose group

competitions that I do down there in Tenmile, Oregon. And I asked them, because Floyd has one of the second largest dairy farms on the coast in Oregon.

I said, "Do you feed hay that's treated?" He goes, "Are you kiddin' me? I like my cows. I don't feed that crap." I have friends that hay 400-acre fields out in the Perrydale area. I asked them, "What do you do for your fertilizer?" When I asked them if they use biosolids, they were like, "Who uses that crap, literally? Why would we do that with our animals?"

So, that kind of made me start thinking. It's just not hysteria. And I don't understand why the farmers that I bought hay from for 45 years, why they had to switch to biosolids. Wasn't there something else they could use? Okay. So, that's the farmer end of me. I'm also an avid kayaker. I kayak around the state, go to different rivers. And I own 10 acres on the Yaquina Bay River, up at the [inaudible 00:52:07].

I'm down at my river every day, playing with my dogs. I have labs. I try to keep a lab out of the water when you live on the river? Doesn't happen. Guess what? My dog spends all the time chasing little schools of fish on the Yaquina River. I have crawdads, I throw down chicken legs, I watch 'em crawl around, because I raise chickens, too. You know, the point is, is I don't see the crap that I've seen on the Siletz River. I quit kayaking the Siletz River, it kind of disgusted me.

I used to live on the Siletz, grew up on the Siletz, played on the Siletz. Kayleen, Selene, Kathy, there has been a big change. So my thought is, one gentleman spoke about how it's a community benefit. And I thought to myself, sitting back there, "How is it a benefit if we don't know? How is it a benefit if we're slowly killing everybody here at this room? It's not a benefit." I mean, even to me, it's just a simple statement. If you don't know and there's even an inkling of evidence that it could be bad, then stop it. Just stop it. Go fertilize with something else. There's other things out there. We don't need to use it until we can find out why we're killing our river. Because the river dies, we all die, folks. That's as simple as it goes. Thank you for your time.

Host: Next up is Cindy George, followed by Rennie Farris.

Cindy George: I wanted you guys all to see the face of somebody that's lived with a contaminated well that was ignored for many, many years. Our family has had to buy every drop of water we've drank for the last 13 years. My daughter contracted three types of protozoa off of water. And when you contract a parasite, protozoa, you kill an animal in an animal. And so, they destroyed my daughter's thyroid gland.

And if anybody knows the thyroid and all the things that ... her depression and all these things, I'm lucky my daughter lived through it all. But you get very, very ... And then, when you're drinking bottled water, this bottled water is dead.

When they run it through reverse osmosis, and they run it through the filters and all these things, there's nothing in it. So you become very dehydrated.

That's what you guys are all gonna face real soon, if you keep destroying. I sat in those first meetings, and there was an elder there who had her well tested. And it tested positive for fecal coliform. She cried to this county for years, trying to get something done. She ended up having spent thousands and thousands of dollars to put in UV lights, reverse osmosis, all these things, so she could even use her water.

But you know what? She's now using dead water. Because if you don't replace those minerals, that calcium, that potassium, you can't sustain life. And so, they allow things like aluminum, aluminum. They can dump as much ... My well had 690 parts per million of aluminum in it. That isn't even controlled. It's accepted by the DEQ. There is no limit. You could not even see your legs in a bathtub.

The other thing is, unless you've got 10 people on a drinking water system, nobody cares. Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA, DEQ, they do not care. They could pump poison into your house and you've got no recourse. So it's time. And the accidental spills, the accidental spills of sewage going into all these rivers every time it rains and all these things, it's gotta stop. And they've known about this. We've watched it for years. Finally, people are starting to wake up.

But without water, safe water, life is gonna end for everybody around here. And all the wildlife.

Host: All right. This is the last card I have. If anyone else wants to submit a card to comment on the record-

Speaker 20: [inaudible 00:57:07]

Host: In fairness to everyone else, you'll get five minutes. But you can write as much as you want in a written comment. So if anyone else has one of these cards, please give them to Andi.

Rennie Farris: Hi. I'm Rennie Farris. I grew up just up the hill from here. Used to swim over in that parking lot, and bathed and swam regularly in the ocean. I can't look at somebody out there now without thinking they've gotta be absolutely insane, because of the water temperature, but we never knew anything about sewer outlets. And look what the hell happened. I lost all my hair and got ornery at an early age.

But since then, various things have changed in my life. I now consume 10 pharmaceuticals daily. I drink an inordinate amount of caffeine. I swear sometimes I can smell it in the pot when I'm standing up. And it's hard for me to think that it would be better for us to be shipping our wastes, these horrible, toxic things that we all consumed in one end and deposited out the other, and

then when it's diluted a bazillion times and the water goes out on the beach where I used to swim, and the concentrate of the solids are shipped to a few places to be disposed of, that any of us would be here or care if it went somewhere else.

Same thing done to it, but if we ship it someplace else, is that a better solution? I totally favor better monitoring and including testing, but I was locked out of school for lack of a budget. My oldest son was locked out of school for lack of a budget. Nobody can tell me that if there's adequate funding for just about anything in this state: the infrastructure, law enforcement, forest fire prevention, forest fire activities, how many things we've gotta compete for? And I think making our voices heard the way the groups here tonight have done is gonna make a change. I think there's gonna be ...

It's hard for me to believe that somehow or other, there isn't gonna be a little bit more attention come from. I don't know where the money's gonna come from, but somehow, I really firmly believe and hope that there'll be more testing. And oh, Cyndi left. Darn it. She was talking about the impacts of elk over on the flats with the biosolids. And I started slave child labor at a very early age out by the airport when I was about seven. And got real up front and personal with the soil.

We had a crappy tractor, and a fairly healthy three brothers. And we never saw an elk track out on that property until about 20 years ago, when they started ... I think that's about when they started, city started depositing their waste at the airport. And since then, the elk population has exploded to ... I think last winter's count was 138. And we couldn't have had a nursery if we'd had 138 elk going through there even once a year. They live on the property part of the time, now.

It seems like it's a little misplaced, where we don't say a thing about the poor gas station attendant when we drive away and say, "At least we didn't have to stay there too long." And they're staying there all day, where you drive up and down the highways, we can smell the exhaust, but we don't put respirators on our children or ourselves. And it just gets hard to weigh it. It's our waste. We oughta be taking care of it, but it needs to be done properly.

Needs to be enough monitoring that the applicators are not trying to beat their deadline, and making a buck. But I hope that we can find ways to work together. I like the comments about nobody hates anybody. I might make a few exceptions here, but ... And there's some other people around town I'd say the same for.

Host:

Thank you, Rennie. That was the last comment card I had. Just one last call for comments. And then closing the formal public hearing, it is 7:15 on December 13. I'd like to remind everyone that you can submit written comments through 5

p.m. on December 21 of 2018. Thank you for attending tonight's hearing and for taking the time to share your comments with DEQ.



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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
REGISTRATION FOR COMMENT

1

TOPIC Bio-Solid Hearing

DATE 12/13/2018

Name Cyndi Karp

Address PO Box

City Waldport State OR Zip 97394

Email cyndi.karp@peak.org



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TOPIC Siletz River History/Conditions

DATE 12/13/18

Name LARRY HAMMONS

Address 12050 Siletz Hwy

City Lincoln City State OR Zip 97367

Email _____

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3

TOPIC TOXIC Sewage Sludge (BIO SOLIDS)

DATE DEC 13 2018

Name

Alan Davis

Address

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City

Logsdan

State

Orz

Zip

97357

Email

makersaves@g.com



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4

TOPIC Toxic Sewage Sludge

DATE 12-13-18

Name

Kayleen Davis

Address

6491 Hoysden Rd

City

Hoysden

State

OR

Zip

97357

Email



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TOPIC Pco

DATE 12-13-18

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TOPIC BIO SOLIDS

DATE 12/13/15

Name Claire Hall

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TOPIC Bio Solids

DATE 12-13-20

Name John Sullivan

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City Logsdon State OR Zip 97357

Email SULLYSBEND @ Q. COM

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TOPIC Bio Solid Land Applying

DATE 12/13/18

Name Linda Hughes + Cliff Mann

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Email Lindamann7174@gmail.com

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TOPIC _____

DATE 12/13/18

Name Selene Ribotas

Address P O Box 633

City Siletz State OR Zip 97380

Email _____

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TOPIC _____

DATE _____

Name

Cristal Martin

Address

857 Sibley

City

Sibley

State

Ore

Zip

97380

Email _____



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Declined to speak



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TOPIC _____

DATE _____

Name Susan Wetherbee

Address 1420 SE Fircrest way #25

City Portland State Ore Zip 97391

Email Susan Wetherbee63@gmail.com

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TOPIC _____

DATE _____

Name

Betty Kamikawa

Address

City

Toledo State _____ Zip _____

Email

btkamikawa@gmail.com



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TOPIC DeQ -

DATE _____

Name Sherreen Rowland -

Address P.O. Box 73

City Eddyville State OR Zip 97343

Email _____

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15

REGISTRATION FOR COMMENT

TOPIC Permits for Brozolds Application

DATE 12/13/2018

Name Kathy Kutta Roberson

Address 4045 Logsdun Rd.

City Logsdun State OK Zip 97357

Email kroberson.harvest@gmail.com

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16

TOPIC Siletz Toledo + OtterCrest BioSolids

DATE 12-13-18

Name Crndy George

Address 244 Pioneer Trail

City Toledo State OR Zip 97391

Email goinggreenwest@gmail.com



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17

TOPIC Logsdon Birds

DATE 12-13-15

Name Renee Ferris

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City Newport State OR Zip 97365

Email reneeferris@charter-net

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2	Robert Kuntla	4645		r.kuntla@etsi.us
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4	William Dockstader	Box 685 "	"	
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4	Kathy Keutla			Kvobenson.harvest@gmail.com
5	Sharon Rowland	6821 - Crystal Creek Coop Eddville	97345	
6	Juan	2875 Monahan Rd	97357	
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8	Cynthia George	244 Pioneer Trail Toledo	97391	
9	Amy Chapman			achapman@co.lincoln.or.us
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4	Linda Hughes	7174 Logsden Rd	Logsden 97357	LINDAMANN7174@gmail
5	CRYSTAL MARTIN	PO 857 Siletz OR 97380	—————>	
6	Don Lane	181 Siletz OR 97391	Siletz	
7	Susan Dennis	P.O. Box 462	Waldport 97394	
8	Betty Kamikawa			blKamikawa@gmail.com
9	ARAYA LUNA	295 W BuForm	Siletz	
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4	Andrew Grant			A.Grant@newportoregon.gov
5	CLARE HALL	428 NE Benton, Npt	Npt, OR 97365	cehall@co.lincoln-or.15
6	John Sullivan	P.O. BOX 8	Logsdan 97357	SULLYSBEND@G.COM
7	Tim Miller	381 Kosydar Rd	Siletz	
8	Stan Vande Watering		Siletz	stanvandeWatering@yahoo.com
9	Selene Pilato			maritaselene@yshop.com
10	JOHN STROM	Grubbs St -	Toledo	Rainwater42@btm



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