

SUPPORT HB 880

Topic: Monthly PFAS Sampling of Sewage Sludge

Bill Patron: Del. Hillary Pugh Kent

OVERVIEW:

This bill directs wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) to sample and test sewage sludge for PFAS on a monthly basis. It institutes data collection and reporting by amending WWTPs' existing Clean Water Act VPDES pollution permits to include PFAS testing.

REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- Virginia does not currently require routine testing or disclosure of PFAS in sewage sludge, the residual solid waste of wastewater treatment. As a result, state regulators, local governments, and communities lack basic information about PFAS levels and their harms.
- This is more than just a biosolids bill – HB 880 captures PFAS data for the significant quantities of PFAS-contaminated sludge (by some estimates 50% of total sludge produced) that are disposed in landfills and through incineration
- This is a sophisticated regulatory reform because it would impose this testing and reporting requirement by amending WWTPs' existing Clean Water Act pollution permits. By embedding PFAS testing and reporting into VPDES permits, HB 880 ensures clear compliance and reporting pathways for WWTPs.
- Most PFAS is concentrated in the residual solid waste rather than in the treated wastewater effluent. This data will be critical for both DEQ and WWTP operators to track efforts to reduce overall PFAS contamination of the wastewater treatment process over time.



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