



Town of Windham

Windham Water Works

174 Storrs Road
Mansfield Center, CT 06250
Phone: 860-465-3075 & Fax: 860-465-3085

March 28, 2025

Dear Town Leaders,

This letter is regarding two recent PFAS Biosolids-related investigations currently occurring in the Willimantic Reservoir Watershed. As you should be aware, PFAS (Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances), are a group of man-made chemicals used in a wide range of products and known for their environmental and health risks.

Biosolids are created from treated sewage sludges that are being used as fertilizers or soil conditioners generated from wastewater treatment facilities. These biosolid pellet fertilizers are dark in color and almost resemble asphalt from a distance. Since biosolids are a result of wastewater treatment, the unique smell is that of human fecal matter. PFAS has been linked to the following health conditions in humans: Cancer, liver damage, thyroid disease, immune system dysfunction, reproductive health problems, developmental problems, along with other things such as increased cholesterol levels, hormonal imbalances, and increased risk of cardiovascular disease. PFAS is extremely resistant to degradation, thus why it received the name "the forever chemical." If you would like to provide your residents with more information, you can find information at www.cdc.gov or www.epa.gov.

As of October 1, 2024, per Connecticut Public Act No. 24-59 Bill No. 292, "**No person shall use, sell or offer for sale in this State as a soil amendment any biosolids or wastewater sludge that contains PFAS.**" It has been brought to our attention by concerned residents, neighbors, schools and farmers, that there have been multiple purchases and applications of biosolids which contain PFAS within our watershed. The ongoing investigations right now are due to farmers applying these biosolid based pellet fertilizers to their farmlands as well as mixing these biosolids in with gravel to reclaim land.

We would like you to be aware that the use of these biosolid materials could not only affect surface water which we use for drinking water for Willimantic & Mansfield residents, but it also has the potential to contaminate aquifers and private wells near these land applications. We intend to work diligently with the USDA on correcting these issues as well as work in developing an outreach program to keep our farmers up to date with rules and regulations along with good house keeping practices.

The intent of this memo is to educate all Towns within the Willimantic Reservoir Watershed of the serious health concerns of this now banned practice in the state of CT. It would be beneficial to not only report suspicious activity to Windham Water Works, but to also stop the farmers from applying the substances on land, to protect your Towns' residents. Together we can eliminate polluting contaminants from entering water supplies and/or possibly being consumed.

In relation to this issue, that is why it is important to make sure your residents are submitting watershed applications to Windham Water Works for any projects occurring in our Watershed, so we can review them to reduce contaminants from entering our waterways.

We appreciate all the efforts you have made previously to help keep the water supplies clean. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tyler Johnson
Environmental Technician