

# *Say 'No' to Bioenergy's Factory Farm Gas Facility in Seaford*

## WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL?

Bioenergy Devco, a multinational corporation, wants to capitalize on Delaware's industrial poultry industry by [building](#) a massive factory farm gas facility in Seaford.

If Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) approves the facility, it would truck 250,000 tons of poultry waste into Seaford each year, further polluting the state's natural resources and threatening low-income communities of color that already face disproportionately high levels of pollution.

## ENVIRONMENTAL + COMMUNITY IMPACTS

The proposed location is a residential-agricultural area. Approximately 1,100 people live within a mile of the facility, and almost 11,000 residents live within three miles.<sup>1</sup>

- The facility will add roughly 73,000 tanker truck trips moving waste through this residential neighborhood every year, increasing toxic emissions, and degrading air quality.

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<sup>1</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. 2022 version. EJScreen.

- Anaerobic digesters are known to cause waste spills and to emit air pollutants, but their total environmental and public health impacts have not been adequately studied and are not yet fully understood.
  - California Air Resources Board (CA-ARB) and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment compiled a list of 12 trace components potentially present in biogas, at levels significantly above traditional natural gas, including carcinogens.
- Communities near the facility are already overburdened by pollution and the negative health impacts it causes. Introducing yet another source of pollution into communities already facing environmental injustice will cause additional harm.<sup>2</sup>

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

### Tell DNREC to deny the factory farm gas permits! Here's why:

- The facility would cause **more pollution** and add to the **environmental injustices** the local community *already* experiences.
- **A health impact assessment (HIA)** has not been conducted to assess how the facility will affect public health, whether vulnerable populations are more likely to be impacted, and whether health impacts are distributed evenly.
- **A traffic study** has not been undertaken to show the current traffic burden, the expected increase in truck traffic , and whether additional safety measures are needed (e.g., new traffic signals, emergency vehicle access, safe pickup/dropoff points for school buses, etc.).
- **A community notice and evacuation plan** has not been created to protect community members in an emergency. Biogas production and transportation can cause serious hazards, including explosions, fires, hazardous gas releases, and waste spills. Before facility construction, plans must be made for notifying

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<sup>2</sup> Community has 80% more air toxin pollution than the rest of the state; 70% more people of color; 81% more low-income populations; 82% more populations with limited English language proficiency; and 84% more populations of folks holding less than a high school diploma

community members of emergencies, and safely evacuating them.<sup>3,4</sup>

- **Air and water monitoring and reporting** has not been implemented. Publicly available baseline data on the quality of air and water must be collected to determine the facility's environmental and public health impacts. If the facility is approved, continuous monitoring should be conducted after construction to track emissions, spills, and pollutants.

## TAKE ACTION

**Submit written comments** to DNREC by 4:30 p.m. on December 2, 2022. **Email** comments to [DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov](mailto:DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov) or use the **online form** at [de.gov/dnrecomments](https://de.gov/dnrecomments).

## DEMANDS

*Some sample demands you can ask of regulatory authorities or contribute in comments:*

1. This is a residential area where the community already experiences numerous environmental injustices. It is a completely inappropriate location for what is essentially a fossil-fuel refinery.
2. Air and water quality monitoring and reporting must occur before the facility is sited, and during construction and operation. This will ensure baseline data and health impacts are accessible for community members.
3. HIA and traffic studies should occur *before* permits are approved, and should be provided to the public for comment.
4. A thorough public notice and emergency evacuation plan must be created to protect communities in the event of emergency or digester failure.

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<sup>3</sup> [Three hospitalized after explosion at Quasar Energy's Wooster facility in June of 2022](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Methane fueled explosion at Aumsville dairy farm causes fire](#)