

BIOGAS

THE DIRTY TRUTH

Biogas is dirty energy. Storing billions of gallons of untreated hog waste in lagoons, which are essentially pits of waste, pollutes our rivers and streams, dirties our air, creates an unbearable stench, and makes people sick. Black, Latino, and Native American families disproportionately bear the burden of this pollution. Biogas would lock in these injustices. Industry plans to cap some hog waste pits to capture gases and pipe gases offsite. But the serious pollution problems remain.

HOG OPERATIONS

WASTE PITS

Industrial hog operations store untreated feces and urine in football field-sized pits and spray it onto nearby fields—the cheapest, most harmful way possible to handle the billions of gallons hog waste produced at the 2,000+ industrial hog operations in N.C. Industry is doubling-down on this polluting system to make biogas. Capping one hog waste pit while leaving the others uncovered creates more air pollution and threatens our waterways even more.

COVERS

SPRAYER

WATER POLLUTION

Untreated hog waste contains harmful nutrients, bacteria, and pathogens that run off into and seep into rivers and streams—contaminating drinking water, polluting well water, causing toxic algal blooms, and killing fish. Covering only one lagoon concentrates pollution in the leftover waste, increasing the risk of water pollution.

Toxic algal blooms

HARM TO PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES

Families—disproportionately Black, Latino, and Native American families—who live nearby and downstream from waste pits and sprayfields suffer. The sprayed waste drifts onto properties and causes people to get sick. Covering just one lagoon doesn't solve the stench problem, and makes other air pollution even worse.

During major rain events, uncovered lagoons overflow and sprayfields flood, sending untreated hog feces and urine into rivers and streams.