

Allen Harim Operating Permit Hearing Announced for Harbeson Plant Pipeline to Artesian Lagoon and Spray Fields Outside Milton on 8/21

Public Hearing on Allen Harim **Harbeson Chicken Plant's** Wastewater Treatment System and Artesian Spray Irrigation Operating Permits

Wednesday, 6:00 pm, August 21, 2019,

at Mariner Middle School, 16391 Harbeson Rd., Milton, Delaware

The DNREC Division of Water will conduct a public hearing on related applications from Allen Harim Foods, for an on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system, and from Artesian Wastewater Management, Inc., for a spray irrigation operations permit. Treated wastewater effluent will be pumped via force main to the Artesian Northern Sussex Regional Water Reclamation Facility (ANSRWRF). This pipeline runs approximately 9 miles from the chicken plant in Harbeson to the vicinity of the intersection of Routes 16 and 30 just outside of Milton.

It is extremely important for DNREC to hear from our community and it is the ONLY opportunity for public input. Written comments can be made at the hearing or to Lisa Vest, Hearing Officer, Office of the Secretary, DNREC, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901 or online at <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/public-hearings/comment-form>. For more information contact John Rebar at 302-739-9948 or John.Rebar@delaware.gov.

Allen Harim Foods has applied for an operations permit for an on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system to **treat up to 4.0 MGD** of poultry processing wastewater at the Allen Harim Harbeson Processing Facility. The majority of the poultry processing water is generated onsite at the Harbeson facility with a **minor amount discharged to the treatment system from the Pinnacle Processing facility and Dagsboro Hatchery facility.**

In addition, **Artesian Wastewater Management, Inc.**, has applied for a spray irrigation operations permit to receive that treated wastewater effluent for storage, in a synthetically lined 90 million gallon lagoon, and disposal, via spray irrigation at the ANSRWRF. **The design average daily flow is 1.5 MGD with a peak flow of 2.0 MGD.** The facility will utilize reclaimed wastewater for irrigation of privately owned agricultural land under a lease held in perpetuity by Artesian. The proposed irrigation sites (including current and future phases) total approximately 1,714 acres of land which includes both **wooded and agricultural area.** These sites have been permanently placed in an **Agricultural Preservation Easement by the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation.**

The effluent will receive a **high level of treatment to meet the “Unlimited Public Access” requirement at the Allen Harim Wastewater Treatment Plant.** Nitrogen polishing will be accomplished through crop uptake to meet Regulatory requirements. The Artesian facility is also capable of disinfecting the stored wastewater if additional treatment is required prior to spray irrigation. (from Delaware State News, Legal Notice on 7/31, 2019)