

Waste-producing facilities are impacting Missourians and their communities. Our laws and regulations lack the needed transparency for citizens to know where, how much, and what type of waste is moving throughout their communities.

Construction and Operating Permits

Denali Water Solutions is currently exempt from construction permits for their facilities. Until recently the company was exempted from operating permits. While Denali will be receiving permits, the exemption the company used is still in DNR regulations and may be taken advantage of by other facilities.

In addition, mining facilities should be required to report more thoroughly on potential hazards, environmental impacts, and assess water resource needs before obtaining these permits.



Public Notice & Engagement

DNR is responsible for informing the public about facilities that may impact them. DNR should publish proposed mining permits on the DNR website prior to their approval, allowing for citizens to submit public comment. Missourians have the right to know the existing concerns surrounding waste-related facilities. For mining facilities, the legislature should remove the exemption that prohibits citizens to access existing complaints about mining facilities pursuant to the Missouri Sunshine Law.



Registration

Missouri has hundreds of smaller CAFOs that DNR does not permit. The current CAFO registration process does not require Class II CAFOs to register. Because of this, they are not required to inform the public of their impact. These operations still pose threats to air and water quality for the surrounding communities and those downwind and downstream.

Missourians should be able to know where these facilities are to help protect themselves from these risks.

The legislature must require these facilities to register with DNR, allowing the public to know of their existence. In addition, the public deserve to know the name and location of businesses that receive, transport, and apply CAFO waste so that the public knows how much waste is in their community. The registration requested for Class II CAFOs and third-party recipients of waste is minimal, easy to provide, and not remotely invasive.

Missourians deserve to know about the risks that waste facilities pose to their communities. The Legislature must take action to ensure that citizens have access to this information.