



Groundwater Protection Program
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Will the sludge or wastewater have a bad odor?

- Not if it is treated correctly.

Is the sludge or wastewater dangerous if I come into contact with it or touch it?

- No, however it is prudent to wash your hands or any body parts soon after potentially contacting the wastewater or sludge as it does contain bacteria. Also refrain from putting your hands to your mouth, eyes, nose or any open cuts or sores that you may have.

Will it be dangerous for my animals, any cows or pets that may come into contact with the material?

- As stated in Regulations contained in the document Water Pollution Control Permits: R61-9, Section 503.24 (l) "Animals shall not be grazed on an active sewage unit, unless the owner/operator of the surface disposal site demonstrates to the Department that through management practices public health and the environment are protected from any reasonable anticipated adverse effects of pollutants in the sludge when animals are grazed." If your pets do come into contact with freshly applied wastewater or sludge it is recommended to wash them off as soon as feasible just to be on the safe side.

Will the sludge or wastewater runoff the site or poison my well?

- If the sludge or wastewater is applied correctly and according to the regulations it should not runoff from the site or impact any wells. There are buffer requirements in the Regulations that will prevent such events from occurring if the waste material is applied correctly.



Will the trucks or tractors used to spread the sludge tear up my pasture?

- No, not if the contractor uses good judgement in bringing the sludge to the site and spreading it evenly across the site. On damp places in a pasture there could be tire tracks left in the ground but no permanent damage should take place.

Does any monitoring occur and if so how does that happen?

- If it is a wastewater disposal site that receives treated effluent on a regular basis then groundwater monitoring wells will be installed and sampled according to the frequency as outlined in the SDHEC Discharge Permit. If the site is a dedicated sludge disposal site the same type of groundwater monitoring will be required along with some possible soil monitoring for nutrients for the crop or crops that are to be grown. If the site is a sludge site that receives sludge on an intermittent basis, usually once every three years, then soil monitoring for nutrients will be required along with a Nutrient Management Plan required by the SCDHEC Discharge Permit.

Additional questions should be directed to one of the following program area contacts:

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