

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH AUTHORITY

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Centre County Court House Annex, Bellefonte, PA, Civil Hearing involving Swancer vs. Spicer Family Farms and Bellefonte Borough Authority over the recycling of biosolids on farm fields.

Due to the undisputable facts that:

- 1) Biosolids is not raw sewage. It is highly-treated waste sludge that becomes a nutrient-rich organic recycled material applied to agricultural fields as fertilizer to improve soils and stimulate plant growth;
- 2) Bellefonte Borough Authority for over twenty-five years has met or exceeded all PA DEP and US EPA-sanctioned biosolids program regulations. Even though the biosolids program is highly-regulated with ongoing testing and inspections, Bellefonte Borough Authority has never had a violation;
- 3) Bellefonte Borough Authority did not violate its source water plan. The Plan states: "... land uses, activities, or individual industries identified in the PSOC inventory are not necessarily a source of pollution; however, they have the *potential* for contaminating groundwater." The Plan states that the potential area of contribution to the Big Spring is approximately 55 square miles covering 17 municipalities in two counties. Almost 900 potential sources of contamination were identified in the Plan;
- 4) the farmer just wanted an affordable organic fertilizer instead of chemicals. The PA Supreme Court has already ruled that using biosolids is a normal agricultural operation; and
- 5) Bellefonte Borough Authority has always enjoyed an outstanding relationship with its neighboring municipal and authority representatives and very much wants to maintain that relationship.

Bellefonte Borough Authority willingly and voluntarily offered to forgo applying biosolids to the Spicer farm until a decision has been rendered by the Court.