

## **EMERGENCY ORDER**

*Local Emergency Order for Schoharie County:*

*I, William A. Federice, the Chairman of Schoharie County Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Schoharie County's Declaration of a State of Emergency*

*Issued on 25 April 2025 pursuant to Section 24 of New York State Executive Law, do hereby order:*

### **Section 1:**

**Whereas**, the County of Schoharie seeks to protect the health and welfare of all residents; and

**Whereas**, the County of Schoharie recognized that there are potential health and environmental concerns because of the land application of biosolids or compost derived from a wastewater treatment facility, and

**Whereas**, there are many issues of concern, including but not limited to the following:

1. Monitoring, Regulation and Enforcement
2. Fast Changing/conflicting regulations
3. Using an out of state waste stream
4. Lack of a clear scientific understanding consensus
5. Uncertainty regarding how many Schoharie County Farmers use biosolids.

**Whereas**, exposure to PFAS compounds, including PFOS and PFAS, at certain levels, is known to cause significant health risks to humans, including, but not limited to, cancer-causing, reproductive, and other health issues. PFAS and PFOS are known to be long-lasting chemicals that are slow to break down in the environment.

**Whereas**, the spreading of PFAS-laden biosolids and other contaminant-laden biosolids may sink below the water table and lead to runoff, causing contamination of drinking wells and water supply sources. A build-up of harmful chemicals in animals, plants, and water can occur, which are consumed by humans.

**Whereas**, it has been confirmed by local government authorities in Schoharie County that biosolids are being spread upon lands within Schoharie County; and

**Whereas**, as Schoharie County Board of Supervisors Chairman, it is vital that I take all necessary actions to protect the health and safety of our residents.

**Section 2:**

I, William A. Federice, the Chairman of Schoharie County Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Schoharie County's Declaration of a State of Emergency issued on 22 April 2025, and pursuant to Section 24 of New York State Executive Law, do hereby order:

- 1) Moratorium for the next thirty (30) days, beginning upon the signing of this order that:
  - a) No person shall buy, sell, offer for sale, apply, or offer to apply biosolids or compost derived from biosolids, laden with PFA's, heavy metals and other industrial waste, from a wastewater treatment facility for the purposes application or spreading on the agricultural, residential, or commercial lands located in Schoharie County.
- 2) The Schoharie County Department of Health shall conduct the necessary inquiries and inspections to provide a report relating to the existing risks and potential health hazards related to drinking water wells and supply sources from the spreading of PFAS laden and other contaminant-laden biosolids.
- 3) Any person or entity who/that violates this Order shall be subject to a civil payment of a fine not to exceed more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per violation/per day.

**Section 3:**

This Executive Order shall take place at Noon on 15 May 2025.

**Section 4:**

This Local Emergency Order shall remain in effect for five days unless sooner modified, extended, or revoked, and may be extended for additional periods not to exceed five days during the pendency of the local state of emergency.

Failure to obey this order is a criminal offense, punishable by law under New York State Executive Law Section 24(5).

Signed at Noon on 13 May 2025 in Schoharie County, New York.



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William A. Federice, Chairman  
Schoharie County Board of Supervisors