

RAILROADING TRASH

Every day up to 9,000 tons of garbage are trucked into two northern Finger Lakes landfills, making our beautiful region the final repository for about a third of the waste landfilled in New York State. Only about 6% of this waste is generated within our region. The rest is trucked in from 54 counties, neighboring states, and Canada.

Is it any wonder that the residents here are tired of being dumped on?

Besides **risks to air, water, health, quality of life and property values**, we believe mega-landfills promote the export of waste, create an "out-of-site, out-of-mind" attitude toward garbage, and threaten the sustainable economic development of the Finger Lakes region, which is largely based on the attractions of the area's natural beauty and the burgeoning wine and tourism industries.

So take a moment, dear reader, walk outdoors, take a deep breath and look around at the natural beauty. Then ask yourself the question:

Can we be so daring as to imagine a future in which importing waste is not a central feature of our economy?

... **6,000 tons** of which (including asbestos, ash, sludge, contaminated soil, industrial waste, and demolition debris) are deposited in Seneca County almost **every day**.

... Spewing **many tons** per year of potentially illness-causing VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and other pollutants into the air we breathe.

And now, **Seneca Falls in Seneca County is faced with a proposal for rail tracks to Seneca Meadows (SMI) that we believe will ensure this deluge will continue well beyond 2023 (when SMI's current permit is set to expire), as rail tracks portend vast imports of trash for decades yet to come.** This is extra troubling knowing that, on a per ton basis, sorting and processing recyclables sustains up to ten times more jobs than landfills, while composting facilities sustain up to four times more jobs than landfills.

(Source: Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Washington, D.C., 1997, and Tellus Institute, "More Jobs, Less Pollution Report," November 2011, page 34.)

We believe that a project of such magnitude, duration and irreversibility, **involving over 41 acres**, consisting of both an EAST and WEST rail yard, connecting to tracks that pass through multiple surrounding towns and villages, **requires a major environmental review – which is to say a positive declaration, not a negative one, which is what Seneca Falls has issued.**

In addition, as the four parallel tracks on the East side of Route 414 (EAST YARD) will hold a total of 48 cars for storage and shuttling back and forth, and the WEST YARD has eight tracks for the actual loading and unloading of containers (with capacity for another 48 rail cars), we believe their combined effect regarding crossings of NYS Route 414 and North Road will create **significant issues regarding traffic at these intersections that have not been adequately addressed.**



Source: Seneca Meadows Landfill Rail Facility drawings issued for site plan approval, pages C-002 and C-100. May not be exactly to scale.

Yes, we are asking for your support. Please attend the Seneca Falls Planning Board Hearing on September 26 (7:30pm, 81 W. Bayard Street) to voice your concern, as this may be your only real chance to stop this.

What the Seneca Falls Planning Board decides may well determine trash deliveries far beyond 2023.

We, the undersigned, believe in all of us. We hope you do, too.

Glen Silver, *President*, Concerned Citizens of Seneca County, Inc.
 Bill and Annette Lutz at Waterloo Container Company
 David Borisoff, *President*, Hipshot Products, Inc.
 Robert K. Camera, *4th Ward*, Geneva City Council
 Vinny and Kim Aliperti at Billsboro Winery
 Mike and Joan Smith at Through the Grapevine B&B
 Douglas Knipple, PhD, *President*, Finger Lakes Zero Waste Coalition, Inc.
 Eric and Tina Hazlitt at Sawmill Creek Vineyards
 Scott Osborn, *President*, Fox Run Vineyards, Inc.
 Tony Potenza at Potenza Organic Farms



The Seneca County Board of Supervisors voted NO (11-0). You can, too.