



# The United Sludge-Free Alliance

## Talking Points

### Science & the Sludge Industry

Recent scientific literature confirms the many reports of serious sludge-related illnesses, animal mortalities, and groundwater pollution. Cases of adverse health effects have been well documented nationally and internationally.

Even without a science degree, everyone knows that lead, mercury and arsenic is not what you want on your fields, your food source and your water supply. These poisons and toxins from waste are marketed as a 'soil enhancer' and spread on fields.

Thirty years ago, the EPA exempted sewage sludge from many hazardous and solid waste regulations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, so that these materials could legally be 'recycled' as fertilizer. Because the EPA decided you should consume hazardous waste, does that make it safe?

In 1986, Congress legalized the Domestic Sewage Exclusion to include dumping of hazardous wastes into sewers. The current regulations permit every business, institution, and industry in the country, every month, to pour 33 pounds of hazardous waste into the nation's sewers. Who's checking?

When a bureaucracy, university or scientific 'study' is funded by an industry that stands to have financial gain based on the outcome of 'study', the goal of health and safety is compromised. This is not rocket science.

A 2008 EPA panel concluded that the toxic effects of hormone-disrupting chemicals like phthalates need to be studied *in combination* with other chemicals in order to assess the true impact on human health.

Respected scientists throughout the world link the transfer of heavy metals and bacteria into our food source via water and soil. The sludge industry and the bureaucracies that are meant to ensure our health and safety refuse to re-evaluate the policy that promotes pouring known toxic waste on our food and water.

Bureaucracies charged with protecting our health, food and water refuse to "connect the dots" of the application of hazardous sewage sludge to our food source.

Under the Clean Water Act, sludge is declared a pollutant and must be disposed of properly, an issue that is downplayed by companies spreading sludge on farmland because the farmer will be the one charged with breaking the law.

Sewage sludge must be discontinued as a 'fertilizer' without absolute proof of its safety. National standards for sewage sludge must be revised to truly protect America's food source, water supply and communities. Ultimately, pouring known toxic waste on our farmlands compromises the soil and water we rely on and endangers America now and in the future.