

18 May 2016

The Board members of the Seneca Falls
NY Town Board
81 W. Bayard Street Seneca Falls , NY 13148
c/o Greg Lazzaro, Town Supervisor

RE: Local Law No. 7 of 2016, known as the "Town of Seneca Falls Waste Disposal Law."

Dear Board Members:

I fully support the immediate enactment of your local law No. 7 for the following reasons.

My peer-reviewed research clearly establishes a connection between chronic exposure to low levels of fugitive toxic emissions (volatile gases and airborne particulates) from hazardous waste sites and increased rates of heart disease, hypertension, COPD, asthma, diabetes, birth defects, infertility, and other chronic and acute diseases in people living near those sites.

It doesn't matter that Seneca Meadows officials claim that their facility poses no threat to public health and the environment because they are a MSW landfill in compliance with federal and state regulatory standards. The way in which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classifies a solid waste as a "hazardous waste" or a "non-hazardous waste" allows substantial amounts of hazardous and otherwise deleterious chemicals to be legally placed in MSW landfills.

Notably, Table 2a in Seneca Meadows' 2009 Annual Report lists more than 120,000 tons of ash, 400,000 tons of construction and demolition debris, 100,000 tons of contaminated soil, 40,000 tons of sludge, and 35,000 tons of "other industrial waste" that were received that year.

Of course, regular household waste often includes paint, solvents, cleaners, oils, pesticides, drugs, batteries, florescent light bulbs, and electronic products, which also contribute to the toxic contaminants in MSW landfills.

Furthermore, neither the EPA nor the DEC evaluates additive exposure risks (i.e., continuous low-dose or “below threshold” exposures over time). These risks are of special concern when it comes to chemicals that persist in the environment and/or accumulate in body fat.

And little regulatory consideration is given to the impact of chronic, low level chemical exposure on the health of those most vulnerable— such as children, pregnant women, those already sick, and the elderly.

My credentials for saying so are that I have spent most of my career in studying environmental contaminants and public health. I am a Professor of Environmental Health Sciences and former Dean at the University at Albany School of Public Health and am presently the Director of the Institute for Health and the Environment at the University of Albany. In 2010, I received the prestigious Albion O. Bernstein, M.D. Award from the Medical Society of the State of New York for outstanding contributions to medicine and disease prevention.

Respectfully Submitted



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