

Public Comments on Draft Permit and EPD Responses
City of Madison
Southside Water Pollution Control Plant
NPDES Permit No. GA0023141

Comment	Response to Comment
I am very opposed to this. Fecal matter water will drain in to the water shed going straight into the old City of Rutledge well. Although not in use now but may be needed in the future. No use in contaminating all of our water just so Shepherd Farm can save a little money.	The City of Madison has decided to withdraw their request to add the Shepherd Farm property as an approved site for land application of biosolids. The final permit has been revised and the Shepherd Farm property is no longer listed as an approved site.
This application involves the addition of a Shepherd Property field on Walter Shepherd Road, Rutledge GA. The EPA is currently developing two proposed rules to designate some types of PFAS as hazardous. If that occurs, those compounds would then be more tightly regulated under a federal waste law, known as RCRA (the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act). A public hearing should be held for this proposal and approval of this application should be withheld until a final determination by the EPA.	The City of Madison has decided to withdraw their request to add the Shepherd Farm property as an approved site for land application of biosolids. The final permit has been revised and the Shepherd Farm property is no longer listed as an approved site. The site has been removed from the City's sludge management plan, therefore a public hearing on the matter is no longer needed.
My name is George Bishop 5580 Atlanta Hwy Rutledge GA. I have a deep concern with the dumping of this biowaste on this property. My property borders this property on two sides. With the mixing of waste that is classified as a bio-hazards. I am on a water well. About 90% of the rain run-off from this property comes across my property. This is more than likely to contaminate my well and soil. I have heard of this being done in other parts of the county. I have also heard that people got sick and animals died. So you can see my objection to this waste being dumped so close to my property. With amount of rain runoff they just as well dump directly on my property. The denial of this permit is a must.	The City of Madison has decided to withdraw their request to add the Shepherd Farm property as an approved site for land application of biosolids. The final permit has been revised and the Shepherd Farm property is no longer listed as an approved site.

I am writing to make you aware that my husband and I object to the proposed application of biosolids from the city of Madison on to land farmed by the Shepherd Family Farm on Walter Shepherd Road in Rutledge. Mr. Shepherd alternates his crops of winter wheat and cotton on his acreage and we feel uncomfortable with a known food product for humans as well as wheat straw, a common roughage for livestock, being grown with this application. While people don't think of cotton as being a food product, by products of cotton, such as seed and branches, are used in sweet feed for cows and probably other animals, so that would also be harmful. It is our understanding that the EPA is making some major decisions about products found in these biosolids and their possible "forever" negative effects on humans and animals. This field where the Shepherd family would apply the biosolids is part of our vital shallow groundwater recharge area in Rutledge which makes it all the more important that no biosolids at all be applied here. Please ask the city of Madison to find an alternate location but to be sure of what is grown on or beneath the new area. Regardless of what is done, we would like a public meeting to advise all the residents who would be affected by this.	The City of Madison has decided to withdraw their request to add the Shepherd Farm property as an approved site for land application of biosolids. The final permit has been revised and the Shepherd Farm property is no longer listed as an approved site. The site has been removed from the City's sludge management plan, therefore a public hearing on the matter is no longer needed.
I would like to have a public hearing about this human waste matter in Morgan County at the Shepherd farm there are too many people against this.	The City of Madison has decided to withdraw their request to add the Shepherd Farm property as an approved site for land application of biosolids. The final permit has been revised and the Shepherd Farm property is no longer listed as an approved site. The site has been removed from the City's sludge management plan, therefore a public hearing on the matter is no longer needed.
Why take a chance with our ground water? What, just so Shepherd Farm can save a little money? No this must stop now.	The City of Madison has decided to withdraw their request to add the Shepherd Farm property as an approved site for land application of biosolids. The final permit has been revised and the Shepherd Farm property is no longer listed as an approved site.

The recent request from the City of Madison to add an additional sludge field in RUTLEDGE, Morgan County should be subject to a public hearing due to the evolving wastewater sludge laws regarding PFAS contamination from land application. The recent 8/2024 “CRBI vs City of Calhoun” case from North Georgia is very relevant to wastewater biosolid applications across the State of Georgia.

Can Madison prove the wastewater sludge to be applied on Shepherd Property Field 1 (approximately 25.84 acres on Walter Shepherd Road, Rutledge, Georgia 30663) is PFAS free? The Calhoun case highlights the very recent changing rules from EPA (see attached). In addition, the runoff from the location at Walter Shepherd Rd, Rutledge would also be in proximity to numerous private wells, located on the County water recharge area and located in the center of two streams (Rawlings Branch and Rice Creek) which are tributaries to Big Indian Creek, a designated EPA “drinking water” designated waterway.

Considering the environmentally sensitive area around the proposed Rutledge field location (see attached), a RUTLEDGE public information session is warranted.

On a broader note, per the “Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the greatest concern regarding a Biosolids Program, is the risk of exposure of chemicals found in biosolids, specifically PFOS and PFOA. The science and risks to hazardous PFOS and PFOA containment is still being studied and is ongoing. “. It is my understanding that GaEPD is awaiting new and finalized EPA regulations and standards. We clearly need more information. Is the wastewater sludge safe? A local public local hearing and/or pause on expanding permits is clearly warranted.

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