

Jacob McLellan

My interest in soil and water quality is vested coming from the perspective of raising my family near fields treated with biosolids. What heavy metals and toxins are tested for when the compost is released to the field? Is every load tested? Where are the records? Are heavy metals, contraceptives, household and industrial detergents, and pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical drugs tested for? I don't have any issue with manure that is properly composted, but why put mercury, lead, and waste pharmaceuticals on our food, soil, and water? For years I have observed the application of biosolids from Spokane County and noticed a large difference in compost quality. In some cases, the fecal odor is present for over 12 months. It smells like raw sewage. In other applications, the only odor is that of earth compost. It is apparent that some of these application are not really field ready but are being applied anyway. Who and how often are the biosolids checked for fecal coliform requirements? Is it wise to apply biosolids in areas with rising nitrates in well drinking water? Well water contamination is obvious evidence that is contrary to the "determination of non-significance." I guess it depends WHO finds it significant or not, but for my family, we like to drink clean water, eat wholesome grains, and breathe clean air that doesn't have a fecal smell for a year. Asking as a concerned citizen.