



Paul Pape
Bastrop County Judge

July 12, 2016

Office of the Chief Clerk and TCEQ Commissioners
MC 105, TCEQ
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Dear TCEQ Commissioners:

Please deny the permit application of Denali Water Solutions, LLC (Permit Application # WQ000517000) to dispose of Class B bio-sludge on land in Bastrop County. The City of Austin has proven that there are more environmentally sound ways to use wastewater sludge, with products such as Dillo Dirt.

Bastrop County officials and citizens have several concerns. Class B sludge contains heavy metals that are toxic at certain concentrations. In addition, the sludge contains nutrients that fertilize plants both on the land and in water. Since the proposed site is on Cedar Creek, a major tributary to the Colorado River, we are troubled about the potential for pollution of the creek and river.

In addition, the site is in the undifferentiated outcrop (**recharge zone**) of the Wilcox aquifer. We worry that applying known pollutants in this sensitive recharge zone will result in contamination of the groundwater. There is also the matter of the County roads to the ranch that will suffer drastically from the 1000 or so round trip loads per year of sludge from City of Austin processing plants.

Finally, this sludge could provide breeding sites for vectors, including mosquitoes. With the anxiety about Zika virus exposure and transmission, adding any potential for the growth and spread of such pests in populated areas is irresponsible.

The negative impacts of Class B sludge applied to land in populated areas are overwhelming. The citizens of Bastrop County will suffer the consequences of water and air pollution from the sludge as it leaches into creeks and ground water by rains or dries and blows into residential neighborhoods. Bastrop County will bear the cost of maintaining impacted County roads without any remuneration from the City of Austin or their contractor. Our drivers must deal with the added congestion and risk of the 18 wheelers hauling the City of Austin's sludge here. Then there are the unknown consequences of potential spread of disease.

We in Bastrop County do not want to be a dumping ground for City of Austin sludge. I appeal to you to deny the permit to Denali. Dumping sludge on land in populated areas, or in aquifer recharge zones, is not environmentally responsible. We are counting on you to protect us from this folly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Pape".

Paul Pape
County Judge

Enclosure: Commissioners Court Resolution, July 11, 2016