

J.B. JENNINGS
Legislative District 7
Baltimore and Harford Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Health and Human Services

Legislative Policy Committee



The Senate of Maryland
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September 17, 2025

Sent via Electronic Mail

Mr. Paul Hlavinka
Maryland Department of the Environment
Industrial Stormwater Permit Division
Montgomery Park Business Center
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21230

Re: Days Cove Reclamation Company

Dear Mr. Hlavinka,

Last night, I, along with Delegates Szeliga, Nawrocki, and Councilman Marks, stood shoulder to shoulder with a standing-room-only crowd of concerned residents to hear from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) regarding the tentative issuance of the NPDES Permit for Days Cove Reclamation Company in White Marsh (19-DP-3782). The level of public turnout spoke volumes, our community is deeply concerned about what this proposal means for our health, our environment, and our quality of life.

It is my understanding that this permit would authorize the discharge of an additional 12,500 gallons per day, a maximum of 25,000 gallons per day, of treated leachate into a swale that ultimately flows into the Gunpowder River, an area directly within my district. The Gunpowder River is not just a waterway, it is a lifeline for communities, recreation, and the Chesapeake Bay itself. Allowing this type of discharge poses risks we simply cannot afford to take.

I am vehemently opposed to the issuance of this permit. My foremost concern lies in the company's troubling history of multiple violations, which raises serious doubts about their ability to safely and responsibly operate under such a permit. Beyond that, my constituents have made their concerns abundantly clear. First, there is a direct threat to communities that rely on well water, including residents in Bird River Beach, where contamination could have devastating consequences. Second, there is the broader environmental impact on the Gunpowder Watershed, which is already strained by increased development, stormwater runoff, and pollution that continue to disrupt waterfront communities.

The community has been clear in outlining three reasonable and necessary requests:

1. A comprehensive, independent environmental review that fully examines risks and evaluates alternatives.
2. Genuine consideration of non-discharge solutions, including off-site hauling or advanced treatment systems.
3. A transparent and detailed plan from MDE explains how nearby well users and the surrounding watershed will be safeguarded from harm.


This area is already overburdened and environmentally strained, with three landfills located within just five miles of one another. Unfortunately, this is not the first time our community has faced challenges related to waste management and water quality. For years, residents have raised concerns ranging from the persistent leachate odor at the Honeygo Reclamation Center, an issue that continues to disrupt quality of life in nearby neighborhoods, to fears of runoff and contamination that threaten both private wells and local waterways. These problems reflect a troubling pattern: facilities charged with managing waste and water are too often allowed to operate without proper oversight, leaving surrounding communities to bear the consequences. Time and again, delayed responses and weak enforcement have only deepened the harm, eroding public trust and placing an unfair burden on residents who simply want confidence in the safety of their water, air, and environment.

We must remember that the Chesapeake Bay is one of Maryland's most treasured resources. It sustains wildlife, supports recreation and tourism, and remains integral to the state's identity and economy. Adding yet another source of contamination undermines decades of work and investment to restore and protect this vital ecosystem.

The combined issues at hand are not abstract, they pose real health risks, threaten property values, disrupt recreational opportunities, and endanger the environmental health that underpins our way of life. For all of these reasons, I strongly oppose this permit and call on MDE to take the community's concerns seriously, and pursue solutions that protect our residents, our waterways, and the Chesapeake Bay for generations to come.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact my office at (410) 841-3706 or by email at jb.jennings@senate.maryland.gov to set up a meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

J.B. Sen. 
Senator J.B. Jennings

cc: Serena McIlwain, *Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment*
D. Lee Currey, *Director, Water & Science Administration*
Nony Howell, *Manager, Wastewater Pollution Prevention & Reclamation Program*