

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 257 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY RIGBY, OBERLANDER AND CAUSER, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
NOVEMBER 2, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Environmental Protection, as a result
2 of the findings of the Legislative Budget and Finance
3 Committee's report, Proposed Revisions to Biosolids General
4 Permits PAG-07, PAG-08, and PAG-09, not to implement the
5 proposed revisions.

6 WHEREAS, In 2021, the Department of Environmental Protection
7 released proposed revisions to the General Permit for the
8 Beneficial Use of Exceptional Quality Biosolids by Land
9 Application (PAG-07), General Permit for the Beneficial Use of
10 Biosolids by Land Application (PAG-08) and General Permit for
11 the Beneficial Use of Residential Septage by Land Application
12 (PAG-09); and

13 WHEREAS, Last session, the General Assembly adopted House
14 Resolution 149, Printer's No. 2542, which directs the
15 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the impact of
16 the Department of Environmental Protection's proposed revisions;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The resulting report shares significant concerns
19 related to implementation of the Department of Environmental

Protection's proposed revisions and the increased cost to ratepayers, municipalities and the agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee also uncovered the following unintended consequences with the Department of Environmental Protection's proposed revisions:

(1) Issues with landfilling biosolids.

(2) Issues with incineration of biosolids.

(3) The availability of land application sites;

and

WHEREAS, The Department of Environmental Protection has not estimated the significant cost of permit holder compliance and the need for new municipal infrastructure to comply with the proposed revisions; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Environmental Protection has not addressed how waste management facilities, communities and the agricultural industry would, in practice, comply with the proposed revisions; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Environmental Protection has not demonstrated any potential environmental benefits as a result of the proposed revisions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Department of Environmental Protection, as a result of the findings of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee's report, Proposed Revisions to Biosolids General Permits PAG-07, PAG-08, and PAG-09, not to implement the proposed revisions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Secretary of Environmental Protection.